

Tonbridge and Malling KALC August 25th 2021

This meeting was mainly about forming the future shape of the Parish Partnership Panel.

21 Participants via Zoom.

The meeting started off by asking what the PPP is trying to achieve. I said it should be a forum for the exchange of information and where parish representatives can question borough councillors and officers.

Membership: General opinion: Borough members representing the borough should be from parish wards not town wards. The parishes should still decide who they send. Meetings have in the past been hijacked by borough councillors.

Chairmanship. Chair is presently Roger Dalton. Harry Rayner suggested that the chairman should be for a year and then vice chair. It should be shared every year in rotation between borough council and parishes.

The meeting location should move around the parishes. There was concern about finding locations that are big enough, which was apparently a problem when this was done in the past. Village halls would need to charge. Who will pay? The council chamber only costs the payment for the caretaker for the evening.

Agendas. Opinion was that they should be prepared jointly. Sarah Barker will be raising the problems and changes with the planning portal at the next PPP. Agenda items should be agreed by the chair and vice chair. Harry Rayner said that before the inception of the PPP, TMBC had a working party with parish councils.

Who will take the minutes? Presently, they do not always reflect what was actually said. Sarah said the chair and vice chair should scrutinise them. Trudy Dean said YouTube provides evidence of the difference between what was said and what is minuted. Harry Rayner said the minutes are bent towards what the TMBC leadership want to read. The minutes are presently written by Democratic Services.

Patrick Thomas suggested meetings with groups of parishes.

Sarah said that clerks feel neglected. There was one clerk present representing her parish. In the past, Sarah said there had been a forum which was just for clerks.

Communications. Not good. I said I got emails from TMBC about the suspension of garden waste collections but would like to know why Medway has enough truck drivers but TMBC's contractor does not. I asked, who is the tree officer replacing Liz Guthrie? Patrick Thomas said he had found the new tree warden to be most helpful

but did not reveal his name. He said this was despite TMBC sending him a reply asking why parishes should be interested in tree matters. Sarah will request that the new tree officer be asked to the next PPP. There were comments about bulky waste collection.

Five people present said they had not seen the parish charter.

Boundary Commission. Patrick Thomas has a 'New best friend' direct contact who would like to hear from interested people but did not identify him.

Harry Rayner said TMBC want to keep the numbers of representatives of the ruling party as high as possible. Jenny Bate complained that the review meeting was too close to the Boundary Commission deadline. Trudy Dean said her husband had done a detailed analysis and promised to send it to Sarah. Only a few people have seen this.

Sarah is setting up a group to address the boundary commission consultation.

The next KALC will be on October 14th which will also be the AGM.

All meetings will continue to be online until at least January 2022.

Sarah thought TMBC should be posting information on Next Door.

There is a consultation on the booking procedure for household waste collection centres. <https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/wasteconsultation> . Closes September 30th 2021

Tom Shelley  
August 29<sup>th</sup> 2021