

# **Minutes of the Hadlow Annual Parish Meeting**

**held on 9 March 2020**

**at Old School Hall, Hadlow**

**Present:** Hadlow Parish Cllrs M Barrett, E Bright, D Carey, N Collins, M Harvey, C Hyams, J Massy, R Morley, S Richardson, TMBC Cllr J Sergison.

Members of the community and group representatives: A Hughes (Kent Messenger reporter & Hadlow Historical Society), Caroline Anderson (Hadlow Village Hall Management Committee), Sue Tippin & Les Tippin (Hadlow Park Residents Assoc), Pat Large (Hadlow Seniors Pop In Club), Sandra Rhodes (Hadlow WI).

**Also in Attendance Minute taker:** M Stepkowski (Parish Clerk),

## **1/ Welcome by the Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Nick Collins**

He reminded attendees that the Parish Council was only the facilitator of the meeting, but it was a Parish Meeting and therefore any questions for the Parish Council would be addressed at the next parish council meeting which was due to follow on at the end of the current meeting.

## **2/ Apologies for absence**

These were received from Parish Councillors L Bright, C Mitchell, J Newman, TMBC Cllr H Rogers & J Anderson (TMBC Joint Transportation Board meeting), Reverend Harvey. S Vanns, M Stevenson & S Sharpe (Hadlow Scouts), PCSO and Community Warden.

## **3/ Minutes of the meeting held Monday 11 March 2019**

The Chair confirmed these had been approved and signed at the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 13 May 2019, Minute 3998.

## **4/ Reports from Borough, County Councillors & Community Warden**

### **TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL'S LOCAL PLAN HEARINGS**

I have been asked about attendance at the Local Plan Hearings. Anyone can attend the hearings to observe proceedings but only those respondents who have objected to the Local Plan, have indicated that they would wish to appear at the hearings and are subsequently invited by the Inspectors, may do so.

The first phase of the Local Plan Hearings is due to begin on Tuesday 19 May.

Two additional days have been added to the first phase hearings. These will take place at the same venue – the Orchards, East Malling – on the 24 and 25 June.

The Inspectors have made available the Main Issues and Questions which will form the basis of discussions for the first phase hearings and some guidance notes to assist those who may be attending the Hearings, including advice on preparing

statements and when these should be returned to the Programme Officer. These documents can be found on TMBC's website [www.tmbc.gov.uk/lpexamhearings](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk/lpexamhearings).

### HADLOW ESTATE'S INTENSE PLANNING PROCESS FOR TUDELEY VILLAGE

Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells Borough Councillors have been invited by the consultants appointed by Hadlow Estates to a briefing tomorrow evening in advance of a Design Charrette for the proposed strategic site allocation at Tudeley, forming part of the emerging Tunbridge Wells Local Plan. Further information about the purpose of the charrette, what it will entail and what the expected outputs might be, will be provided at the briefing.

### HADLOW PARKING PLAN

The Borough Council will be going out to consultation with residents in the Summer.

### TONBRIDGE & MALLING'S NEW WASTE & RECYCLING CONTRACT

The delivery of the core collection services has significantly improved and complaints reduced enormously. Focus is now turning to the quality of service delivery. There are targets within Urbaser's Action Plan to improve crew training, employ more permanent staff, thus reducing the dependence on temporary agency staff and increased supervision of collection crews.

The Communal Bin Recycling Service for flats and other properties which use communal refuse bins has been deferred to start in April 2020. All current bring sites will be kept in place until that roll-out has been completed.

If anyone is still experiencing problems regarding their bins please send me an email at [janet.sergison@tmbc.gov.uk](mailto:janet.sergison@tmbc.gov.uk), or telephone me, so that I can report the issues as a Member Request which means they will be immediately forward to Urbaser and treated as a priority.

**Cllr Janet Sergison**  
**Hadlow & East Peckham Ward**

In response to the TMBC Parking Plan it was noted that the next consultation would only be for those parishioners whose frontage was affected by proposed plan and the Parish Clerk asked to keep any eye out for any general consultation. It was also agreed to place a piece in the local newsletters reminding residents not to park in the bus stop bay.

