

HADLOW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Hadlow Parish Council duly convened and held on Monday 09 December 2013 at 7.30pm at Old School Hall

Present: Cllrs D Hammond (Chairman), E Bright, Mrs Bright, D Carey, F Shaw, Mrs Shaw, Mrs Massy, R Morley, K Terry, C Vernon

Also in Attendance: Melanie Stepkowski – Parish Clerk, KCC Cllr Matthew Balfour, James Harman (KCC Community Engagement Manager (Tonbridge & Malling District), TMBC Cllr Janet Sergison, PCSO's Kim Hockey & Toni Matthew, Hadlow Park Association Representative, Mrs Hughes, Mrs Richards, Mr Greenhead.

3085	Apologies for Absence Apologies for absence received and approved by Council: Cllrs S Richardson (business), N Collins (holiday), Apologies noted by Clerk: TMBC Cllr Jill Anderson (other engagement),	
3086	KCC Councillors report <i>(A Motion was taken to move this item up the agenda for purpose of expediency as KCC Cllr Balfour & Mr Harman were due to attend other meetings, proposed Cllr Hammond, seconded Cllr Mrs Massy and carried unanimously).</i> Cllr Balfour & Mr Harman confirmed that the official decision with regards to Children Centres within Tonbridge & Malling had been published with the twenty two planned closures reduced to 11; in those areas where response to the consultation had been considerable alternative arrangements are now likely to be put into place (such as reduced hours) rather than to completely close those sites. With regards to Hadlow and the current service provided at the Hy-Arts Centre, there had been a relatively low response to the consultation with around fifty responders mentioning the Hadlow site and although numbers attending had increased after a door to door and general publicity drive, they were not significant enough to secure the building as a main base for the programme. KCC did however acknowledge the potential need for a service within Hadlow and would liaise with the Hy-Arts Centre and other partners once they had clarification on the new budget allocated for the service delivery for the Hadlow/East Peckham area. It was also confirmed that the current agreement with the Hy-Arts Centre would continue until the end of March 2014. Cllr Balfour would assist if necessary to ensure there was no financial shortfall up to the end of that period. KCC Budget Questionnaire – Mr Harman explained that KCC had to save £273 million over the next three years and had published ‘Help Balance Kent’s Budget’ in order that the public could give their views on where they thought KCC should look to make these savings. The link also enabled the public to use a budget balancing tool kit which provided details of finances/costs related to services. <i>(Cllr Balfour & Mr Harman then excused themselves from the meeting).</i>	
3087	Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 11 November 2013 Minutes were signed as a correct record. Proposed Cllr D Hammond, seconded Cllr Mrs Massy and carried unanimously.	

3088	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes of 7 October 2013</p> <p><u>Minute 3083 Planning & Environment, Christmas Lights</u> – The Chairman noted that he had received lots of positive comments on the new Christmas lights.</p>	
3089	<p>Declaration of Interest</p> <p>Cllr Mrs Bright declared an interest in planning application TM/13/03663/TNCA as she was a Director of Save The Hadlow Tower Action Group.</p>	
3090	<p>Chairman’s announcements</p> <p>Co-opted Vacancy – The Chair confirmed that interviews for the position would be held at the January Parish Meeting in Golden Green.</p> <p>Snow Clearance & Speedwatch – A big thank you was extended to members of both voluntary groups.</p> <p>Mayor’s Call My Bluff Quiz Night – This charity event would take place on Saturday 22 February 2014 at Hadlow College.</p>	
3091	<p>TMBC Councillors reports.</p> <p>Cllr Janet Sergison provided the following report:</p> <p>“Further to the Parish Council’s recent meeting with John Balcombe, the Borough’s portfolio-holder for Economic Regeneration, I am delighted to confirm that Hadlow is one of the 8 retail centres in Tonbridge & Malling set to benefit from grant funding of up to £7,500 each as part of a new T&MBC scheme aimed at boosting trade in the Borough.</p> <p>The Borough Council is using part of a £100,000 grant it received from the Government’s Innovation Fund to pay for the scheme which was launched on Saturday, 7 December, timed to coincide with “Small Business Saturday” – a Government-backed national initiative to help promote small businesses, including independent traders in shopping centres.</p> <p>As there is no Chamber of Commerce or Trade Association for Hadlow the Parish Council is invited to bid for funding on behalf of the traders and small businesses here.</p> <p>Grants will be provided for one-off projects which aim to support and boost trade in Hadlow. The Borough Council will be contacting the Parish Council direct to explain the details of the scheme and how you can bid for funding by Monday, 31 March 2014, the bid submission deadline.</p> <p>Ideas for possible projects discussed so far include marketing events, promotional campaigns, improved signage, advertising and a wider range of local markets.”</p> <p>It was agreed that the parish office would notify businesses within the parish of the opportunity and ask for their input.</p>	
3092	<p>Public Time</p> <p><u>Monthly Crime Report:</u> PCSO Matthew provided the monthly crime update: 1 x Theft from Motor Vehicle, 1 x Burglary, 2 x Criminal Damage, 1 x Shoplifting. There had also been one report of Antisocial Behaviour.</p> <p><u>A26 Parking:</u> On behalf of Hadlow Park Association a resident raised concerns as to the recent increase of parking occurring on both sides of the road in the area of The Two Brewers, particularly as cars were parked partly on the pavements obstructing access to pedestrians.</p>	

