



Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday, 20th April 2023 at 7pm at Cuxton Library

Present: Cllr Porter (Chair), Cllr Reynolds, Cllr Savage, Cllr Thorley, Cllr Wilson, Cllr Jensen, Cllr Burley, Cllr White and Cllr Vye.

In attendance: Mr C. Jensen, Clerk

There were no members of the public present.

219) Apologies for absence

Cllr Hutchfield – recuperating from operation. Cllr Jensen had advised she would be arriving late due to a prior engagement.

It was resolved to accept these apologies.

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

None.

221) Minutes of the meeting held on 16th March 2023 – for approval

No amendments required. Cllr Reynolds proposed the minutes be accepted without amendment. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Wilson.

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

222) Matters Arising

None.

Medway Councillor's report and Public Session

No report received. Cllr Porter advised a Medway Council meeting was scheduled for this evening and Cllr Fearn was expected to be in attendance.

223) Finance

a) Bank Balances as at Statement Date 31st March 2023

The clerk provided Councillors with a list of Bank balances held as at 31st March 2023. Cllr Burley confirmed he had completed his check of the March transactions and no issues were noted. The clerk confirmed receipt of the precept payment, £62,016, from Medway Council.

As the amounts held in the Barclays and Nationwide accounts now exceeded the aggregate £85,000 limit under the FSCS (Financial Services Compensation Scheme), Cllr Thorley proposed £50,000 be transferred from Barclays to Teachers BS and £2,000 be transferred from Nationwide to Teachers BS. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Wilson.

It was resolved to accept these balances as correct and the clerk to transfer monies to Teachers BS as proposed and approved.

b) Approval of payments made since the last meeting

The clerk provided Councillors with details of payments made since the last meeting. No issues were raised.

It was resolved to accept these payments as correct.

c) Approval of accounts for payment

Cllr Jensen entered the meeting at 7.12 pm and apologised for her lateness.

It was resolved to accept these apologies.

The clerk confirmed the account from Logic PM related to the third instalment of four of the agreement to assist with the tendering process for the pavilion redevelopment.

The clerk advised the account from Peoplesafe related to the annual safeguarding contract and related to the final year of four, originally approved in 2019. Cllr Porter advised the contract ensured the street cleaner had safeguarding protection when working at the extremities of the village.

Following discussions with Peoplesafe, the clerk advised the contract could be cancelled, by providing one month's notice in November 2023. As the clerk advised the device appeared not to be in use, Cllr Thorley suggested the contract was terminated. The clerk to confirm with the street cleaner if protection was still required and if not to diarise to give notice to cancel.

The clerk confirmed the account from Omega Fire and Security related to the annual alarm inspection charge for the pavilion building. The clerk advised the inspection had taken place and no issues had been noted.

The clerk advised the account from KALC (Kent Association of Local Councils) referred to the annual subscription fee for year 2023/24. Cllr Thorley reminded Councillors she had stated in the November budget meeting the subscription amount was expensive. Cllr Wilson confirmed as an allowance had been included in the 23/24 budget, payment should be made. Cllr Burley proposed all accounts tendered be paid. This proposal was seconded by Cllr White.

It was resolved to approve these payments to be attended to by the clerk.

d) Review of Reserve Balances

The clerk had provided Councillors with details of the Reserve balances. In order to facilitate the outstanding payments to the project managers, Cllr Thorley proposed £5,000 be transferred from the General Reserve to the Legal and Professional Fees Reserve. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Reynolds.

It was resolved to approve this transfer to be attended to by the clerk.

224) Pavilion Re-Development

a) Update with regards to current position concerning redevelopment and pavilion survey

Cllr Thorley advised the Football Foundation grant monies were only available until July 2023. Cllr Thorley stated as several comments in the feedback section of the survey had suggested, consideration be given to develop the roundel into a kiosk with table and chairs provided outside the pavilion, if Council decided not to proceed with the proposed development. Cllr Thorley expressed her concerns regarding the level of monies paid to date for the project and could not countenance any further amounts being paid. She suggested further funding needed to be obtained before the redevelopment could be reconsidered.