### **5/ Reports from Parish Council**

Reports were made available for reading to the meeting, the Chairman's report was read but it was agreed others did not need to be read out but added to the Minutes of the meeting. Reports provided by Chairs of Committees as follows: Chairman of Parish Council (appendix a), Finance & General Purposes Committee (appendix b), Planning & Environment Committee (appendix c),

## **6/ Report on Hadlow Community Transport Scheme**

The Clerk confirmed that the scheme was now fully up and running. The Agreement Relating to the Finance & Use of Hadlow Parish Council Community Buses had been signed by both Hadlow Parish Council and The Bourne Partnership. Several groups had already taken advantage of the scheme.

## **7/ Report on Hadlow Community Breakfast**

The breakfasts which were held on the first Sunday of each month had been a success with numbers increasing as word spread.

## **8/ Reports from Village Organisations**

Hadlow Primary School – Funding projects: In the absence of a school representative the Clerk confirmed that the swimming pool project to which details had been provided at the last Annual meeting was progressing.

Hadlow Village Hall – Management Committee Report: Caroline read the report on behalf of the committee and confirmed they had completed 4 fundraisers during the year and thanked the Parish Council for their support. The committee had done a majority of DIY tasks themselves but there were serious repairs required starting with the roof, heating and lower ceiling estimated to cost around £70,000. Donations, assistance and suggestions for fundraising were welcomed. The committee were looking at possible KCC member grants and asked the Parish Council to consider financially supporting as most grant applications required match funding. Caroline went on to encourage everyone to attend the next fundraiser being held of 25 April which was a Fish n Chip Quiz Night.

St Mary's Church – On behalf of the church Janice Massy thanked those who had attended the recent quiz night which had been a successful fundraiser. She reported that this year the May Boot Fair would be moved to August Bank holiday, so it did not coincide with the celebrations being organized in relation to VE Day. Hadlow Bake Off would be held in the summer and the Christmas Tree Festival would be held once more this December.

Other Events:

Annual Litter Pick – Saturday 4 April in Golden Green and 5 April in Hadlow

Trees Project – Caroline Anderson and Cee Wetton had set up the project called "Trees 4 Hadlow". They wished to encourage more tree planting in Hadlow especially along the A26, to help mitigate the effects of traffic pollution. They had received a starter pack of urban trees from The Woodland Trust which were due to arrive in March and would distribute to those who signed up to the group.

## **9/ Public time – matters of interest**

Hy-Arts Centre The centre was being well used on a daily basis by several groups including YMCA's Youth Group, Tots and Mums group and Olympic Boxing.

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting closed at 19.35

Signed..... Date.....

## **Appendices**

- a/ Hadlow Parish Council Chairman Report
- b/ Hadlow Parish Council Finance & General Purposes Committee Report
- c/ Hadlow Parish Council Planning & Environment Committee Report

## **(Appendix a.)**

### **Hadlow Annual Parish Meeting 9th March 2020** **Parish Council Chairman's Report**

#### **Hadlow Parish Council Chairman's Report Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020**

This last year has seen some new and innovative ideas put into practice in Hadlow. Some possible changes have come a little more clearly into view and other changes have occurred almost unnoticed.

Before I go into detail I must thank all my fellow councillors for their enthusiasm, patience, time and support. The membership of Hadlow Parish Council has seen little change in recent years, but it covers a wide range of views and ideas. Consensus is not always as easily achieved as it may appear.

Hadlow Old School Hall – The repairs to the roof and internal redecorations that were started back in the summer have now, finally, all but been completed. The project proved extremely difficult to control and was characterised by eccentric decisions on the part of the contractors. It all placed a heavy burden upon the Clerk and inconvenience to others. Nevertheless, it looks very good now.

Williams Field – We are very encouraged by the success of the Hadlow Bucks baseball team that has become established at Williams Field. The parish council wishes them every success and will provide the all the support and encouragement reasonably possible.

St Mary's Churchyard – Routine work continues to keep the churchyard neat, tidy and safe. The May Family Vault has been fenced in with a much better fence shortly before a large section of the external stone cladding collapsed during a survey of the structure. With several institutions and regulators involved in the future of the

monument but none with financial responsibility a resolution of the issue will probably take some time.

Community Breakfast – This idea has proved increasingly successful with take up gradually increasing at each breakfast that takes place on the first Sunday of the month in Hadlow Old School Hall from 9am to 11am. Good fun, good food and good value. Thank you to Melanie Stepkowski, Mary Stevens and all their helpers.

Speed Limits – The “20 is Plenty” campaign actively promoted by members of Hadlow’s Speedwatch team continues. Response from Kent Highways is muted I gather but proposed alterations to the speed limits on the A26 south of Hadlow would see the 40mph area extended beyond Faulkners and a 50mph restriction onward to the 40 mph limit just before Three Elm Lane. Attempts to find a means of enforcing the speed limit through Golden Green continue to be discussed with Kent Highways.