	<p>In response the Clerk confirmed that there had recently been a few big funerals in the village which had caused considerable disruption to traffic and parking.</p> <p>The Chairman acknowledged that Hadlow had parking issues but this was a country wide issue with no straight forward answer; the Parish Council continued to work with other agencies on this matter. Although the parking on the A26 was often frustrating on a positive note it was also a form of traffic calming.</p> <p>PCSO Matthew also clarified the police position on cars parked on pathways; they were restricted in what action could be taken however would put awareness notices on cars that cause obstruction.</p>	
3093	<p>Parish Clerk Report</p> <p>The Parish Council had hosted a Cemetery Management Course which had been very informative and well received by those in attendance.</p>	Clerk
3094	<p>Parish Matters</p> <p>Carpenters Lane Drains – TMBC Cllr Janet Sergison confirmed that the blocked drains near The Maltings had recently caused flooding and have now been cleaned by Highways.</p> <p>South East Water – had notified the Parish Office that they were currently flushing drinking water pipes within the Parish.</p> <p>In response to queries raised by Councillors the Clerk confirmed that the tree down on MT133 near the Access Trail was thought to be on College land.</p> <p>The vandalised sign at Williams Field near the Wheeled Sports Facility had been removed and would be repaired.</p>	
3095	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>None</p>	
3096	<p>Planning Applications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TM/13/03571/LB- Replace existing rafters. North Frith Farm, Ashes lane, Hadlow, TN11 9QU. HPC Agreed subject to ensuring that correct roof lining is used as specified. • TM/13/02901/LB – Beech Tree – Lift branches overhanging the wall, reduce crown by 20% and thin by 10%. The Tower, Hadlow Castle, High Street, Hadlow, TN11 0EG. HPC Agreed. 	
3097	<p>To receive reports from representatives of the following committees and pass such resolutions thereon as may be necessary</p> <p><u>Finance & General Purposes Committee</u></p> <p>(i) To Approve Authorisation of Payments & Receipts, Bank Reconciliation for November 2013. RESOLVED to accept November Payments & Receipts, Bank Reconciliation in their entirety. Proposed Cllr Mrs Bright, seconded Cllr Mrs Massy and carried unanimously.</p> <p>(ii) Year Planner May 2014 – April 2015. RESOLVED to accept the Year Planner May 2014 – April 2015. Proposed Cllr Morley, seconded Cllr Carey and carried unanimously.</p>	

It was noted that any changes to committee dates for 2015-16 would need to be addressed well ahead in order that regular hall users could be notified of the changes and amend their bookings if necessary.

Planning & Environment Committee

Cllr Carey summarised the last meeting and thanked the Clerk for organising the meeting which had been held with the Primary School and members of KCC transportation team to discuss primarily the safety of the school children within the Old School Hall Car Park and also to look at future parking possibilities; results from further KCC consultation awaited.

- Cemetery Extension – this was still progressing.
- Laxton Farm Caravan – Confirmation of the result of the Appeal was awaited.

Staffing Committee – Nothing to report.

Community Safety Committee – Nothing to report.

Hadlow Village Hall – Await meeting. It was also noted that the hall had been booked from 23 January to 24 April 2014 and would therefore be unavailable for amenity use by the Pay Back Team.

Hadlow Youth Club – Nothing to report.

Golden Green Village Hall – Mr & Mrs Nobes had stepped down as caretakers/booking administrators for the hall and were recognised for their many years of hard work.

KALC – Cllr Mrs Massy reported on the meeting and Minutes would be available at Parish Office.

TMBC Parish Partnership Panel – Minutes available at Parish Office

Hadlow Village Transport Representative (Joint Transportation Board) – Minutes available at the Parish Office.

TMBC Crime Prevention Panel – Minutes available at Parish Office

Any Other Meetings:

TMBC Local Plan – This had been attended by Cllrs Mr & Mrs Bright, Cllr Collins, Parish Clerk with TMBC representatives S Humphrey, Ian Bailey, Ria Hotchin. Notes from the meeting would be sent to Councillors once received from TMBC. Key issues discussed were:

- Lack of housing/accommodation for the older generation.
- Affordable housing.
- Lack of parking (off road) and need for infrastructure improvements generally.
- Schools
- Volunteering in community activities
- Preservation of historic character of the village

Economic Regeneration Meeting with TMBC Cabinet Minister John Balcombe - This provided an opportunity for local traders and Parish Council to discuss any issues of concern and ideas to improve local trade. Areas discussed were funding, licenses and parking. (*minute 3091 relates*)

3098 Motion to Exclude the Press and Public (to enable Council to consider any items on the agenda in which significant aspects would be of a confidential and financial nature).

There was no Motion required.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.55

Date of next meeting: Monday 13 January 2014 at 7.30pm in Old School Hall.

Signed

Date.....