



Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday, 18th April 2024 at 7pm at Cuxton Library

Present: Cllr Chalker (Chair), Cllr Thorley, Cllr Chamberlain, Cllr Vye, Cllr Burley, Cllr Manning, Cllr Jensen, Cllr White & Cllr Nightingale.

In attendance: Mrs N Jackson - Clerk

8 members of the public were present at the start of the meeting

253) Apologies for absence

Cllrs Wilson and Porter gave their apologies.

Cllr Filmer gave apologies for himself and Cllr Fearn.

Cllr Thorley arrived at 19.04 and apologised for her lateness.

It was resolved to accept these apologies.

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

Cllr Nightingale – item 14

255) Minutes of the meeting held on 21st March 2024 – for approval

One typo was identified for correction. Cllr Jensen proposed the minutes be accepted with that correction. This was seconded by Cllr Chamberlain and agreed by unanimous vote.

It was resolved to accept these minutes, with one correction, as a true record of the meeting.

256) Matters Arising

None.

257) Medway Councillor's report and Public Session

No Medway councillor's report.

The public session was focussed on a number of Woodhurst Close residents who had attended the meeting. As such, agenda item 14 was discussed at this point.

Recorded under minute 267.

258) Local council working party group / traffic survey (GC)

Cllr Chalker referred to gaps in the information available around impacts of traffic on A228 / Bush Road, reminding other councillors about the Lower Thames crossing, he suggested that commissioning an up-to-date traffic survey might be prudent to establish current flows before any road network changes / impacts occur. The clerk confirmed that they had budgeted £500 for a survey.

Cllr Chalker also discussed the need to hold a meeting with other local parishes affected by changes to traffic on the A2 and for the vineyard, so he suggested a

working group of 3 Cuxton Councillors. Cllr Nightingale felt that this should be the chair, vice-chair and one other. Cllr Thorley volunteered to be the other councillor with Cllr Burley offering to be a reserve should anyone not be able to attend any meetings.

It was clarified that the working party group could then make recommendations to Main Council for a traffic survey if they felt one was required following the meeting. The three-member working party, its members and intention was proposed by Cllr Chamberlain, seconded by Cllr Manning and agreed by unanimous vote.

It was resolved to establish a 3-member working party, consisting of the chair, vice chair and one other, to liaise with local parishes.

Cllr Chamberlain left the room.

259) Finance

a) Bank Balances

The clerk provided a copy of the bank balances at 28.03.2024. Cllr Burley confirmed the accounting entries were correct for this month. No concerns were raised. The clerk confirmed that the precept payment had been made.

b) Approval of payments made since last meeting

The clerk provided a copy of the payments made by Cllr Thorley since last meeting. Cllr Thorley asked for authorisation to initiate getting the clerk added as signatory on the Barclays accounts.

c) Approval of accounts for payment

The clerk provided details of two accounts for payment, the annual subscriptions for KALC and Rialtus. No concerns were raised.

Cllr Nightingale proposed to accept the bank balances and payments made since last meeting, as well as give approval for the two accounts for payment and initiating the mandate change for the Barclays accounts. This was seconded by Cllr Manning and agreed by all councillors aside from Cllr Chamberlain who had left the room.

It was resolved to accept the balances, payments, accounts for payment and mandate change instruction.

d) Initial end of year feedback - For Information

The clerk provided a summary receipts/payments report, showing the 2023/24 year-end figures for information.

e) Supplementary Budget detail required

Based on the end of year figures, the clerk highlighted two areas of the budget, which may need consideration throughout the year. Clarification was also sought for areas of the budget regarding the street cleaner cost code. These figures were discussed and agreed by councillors.

It was resolved to complete the budget information in the accounting software using the figures agreed.

Cllr Chamberlain returned to the meeting.

