

HADLOW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Planning & Environment Committee duly convened and held on Tuesday 28 March 2023

Present: Cllrs M Harvey (Chairperson), O Baldock, E Bright, N Collins, J Newman, J Massy, D Carey, S O'Shea

Also in attendance: Melanie Stepkowski (Minute Taker). TMBC Cllrs J Lark & P Montague, & 5 members of the public.

3686 Apologies & reasons for absence

Approved absences: TMBC Cllr Anderson

3687 To receive declarations of interests.

Cllr Carey declared an interest as member of Kent Men of the Trees.

Cllr Massy declared an interest in allotments.

3688 To receive an update on progress of resolutions & matters from the last meeting not on current agenda.

TM/22/02640/OA - ProVision correspondence re flooding on the site noted.

3689 New applications, amended applications and plans for comment (List B's)

- **TM/23/00452/LDP** - Lawful Development Certificate Proposed: Erection of a timber framed stable block.

5 Signpost Field Three Elm Lane Golden Green Tonbridge Kent TN11 0BH

<https://publicaccess2.tmbc.gov.uk/online-applications/PLAN/23/00452/LDP;>

No objection.

- **TM/23/00558/FL** - Single storey rear extension.

Castle Garden Cottage Court Lane Hadlow Tonbridge Kent TN11 0DU

<https://publicaccess2.tmbc.gov.uk/online-applications/PLAN/23/00558/FL;>

No objection.

3690 Planning applications: results (List D's), out of area/comment & planning enforcements

Noted.

3691 TMBC & KCC Matters

Kent County Council Plan Tree initiative: requesting identifying and progressing potential planting sites.

It was agreed there was no ideal location on Parish land to plant a significant number of trees. However, the programme was supported by members who would notify residents and local farmers of the initiative by placing a notification in the Hadlow Newsletter and on the Parish website.

3692 Non-planning issues:

- a) Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) Climate Change Conference 2023 – Cllr Carey to report.

Cllr Carey attended the online event and summarised the meeting noting the following key speakers:

- Rachel Coxcoon from Climate Guide – outlining predications (regarding global temperatures) following on from COP27 focusing on what the like impacts will be for Kent and the wider South East of England. The broad areas for highest-impact actions for local communities and how to communicate with residents.

Cllr Carey reported that Kent would probably be significantly effected due to its low lying nature, sea level rise, relevantly large population in relation to more rural counties with the current position in the South East already being quite dry and foreseeable hot summers with water bans

- John Whitelegg from the Foundation for Integrated Transport outlined the high impact areas of transport and building for rural areas.

In summary and looking at results from evidence from UK local authorities and best practice in other countries he concluded we can get very near to zero carbon transport by 2030 using public buses but this solution was not possibly currently favoured by Kent County Council .

- Conor Ward – Transport Planner with the KCC Innovations Team spoke about EV Chargers. This was noted.
- James Hood from Bruton Town Council in Somerset spoke about their town-based retrofit advisory service which Cllr Carey also noted.
- Peter Lefort from the University of Exeter’s Green Futures Network shared a new climate change adaptation tool that aims to give simple advice to local decision makers on responding to local climate impacts and vulnerabilities. Cllr Carey said this was a useful tool which would work to make local areas more resilient to the impacts of climate change.
- Robin Webster from Climate Outreach spoke in depth about their approach to having “Climate Conversations”. Cllr Carey reported on the discussion noting that a lot of issues are not under direct control of the Council and are therefore limiting. However examples were provided of Parishes where they had used their influence through having conversations with planners, developers, residents, holding presentations on climate change issues, demonstrations etc. It was concluded that starting as the baseline and working up is productive.

With this in mind it was agreed that the Council should put an item each month in the Parish Newsletter/Council website and move forward with the previously agreed subcommittee after the Parish elections in May. Cllr O’Shea reminded everyone that the Big Green Week was coming up and an ideal time to put forward a climate topic.

- b) **Freehold Allotments** – summary of meeting held with other landowner & tenant
27/2/2023

The Chair of Council, Clerk, Ms Richards (accompanied by 2 family members) and Mr Roberts attended a site visit meeting to discuss a couple of matters that had arisen:

- The Leylandii bordering HPC plot F1 would remain in situ Ms. Richardson confirmed despite concerns raised by Council on the effect they may have as they grow on neighbouring plots.
- Discussion was held as to the site boundaries for each plot with the possibility of Council having the plots surveyed and mapped. (Since the meeting Ms Richards had installed boundary fencing with the wire fence behind the Leylandii being questionably on Parish Council owned land and needing further investigation)

As a result of the meeting Cllr Collins to review existing files within Parish Office to try and establish the Council's legal/ownership position.

- c) **Hy-Arts Toilets** – Refurbishment update: Clerk confirmed estimate for costs which will be mainly covered under S106 monies, details of works and proposed start date. Noted.
- d) **Old School Hall Kitchen** – Refurbishment update: Clerk confirmed estimate of costs funded through Earmarked Reserves.
- e) **Grounds Maintenance Contract for 2023-24** – update: Annual contract with Landscape Services had been negotiated and agreed. Noted.
- f) **Hadlow College** – Letter & Map regarding use of designated footpaths (*appendix b*) Letter noted and the following queries put forward for further discussion.
- MT127 North side of sports field – actual footpath people are using doesn't correspond with Ordinance Survey
 - MT132 the line is incorrect at the Southern end – it should be a straight line to the Kissing Gate
 - Part of the Access Trail joining 131 & 133 parallel to Victoria Road is not currently a designated public right of way and members proposed the path be so designated taking into account its usage by the public for over twenty years.
- g) **Christmas Tree in Village Square** – visual inspection and risk assessment : The Christmas tree is now to be removed despite remaining in good condition as Highways own the land and will object to cultivation on their land without a licence. A note to go on website notifying residents and confirm the tree will be installed again next year and thanking the Rose Revived. Quizzers for their kind donation of the tree this year.
- h) **Count on Nature** event in churchyard 3-11 June – Noted.
- i) **St Mary's Church proposed Flag Pole** to be located by the West door, left of the path. The specification would be forthcoming.

- j) **Allotments Skip** – filled rapidly and some concerns raised as to whether the allotment holders should be personally responsible for waste clearance.
- k) **Baseball** – Request to Council to order 62 tonnes of dirt either directly onto the Baseball field and or the Williams Field carpark for pitch improvement works. The following concerns and queries were raised:
- wet ground no heavy vehicles
 - if delivered onto carpark how much ground would it cover
 - if in carpark would boarding be placed around it to prevent spillage
 - would boarding be used for moving from place to place in wheelbarrows and is the ground currently hard enough
 - Has the Village Hall Management Committee being notified of the planned works.
 - How do they compact the soil.
 - Will the grass be cut out and removed and if so to where
 - Should it be done in School Holidays or would it be too disruptive

It was also noted that the new Baseball practice/matches should be advertised on the Council website and facebook page in order that local residents are aware.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00
Date of next meeting Tuesday 23 May 2023 at 7.30pm, location Parish Office

Signed

Dated