



Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday, 9 December 2021 at 7pm at Cuxton Library

Present: Cllr Hutchfield, Cllr Savage, Cllr Reynolds, Cllr Jackson, Cllr Burley, Cllr Thorley, Cllr Porter, Cllr White, Cllr Maisey.

Clerk – Mrs J Nicholson

There were no members of the public present.

125) Apologies for absence

Cllr Wilson and Cllr Moore – both unwell.

Ward Cllr Fearn – unwell.

It was resolved to accept these apologies.

126) Declarations of Interest (DPI, conflict of interest and personal interests) and alterations to the Register.

None.

127) Minutes of the meeting held 21 October 2021

One spelling error was corrected. (Item 116 b – costs changed to costed.)

It was resolved to accept these minutes as a true record of the meeting.

128) Clerk's Report – This includes updates on previous actions

Medway Councillor's Report and Public Session

It was resolved to suspend the meeting for Medway Councillor's Report and for the Public Session. Matters raised may be placed on the agenda for the next or a future meeting.

As Ward Cllr Fearn was unable to attend, Cllr Hutchfield advised that Ward Cllr Fearn had contacted her to report the following:

- The traffic lights on A228 junction will be adjusted on 13th December so that the red light stays on for 9 seconds.

- Ward Cllr Fearn has made a complaint to Medway Council's planning committee as he feels the 5 minutes he is allowed to address the meeting is unfair as he is representing both Cuxton & Halling and feels that he should be allowed for 5 mins for each parish.

129) Finance

a) Accounts for payment

It was resolved to approve the payments as listed.

b) Purchase of live Christmas tree

It was resolved that a live Christmas tree be purchased for planting in the library garden at a cost of no more than £350 including delivery.

130) General and Ear Marked Reserves Policy for Review

This policy was reviewed, and it was resolved to change the wording as follows:

- Item 2.3 remove “of building up” and replace with “ring fencing”
- Item 5 remove “built up over a period of time are”

131) To approve the draft budget for 2022-2023

After discussion it was resolved to approve the draft budget with Ear Marked Reserves adjusted as follows:

- EMR – Elections	£4000	(no change)
- EMR – Pavilion Rec Project	£100000	(no change)
- EMR – Woodland	£6000	(increase of £3000)
- EMR – Play Equipment	£0	(repay deficit from Gen Reserves)
- EMR – Legal /Prof Fees	£20000	(increase by £7000)
- EMR – Courts	£24000	(new EMR)

132) To approve the precept for 2022-2023

It was resolved unanimously to make no increase to the precept this year. The small deficit identified, to come from General Reserves. The precept will therefore be £62016. At this time the tax base is unavailable.

133) Football Foundation Grant – For Decision

- a) To consider giving permission for Chairman to complete grant application form on behalf of the parish council and to agree a named councillor checks this form.

It was resolved to grant this permission. It was further resolved that Cllr Burley will check the form on the council's behalf.

- b) To consider giving permission for Chairman to sign the grant application form on behalf of the parish council.

It was resolved to grant this permission.

134) Veolia Grant

- a) To consider giving permission for Chairman to complete grant application form on behalf of the parish council and to agree a named councillor checks this form.

It was resolved to grant this permission. It was further resolved that Cllr Thorley will check the form on the council's behalf.

- b) To consider giving permission for Chairman to sign the grant application form on behalf of the parish council.

It was resolved to grant this permission.

135) Estimates for removal of dead trees on Crown Property Land

To date only one quote has been received and it was felt that the contractor had not identified the correct trees.

Another contractor is due to visit.

Action: The Clerk will contact the second contractor and ask them to call the Chairman before the visit so that a volunteer from Cuxton Countryside Group can accompany him.

136) Pavilion Redevelopment – For Information only

- a) Information from Project Manager – Client Duties

137) Correspondence

- a) Residents – *Cllr Hutchfield has received correspondence thanking for her help in getting trees cut back on the road between Cuxton and Cobham.*

Further questions have been raised by residents about the width of the footpath in Tomlins Lane. A resident has purchased some unregistered land and put up some fencing. He has experienced some anti-social behaviour.

The footpaths officer has inspected the area and has confirmed that there are no issues with this fencing and piece of land.

138) Information exchange

No motions may be proposed, nor decisions taken under this item but may be placed on the agenda for the next or future meetings.

- *A discussion took place about the gates to the shared school/pavilion drive as these are often left unlocked. It was noted that the gates are particularly difficult to lock. Cllr Jackson will discuss with the school at the next liaison meeting.*

A discussion took place regarding the Medway Planning Meeting held 8/12/21 which some Cuxton Councillors attended. As several Medway Councillors expressed an interest in visiting Cuxton and the Winery, it was felt that Cuxton Parish Councillors would like to facilitate this for them.

Action: Clerk will make contact.

- At the Christmas Tree lighting event £138.56 was raised for Gillingham Street Angels. The council will make this up to £200 and Clerk will arrange to pass this money on.

139) Members' future agenda items

Platinum Jubilee, Six Acre Wood, Estimate for Air sourced heating. Dead trees on Crown Estate Land, purchase of new laptop, printer and tablets.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.58pm

Signed Cllr Julie Porter Chairman of meeting

On the 20th day of January 2022