Councillors, having read the results of the survey and the anonymised comments noted the recommendation of the steering committee to defer the redevelopment plan but consider taking forward the suggestions provided in the feedback section. Cllr Porter suggested this matter be added as an agenda item at future meetings. Following measured discussion of the survey results and feedback, Cllr Porter proposed a vote be taken regarding the recommendation from the steering group that a decision regarding the redevelopment be deferred and regular ongoing reviews undertaken once further funding streams had been located. Cllr Wilson proposed this recommendation. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Jensen. All Councillors voted in favour to defer a decision regarding the redevelopment until further funding streams could be reviewed and the viability of the development of the roundel be assessed.

225) Date of Annual General meeting and Land Management meetings scheduled for May 2023 – discussion regarding change of date due to unavailability of clerk and Councillors

Cllr Porter advised several Councillors and the clerk had confirmed they could not attend the Annual General Meeting scheduled for 11th May and the meeting would not be quorate. Cllr Porter proposed the date of the AGM be rescheduled to 18th May and the Land Management Committee meeting scheduled for 18th May to take place on 25th May. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Thorley.

It was resolved to reschedule the date of the AGM of Cuxton Parish Council to Thursday 18th May and the Land Management committee meeting to Thursday 25th May. The clerk to re-advertise change of dates as stated.

226) Big Lunch – update and discussion regarding recipient organisation from donations taken at the gate

Cllr Porter advised plans for the ‘Big Lunch’ had progressed well and the steering group had held very productive meetings. Cllr Porter asked if Councillors had suggestions for organisations to receive the donations made at the gate. Following discussions, Cllr Thorley advised week commencing 12th June was Loneliness Awareness Week and proposed AGE UK should be the recipient organisation of the donations made at the gate. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Wilson and all Councillors agreed. Cllr Wilson advised she would contact AGE UK to request collection buckets and tins.

It was resolved AGE UK be the designated charity to benefit from the donations made at the ‘Big Lunch’. Clerk to advertise in May newsletter.

227) Provision of flagpole within village – update and discussion regarding feedback from MHS Homes and requirement of planning permission

Cllr Porter advised MHS Homes had confirmed planning permission would be required should the Parish Council proceed to erect a flagpole within the village. Following discussion, Councillors reluctantly decided not to make an application for planning permission and a flagpole would not be erected within the village.

228) Bike Track – update and discussion regarding quotation received

The clerk had provided Councillors with a weblink to access the report and estimate received from Clark & Kent to upgrade the Bike Track. Following discussion, Councillors agreed the quotation was expensive. Cllr Porter asked if a grant application to VEOLIA was viable to assist with the cost. Cllr Burley volunteered to research the process for this grant and would report back to the next council meeting.

229) Annual Parish Meeting 28th April 2023 – update regarding preparations

Cllr Thorley confirmed the procedure for the meeting and advised the buffet food was to be ordered. The clerk confirmed volunteers from village organisations, newsletter distributors and the recipients of Parish Council grant applications had all been invited to attend.

230) Planning

a) Winery Planning Inquiry – update

The clerk had provided Councillors with an update received from Cllr Hutchfield which comprised the closing statement for the Rule 6 party. Cllr Porter publicly acknowledged and thanked all the residents who had spent much of their time completing the appeal documentation as well as attending and speaking at the inquiry.