- 260) Planning refusal MC/23/2250 appeal notification:**
Ranscombe Farmhouse Sundridge Hill Cuxton – For Information.
Councillors noted the appeal.
- 261) Annual Parish Meeting planning**
- a) Grant presentations - The clerk requested clarification around how this will proceed at the assembly.
 - b) Annual report - The clerk confirmed that this had been prepared and sent to the printers.
- 262) Big Lunch update (TT)**
Cllr Thorley confirmed that plans are all proceeding as scheduled.
- 263) Recreation Ground steering group consideration (TT)**
The clerk provided costs for containers as requested. Cllr Thorley reminded councillors that the containers will facilitate the further investigation of upgrades to the roundel and that there may be grant funding available for this. Cllr Manning proposed that grant funding should be explored, and that a budget of £4k should be set aside for the acquisition of two containers. This was seconded by Cllr Nightingale and agreed by unanimous vote.
It was resolved to seek the grant funding and progress with two containers.
- 264) Courts Re-Development Questionnaire**
The clerk presented the draft questionnaire for comment. After a discussion, some amendments were suggested, and it was agreed to get this survey ready for the Big Lunch in June, as well as to include it on the website and newsletter.
It was resolved to make the amendments and bring this back to next the meeting.
- 265) Ward Councillor Fund Submission (TT)**
An extensive discussion was held about Ward Councillor contributions and the process / procedures for this. Cllr Chalker proposed that clarification is sought from Medway Council through a FOI request, and this was seconded by Cllr Jensen. All councillors voted in favour.
It was resolved to contact Medway Council for clarification about Ward Improvement fund request claims.
- 266) Pavilion Alarm Maintenance Contract**
The clerk provided details of the pavilion alarm system contract as requested and councillors discussed the merits of a new system. Cllr Manning proposed that we ask for a quote for a new system with a linked app. This was seconded by Cllr White.
It was resolved to seek a quote for a new alarm system.
- 267) Fallen Tree Incident**
To accommodate the members of the public present, the chairman brought forward item 14 to be discussed as part of the public session.
- The clerk provided a report of a specific incident that had occurred since the last meeting, whereby a tree had fallen into a garden and caused damage. The Chairman proposed that this matter should be discussed by the Land Management Committee.

Members of the public expressed concerns about the trees in Six Acre being unstable and overly tall. They also expressed concerns about tree removal making the bank unstable.

The councillors described how recent tree issues were caused by ash dieback, that had been exacerbated by an unusually wet winter and recent high winds, and proceeded to discuss the delicate situation whereby whilst tree removal is increasingly necessary, it might be detrimental to the stability of the bank.

Cllr Chamberlain pointed out that the land directly behind the even numbered houses of Woodhurst Close does not belong to the Parish Council but is now considered Crown Estate land. A member of the public asked councillors to contact Crown Estate again asking them to attend the trees. Cllr Chalker asked if the resident had contacted them themselves and asked if she had spoken to Kelly Tolhurst, advising her to do so.

Another member of the public advised that she had sent a letter to all residents of Woodhurst Close and had received 9 replies in support of her call for action - the letters were given to the clerk. This resident also stated that a former iteration of the parish council had previously tried to buy the land and had been refused.

Cllr Thorley made a point to thank the Cuxton Countryside Group for all that they do, and in particular their recent extensive work in the woodland.

The chair once again proposed bringing all related matters to the Land Management committee . Cllr Thorley expressed concerns about the timeline of this on behalf of the resident, but Cllr Chalker felt that in the long term it would be better to make decisions through the committee so that they would not be subject to the same restrictions on resolutions.

Cllr Chamberlain seconded the motion. Cllr Nightingale didn't comment as he had declared an interest, but all other councillors voted in favour.

It was resolved to defer these matters to the next Land Management Committee meeting.

268) Report of Meetings Attended on Behalf of Council

- a) KALC – No meetings held since the last meeting
- b) Rural Liaison - No meetings held since the last meeting
- c) Cuxton Academy of Schools - No meetings held since the last meeting
- d) Police Liaison – Cllr Thorley had been sent an email with new PCSOs listed – Cllr Thorley will share the details.

269) Correspondence

- a) Information about member selection criteria for information. – Information received.
- b) Cuxton Open Gardens request – There was a significant discussion about the use of the carpark and toilet, councillors expressed concern about misuse and locking-up. Cllr Chalker proposed that the organisation contact the social club to see if they

can help instead, this was seconded by Cllr Manning and agreed by unanimous vote.

- c) Amendments received for planning application: MC/23/2855. Ranscombe Farm Cottages Sundridge Hill Cuxton - Councillors agreed that their comments should remain.

270) Information Exchange

- a) Clerk's actions/ queries update – No comments made
b) Dates required for local parishes meeting - The clerk confirmed that members of Cobham and Luddesdown are willing to meet. The clerk will arrange with the members of the Working party.

271) Members Future Agenda Items

- Registering community interest asset - Nov 2024
- Discussion regarding the provision of a cableway in the Recreation Ground (JP)
- Civility & Respect Pledge (SW)
- Social Media Accounts / Usage – (MN)
- Newsletter Content (MN)
- Tor review dates (MN)
- Regular Big Lunch item (TT)
- Alarm Quote
- Container Progress
- Courts Questionnaire
- .gov.uk domain

The chairman closed the meeting at 21.11hrs

Next meeting 16th May 2024, 7pm at Cuxton Library

Signed

G. Chalker

Chairman

On the 20th day of June 2024