

SHIPBOURNE PARISH  
COUNCIL

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**Minutes**

**Meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.00 p.m. on Monday 10 June 2024**

**Present:** Cllr Redman (Chair), Cllr Dagger, Cllr Davis, Cllr Oram, Cllr Bond (co-opted), The Parish Clerk, County Cllr Rayner, Borough Cllr Lark, Mr Mark Weaver and 6 members of the public

*The Parish Council Co-opted Ian Bond at the start of the meeting, filling one of 2 vacancies.*

- 1. **Apologies for absence** - Cllr Leach
- 2. **Dispensations and Declarations of Interest** - None
- 3. **Reports: County Councillor & Borough Councillor** - Cllr Lark reported that everything was on hold for the forthcoming General Election on 4<sup>th</sup> July, apart from planning. Cllr Lark reported a planning change that came into effect on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024, following a consultation with the Department for Levelling Up, to give flexibility to support the agricultural sector by allowing them to diversify to maintain their income. The change will allow farmers to convert former agricultural buildings to up to 10 buildings (including homes) under permitted development. Use of these permitted development rights remain subject to their existing approvals by the local planning authority, and it was noted that greenbelt, AONB and SSSI's will override permitted development rights.

Cllr Lark reported that there would be a by-election in the Judd Ward of Tonbridge, following the resignation of a Borough Councillor. Cllr Lark left at 7.10pm

Cllr Rayner reported that the Local Plan was brought up at the last PPP meeting and Cllr Mike Taylor, Cabinet Member for Planning, reported that the reports are due to Committee in mid-July for Regulation 18B. The report is likely to exclude the large number of homes originally planned for Borough Green Gardens and we will see a spread of less dense housing throughout the Borough, unlike in the original plan. A number of Parishes in the Northwest of the Borough are arranging for traffic counts to gather data for movements of traffic ahead of Reg 18B Local Plan. Cllr Rayner reported that the bus subsidy grant from the Government (BSIP), would come to an end in March 2025 but is hopeful that the new Government would prioritise bus travel; he advised that people lobby their prospective MP to ask the question.

Cllr Rayner said that KCC Committees have also cancelled a number of meetings pending the General Election, however the Joint Transport Board next Monday would go ahead. A request to widen the scope of JTB to include railways and buses has been made.

Cllr Rayner left the meeting at 7.10pm

- 4. **Mark Weaver from The Fairlawne Estate** introduced himself; Mark has been at Fairlawne for 2 years as a temporary replacement for Richard McCormack. Mark reported that the Estate has recruited a replacement for Richard who is due to start in September and will also cover the work of James Sheldrick who has now left. Mark wanted to make an introduction to the Parish Council in advance of the TMBC Local Plan Reg 18B Consultation. At this stage, Mark doesn't know which of the Fairlawne Estate Holdings will be included in the Plan but said that if some of the land is allocated, it is important to see what the village thinks, ie should they be looking at building starter homes or homes for later living. Further to the comments of Cllr Lark, Mark said that it is likely that each village would be expected to contribute to the housing stock. Mark confirmed that Fairlawne had put forward some land in the original call for sites.

- 5. **To approve as a correct record Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 13 May 2024 –**  
The Minutes were approved and signed as a true record.

Signed.....Dated,,,

- 6. Public Open Session - Members of public left before the open session.** Cllr Redman reported that she had received a request from a resident to increase the number of parking spaces in the village. The Clerk was asked to write to the Fairlawne Estate to ask whether they would consider increasing the number of spaces on Upper Green Road.
- 7. Highways & Footpaths - Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) – Update –** Cllr Redman reported that the signage on Puttenden Road has been delayed, however, it will be done this summer and KCC have confirmed that they will pay for it. Some of the sightlines are obscured by overgrown vegetation and The Clerk was asked to write to Fairlawne to ask if they could cut back the grass on the junctions on their land. **Request to put up a new school sign –** The Parish Council has no issue with the new sign, however, the verge is owned by Kent Highways so it will be down to them. Cllr Davis will speak to the Rifleman and Nursery about parking issues. The Clerk reported that she had emailed the school to alert them about speeding cars along Back Lane and to warn parents to take care when pulling out of parking spaces as the road undulates and cars coming along Back Lane aren't always visible. Cllr Oram asked whether we could get some signage to warn drivers of pedestrians crossing by the Chaser/Farmers market/ It was agreed that the Clerk should make a request via Kent Highways.
- 8. Update from PPP meeting –** Cllr Oram gave an update from the meeting and Minutes have been circulated. Topics included climate change, making space for nature MS4N, recycling and green grants.
- 9. Matters arising**
- 9.1. Grass Cutting at Wightwicks and at Dunks Green 2024 -** Nothing to report
  - 9.2. Shipbourne Farmers Market -** Nothing to report
  - 9.3. Website Upgrade -** Update – Cllr Davis has spoken to Saul Cullen about some upgrades to the website and creating a new homepage. The homepage can be circulated in draft before being uploaded and Cllr Davis asked Councillors to submit their favourite photo's of Shipbourne that could be used.
  - 9.4. Climate Change Group (CASP) –**Update CASP has received feedback from Roland Baldock from CES on the CEF application and the next steps. He has advised that we concentrate on solar panels rather than shared heating systems as they are too expensive to set up and that time and money is much better spent looking at group buying of retrofit and Air Source Heat Pumps for the clean heat element of our project. He has recommended three potential consultancies for us to approach. CASP have a meeting in late June to discuss the next steps.
  - 9.4. Policing –** Cllr Davis reported that his wife was going through the vetting process for community policing on horseback and hoped that the scheme would be up and running in the summer.
- 10. Shipbourne Village Hall**
- 10.1. Update –** A survey has gone out to the local community from the Village Hall Committee to see how Parishioners would like to use the hall and to raise awareness of the facilities.
  - 10.2. Listed Building Consent Application /Grant for replacement windows -** The Clerk reported that she had confirmation from TMBC that the windows could be replaced on a like for like basis without listed building consent or planning permission. We have received details of a grant however the project would need to cost around £38k
  - 10.3. Charity Commission & Banking mandate – Update –** Cllr Leach has asked a member of the Village Hall Committee, who is a lawyer, to look at the Charity Deed and help us to make the necessary amendments; this will be done over the summer/ The Clerk has amended the mandate which has been signed by Helen Leach and Sallie Stephenson and will send this to HSBC.
  - 10.4. Fire Extinguisher annual service –** This has been booked 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024
- 11. Communications –**\*Circulated in advance of the meeting.
- KALC News June 2024\*
  - Home Fire Safety Information – Free home fire safety visits
  - TMBC Garden Waste subscriptions
  - Tunbridge Wells Borough Local Plan Examination Stage 3 Hearing Sessions 16 June-24 July 2024 <https://tunbridgewells.gov.uk/localplanexamination>
  - Baby Umbrella charity – Request for donation – It was decided that we wouldn't donate as we didn't think that it would benefit many parishioners

Signed.....Dated,,,



- 15. **Urgent Business that occurs and requires attention before the next meeting** - None
- 16. **Date of next meeting** – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm

**The meeting closed at 8.15pm**

Signed.....Dated,,,