231) Update from meeting with Medway Highways representatives

a) S.106 monies and discussion regarding roundabout feasibility study at A228 junction with Bush Road

The clerk advised Medway Council's Highways representative had indicated at a recent meeting, S.106 monies could be used to undertake a roundabout feasibility study at the A228 junction with Bush Road. Cllr Thorley asked the clerk, before any decision could be made, to determine the amount of S.106 monies that remained and the spend deadline. The clerk to contact Medway Council and report back to the next council meeting.

b) Update regarding movement of 30mph restriction on Bush Road towards Upper Bush Lane

The clerk advised Medway Council's Transport Engineering Manager had confirmed this matter was being investigated and as the route crossed the Authority boundary, Medway Council had entered into discussions with the neighbouring Council authority. Cllr Thorley asked to participate in any further discussions and requested the clerk advise her of any future meeting dates.

c) Update regarding HGV restrictions on Bush Road

The clerk advised Medway Council's Transport Engineering Manager had confirmed the matter was being investigated and as the route crossed the Authority boundary, Medway Council had entered into discussions with the neighbouring Council authority. Cllr Thorley asked to participate in any further discussions and requested the clerk advise her of any future meeting dates.

232) Consideration of request from the Academy of Cuxton Schools to decorate the library garden to celebrate the forthcoming Coronation

The clerk provided Councillors with an email from the Academy of Cuxton Schools requesting the library garden be decorated with ribbon roses made by the schoolchildren. The friends of Cuxton library gardens had not objected provided children kept to the pathways. The library branch manager had also not objected to bunting being placed at the front of the library provided care was taken to observe Purdah guidance with regards to politically biased colours. Following discussion, Cllr Reynolds proposed the request be approved. Cllr White seconded the proposal. All Councillors agreed.

The clerk to confirm acceptance to the Academy of Cuxton Schools, noting Purdah guidance.

233) Review of Grant Making Policy

Following discussion, Cllr Porter proposed two amendments to the Grant Making Policy wording: under 1. Insert March for April; add 7d) Grant monies will only be paid to organisations who have a registered business account in their name which must be the same named organisation which submitted the

application. Grant monies cannot be paid to an individual's personal bank account.

It was resolved to make the amendments as noted and the revised document to be signed at the next Parish Council meeting.

234) Reports of meetings attended on behalf of Council

a) KALC

No meeting held as it had been cancelled.

b) Rural Liaison

No meeting held. However, Cllr Porter advised monies from the Rural Liaison grant had become available and once an email had been received, Cuxton PC would need to make application to Rural Liaison. Cllr Thorley advised a discussion to determine what purpose the monies could be used for, should take place once they had been received.

c) Cuxton Academy of Schools

The clerk advised the next meeting scheduled was Tuesday 25th April.

d) Police Liaison

Cllr Wilson advised she and the clerk had attended the recent members surgery meeting with Medway Council. Cllr Wilson had asked the delegates to explain why the Kent Police element of the Council tax had increased significantly although PCSO's no longer existed. It was advised more constables, to replace PCSO's, would be recruited by 2024. The constables would be located within wards.

235) Correspondence

The clerk provided Councillors with copies of correspondence received regarding: the traffic loop; the recent village survey; the proposed independent auditor for the recent village survey results and enquiries concerning precept decisions and revenue budgets covering the last three years. The clerk provided Councillors with copies of the responses sent.

236) Information Exchange

Cllr Thorley advised she had noticed 'No Idling' signage, a local initiative, outside schools in the Swale area. The clerk was asked to contact Medway Council to ascertain if they had a similar scheme.

Cllr Reynolds suggested a Chat Bench be considered to be located outside the Doctor's surgery, subject to permission being obtained. Cllr Wilson confirmed she would request the Police consider funding the Chat Bench.

As they had not stood for re-election, Cllr Thorley thanked Cllrs Reynolds and Savage for their hard work as Parish Councillors. This was echoed by all Councillors.

237) Members Future Agenda Items

VEOLIA grant update for Bike Track
S.106 monies – updates regarding details
Ongoing village survey suggestions – funding future developments

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:10 pm

Next meeting 18th May 2023, 7pm at Cuxton Library

Signed *Tracy Thorley* **Chairman**

On the *18th* **day of** *May* **2023**