Tudeley Garden Village – Hadlow Parish Council has objected to this proposal with the current draft of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council’s revised Local Development Plan. The issue is complex but, briefly, our objection is to the scale and location of the proposed development.

Hadlow Community Transport – This venture has been conceived and established by Hadlow Parish Council in cooperation with Hadlow Primary School now joined with Shipbourne School within The Bourne Partnership. It is an ambitious project, funded initially by KCC and administered by the parish council. Very considerable work has gone into setting up all the administrative system and training resources legally required. Now that has been put in place we look forward to keeping the minibuses busy.

Signpost Field – Thanks go to our Village Warden and his helpers who have made a really good job of clearing the undergrowth from the edge of the recreation field along the border with Kelchers Lane. We hope that our landscape contractors will now be able to keep the area clear.

## **(Appendix b.)**

### **Finance & General Purposes Committee Report**

The Parish is fortunate in having a very competent Responsible Finance Officer, the Clerk, who together with her equally competent assistant, maintain effective control over the finances of the Parish.

The Parish supports the Clerk and her assistant by:

- Specific input into the annual budget process
- Approving all expenditure
- Prior approval of all significant expenditure
- Detailed review of detailed monthly accounts

Based on the February accounts the Parish will complete the year within the overall budget for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2020.

A major event during the financial year has been the provision of two community buses funded by KCC. These are an important benefit to the Parish. The principle users will be the schools in Hadlow and Shipborne but the buses are available to other organisations within the Parish; the church, the scouts to name two. The buses are owned and operated by the Parish and considerable time has spent ensuring correct operating procedures and documentation. It is a requirement of the funding that the buses are operated on a “not for profit” basis but that also means “not for loss” and specific income/expenditure accounts will be maintained to monitor this on a quarterly basis.

Costs are continuously under pressure, but we are confident that under the current team we will exercise adequate financial control over the public finances of the Parish.

Stephen Richardson  
Chair of F&GP

### **(Appendix c.)**

#### **Planning and Environment Committee Report to Annual Parish Meeting 2020**

The committee has two main functions

1. To review and comment on planning applications for development within the Parish. It is Council policy to oppose inappropriate development within the Green Belt having regard to National and Local guidelines.
2. To consult and recommend to Council actions required in relation to open spaces and buildings for which the Council are responsible.

#### Planning Matters

During the year the Committee responded to several consultations from TMBC and KCC regarding ‘Biodiversity Strategy, Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan, Economic Regeneration Strategy also the Tunbridge Wells local plan.

The TMBC ‘Parking Plan’ for Hadlow is still under review and as mentioned last year part of the Committees remit was to review and identify areas where pavements could be adapted with dropped kerbs to improve disability access. We have yet to see any action forthcoming.

#### Open Spaces

- Williams Field – The Kent Buccaneers baseball group continues to thrive and thanks to Sport England the pitch has the necessary fencing. The club hosted a very successful national tournament which took place at the end of May last year.
- Signpost Field (Golden Green) – Another successful annual village fete took place in June and the field has benefitted from works carried out by the council and Community payback team
- Thanks to the Golden Green Association for maintenance work to the Mission hall.

- Trees – Significant tree work carried out this year including several ash trees along the A26 in accordance with professional tree inspection report.
- Christmas Lights and Fair – The Parish Council hosted the Community Fair in the Old School Hall/Carpark. This was well attended and generated funds for the community groups involved. Christmas trees were provided this year by the Parish Council.

### Buildings

Old School Hall & Medical Centre – Extensive roof works took place over the summer in conjunction with KCC who has responsibility for the Library. This included the replacement of Velux windows and a part redecoration of the hall interior which included the replacement of acoustic panels.

### Summary

As you can see the Parish Council has many varied assets to maintain and duties to perform. The role and dedicated time of the Parish Clerk, Admin Assistant and Village Warden make this possible. They provide a friendly and efficient service to the Parish and should be supported not only by the Councillors but by all the parishioners.

Finally, I would like to thank all the members of the Planning and Environment Committee for all their help and support in carrying out the many tasks needed to keep the village facilities in good order. Thanks also the Parish Clerk and Admin Assistant without whom we could not function.

Ed. Bright,

Chairman of Planning and Environment Committee