



Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 9th January 2020 at the Library, Bush Road, Cuxton at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllr Hutchfield (Chair), Cllr Thorley (Vice Chair), Cllr Burley, Cllr Jackson, Cllr Maisey, Cllr White, Cllr Savage, Cllr Porter, Cllr Seger, Cllr Reynolds, Cllr Morrell

Mrs June Nicholson, Clerk

Two members of the public

292. Apologies for absence

Cllr Matt Fearn (unwell)

293. Declarations of Interest DPI, conflicts of interest and personal and alterations to the Register.

Cllr Porter 6c (Allotments), Cllr Morrell 6c (Allotments)

294. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3rd December 2019

The following amendments were made to the minutes:

288 3rd paragraph "and" added (traffic lights *and* the flooding....)

It was proposed by Cllr Porter and seconded by Cllr Jackson and agreed by all that the minutes thus amended be signed as a true record.

295. Matters arising from the Minutes not otherwise on the Agenda

232 a. A waste bin has not been purchased for Six Acre Wood as the clerk is still investigating bins with a more suitable way of fixing to the ground.

279 Cllr White advised that the scouts are not in a position to adopt Cuxton railway station at this time.

294 The next meeting of the Pavilion steering group will be 23/1/2020. We are still waiting for a decision regarding the sub-lease. We understand this will be discussed by senior officers at Medway Council in the very near future.

296. MEDWAY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT AND PUBLIC SESSION

Suspension of the meeting for Medway Councillor's report and for the Public Session.

Ward Cllr Fearn did not send a report and was not able to attend due to illness.

The Chair advised that Cllr Phil Filmer has responded to our letter and has advised that there will be a trial of the A228 traffic lights, but this will not take place until the spring as there needs to be a new surface laid on the road due to the extra braking involved with cars having to stop more often at the lights. This work cannot be undertaken until the weather improves. Cllr Filmer advised that the council is looking into the possibility of having a mirror at the end of May Street and he is looking into the matter of the flooding by the recreation ground gates.

Regarding our need for an extended sub-lease, Cllr Fearn has sent our email on to Perry Holmes, Monitoring Officer as it is felt this decision needs to be made at a senior level, possibly, by going to the full council meeting due 23/1/2020.

Two councillors expressed concern that Cllr Matt Fearn is posting information regarding Cuxton matters on Facebook, but that he is not giving this information to the parish council. It was agreed that the clerk will email Cllr Fearn and express concern about this and request that Cllr Fearn submits written reports to the parish council in time for his report to be included with the summons and meetings papers to go out to all councillors in advance of the meeting.

Proposed: Cllr Thorley Secoded: Cllr Jackson

Finance

297. a. Bank Balances

Bank Balances were accepted as correct.

Proposed: Cllr Reynolds Secoded: Cllr Jackson

298. b. Approval of Payments made since last meeting

Payments were discussed and agreed.

Proposed: Cllr Reynolds Secoded: Cllr Jackson

299. c. Accounts for payment for approval

Proposed: Cllr Burley Secoded: Cllr Jackson

Management of Council Land and Property

300. a. Pavilion Development

i. The next meeting of the steering group will be 23/1/2020 at 10am at the Pavilion

ii. Planning Application

Council still awaiting support from Medway Council re the sub-lease.

iii. Grant opportunities

Discussion around the need to find grants that are social based rather than football based. CSRA are planning on gaining charitable status which may help when accessing grants.

iv. Utilities provider

The Clerk has been working with Utility Alliance to obtain a more cost effective energy contract. It was agreed that the council will move from EDF Energy to Total Gas and Power for a 5 year contract.

Proposed: Cllr Jackson Secoded: Cllr Seger

301. b. Recreation Ground

i. Repairs

Discussion around Maria Cook helping us to identify and install appropriate new play equipment. This will be discussed further at the next Land Management Committee (16/1/2020).

ii. Incident Record report:

None

iii. Christmas Tree and Carols Event

Cllr Hutchfield thanked Cllr Maisey and all involved in this successful event. In particular it was acknowledged that once again our neighbours at Arrow Cottage kindly supplied the power for the Christmas tree lights. It is hoped that it may be possible, with discussion with Medway Libraries, to have 2 external sockets installed next year to provide power for the lights and to also plant a permanent tree.

302. c. Allotments Lease

It was agreed that we will enquire if the landowners would be interested in selling us the land which we currently lease from them.

Proposed: Cllr Hutchfield Secoded: Cllr Savage

303. Parish Survey

Amendments were made to the draft survey and it was agreed that the survey be submitted as amended.

Proposed: Cllr White Secoded: Cllr Jackson

Highways and Transport

304. a. A228 traffic lights trial

Discussed in public session above.

b. Medway Valley Line

There is on-going work at the Cuxton station level crossing, but as yet no yodel has been installed. Cllr White advised that the Scouts are not in a position to adopt the station at the present time.

305. Lone Working Policy

This item was postponed to the next meeting to allow time for Cllr Jackson to discuss proposed changes with the Clerk.

306. Cuxton Parish Council – Unsung Heroes Award

Discussion focused on the promotion of this new award and some very minor amendments were made to the award guidelines. It was proposed to accept this with amendments as agreed at the meeting. It will be promoted in the February issue of the newsletter.

Proposed: Cllr Jackson Secoded: Cllr Savage

307. Rural Services Network

Joining this network was discussed but it was difficult to see what benefits there was to membership. As the Parish Council already belong to CPRE it was agreed not join Rural Services at this time.

308. Councillor's use of What's App

Cllr Jackson will circulate an amended version of the Social Media Policy to include use of this app and will bring back to the February meeting.

309. Correspondence

a. Residents - Mr Dobbs was present and his email regarding his concerns regarding footpath RS206 were discussed. His email has been forwarded to the footpaths officer at Medway Council.

Mr Dobbs had also emailed the council regarding letters received by some residents from the local GP surgery which states that with effect from April 2020 they will no longer be eligible for using the surgery's dispensary and will need to use local pharmacies instead.

Another resident has emailed with concerns re parking at the allotments. It was agreed that he will be invited to the Land Management Committee meeting next week to discuss this further.

b. A letter was received from the Wheel of Cuxton thanking the parish council for their support for the Fireworks Event in the village.

310. Any other business

- a. Mr Dobbs requested a copy of the risk assessment carried out by Medway Council regarding the traffic lights. Cllr Hutchfield said she would request a copy from Cllr Filmer.
- b. Cllr Thorley asked if our local PCSO has visited the parish office to book further surgeries. Clerk advised that she had not seen him and Cllr Thorley will therefore contact him.
- c. Cllr Savage advised that a resident has asked if the conifers near Demelza Close by the water board building could be “topped” as they are very tall. Clerk will investigate who owns the land where the trees are planted.

311. Members future agenda items

Lone Working Policy, WWII Memorial, Social Media Policy

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION

312. Personnel Issues

Discussion re training for the Clerk. It was agreed that:

- a. Clerk will attend training in Alpha Software at Rialtas HQ in Swindon. Council will pay for the training (training is less expensive at the HQ than training in parish office) and the Clerk will pay her own travel expenses and overnight costs.
- b. Clerk will attend 3 CiLCA study days, paid for by the council and will be paid overtime for attending these.
- c. Council will pay for Rialtas to perform the ‘Year End’ closedown.

Proposed: Cllr Thorley Seconded: Cllr Jackson

The meeting was closed at 21:55 hours.

Signed: Kay Hutchfield

Chairman on the ...13th....day of February. 2020