

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

held at St Albans Church Hall, Blue Bell Hill on

Tuesday 21 March 2017

Present: Cllrs Shelley (in the Chair), Base, Mrs Brooks, Ms Dorrington, Elvy, Rillie, Smith, Winnett, Wright

In attendance: Mr Harris, Clerk Mrs Collier, Deputy Clerk
3 Members of the Public

Apologies: Cllrs Balcombe, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Homewood, Jones, Mrs Phibbs, Walker

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AGENDA ITEM 1 - **Declarations of Interest additional to those contained in the Registry of Members' Interests**

87. - There were no declarations of interest additional to those contained in the Register of Members Interests.

AGENDA ITEM 2 - **Apologies for absence**

88. - Cllrs Balcombe (holiday), Mrs Gadd (personal engagement), Gledhill (operation recovery), Homewood (KCC meeting), Jones (work commitment), Mrs Phibbs (unwell), Walker (TMBC meeting).

Apologies and the reasons for their absence were noted and accepted.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – **Chairman's Announcements**

89. Members wished Cllr Gledhill a speedy recovery from his recent operation.

AGENDA ITEM 4 - **Adjournment of the meeting to allow for public participation (subject to the limitations of Standing Order 29 d)**

90. Mrs Wray, resident of Blue Bell Hill. Mrs Wray raised the problem of HGVs still entering BBH village, presumably being directed by their Sat Navs, attempting to access the A229. They are causing extensive damage to the verges when realising their mistake and trying to turn round. One damaged a tree with Christmas lights which were left dangling and the No Entry sign has been knocked down on a number of occasions. Mrs Wray has contacted KCC to request more signage to indicate that there is no access to the A229 through the village, including a pictorial sign to assist non-english reading drivers. She has received no positive response.

Cllr Smith confirmed Mrs Wray's concerns which he has raised with the Parish Council and KCC on a number of previous occasions. The corner of Maidstone Road

has been tarmacked to make turning easier but no action has been taken to prevent them entering the village in the first place. Cllr Smith would like to see a signs at the entrance to the village stating “No Access to the A229” and “No HGV access”.

The Clerk confirmed that he has previously written to KCC about signage and SatNav updates and has been informed that this “no access” information is added as systems become due for updates. The Clerk asked Mrs Wray to send exact details of recent incidents which he will then take up again with KCC. Mrs Wray agreed to do this.

The Chairman thanked members of the public for their interest and attendance and re-opened the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – Law and Order in the Parish

91. No report to this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 6 - To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the Council Meetings held on 17 January 2017

92. These Minutes were proposed as a correct record of the meeting by Cllr Shelley, seconded Cllr Wright and actions included to be accepted. **AGREED**

AGENDA ITEM 7 - Matters Arising from the previous minutes (including those which required Members’ action)

93. There were no Matters Arising.

AGENDA ITEM 8 - Committee Reports/Minutes: to consider and adopt; to deal with any matters arising

94. Policy and Resources – 7 February 2017

Proposed by Cllr Shelley, seconded Cllr Wright as an accurate record of the meeting and actions included to be accepted. **AGREED**

There were no Matters Arising.

95. Policy and Resources – 7 March 2017

Proposed by Cllr Shelley, seconded Cllr Smith as an accurate record of the meeting and actions included to be accepted. **AGREED**

Specific **agreement** was proposed by Cllr Shelley, seconded Cllr Ms Dorrington, to Page 1 item 3. FASC item 9. Statement of Internal Control and item 10. Appointment of Internal Auditor. Both items were **AGREED**

There were no Matters Arising.

96 – Planning – 7 February 2017

Proposed by Cllr Wright, seconded Cllr Rillie as an accurate record of the meeting and actions included to be accepted. **AGREED**

There were no Matters Arising.

97 - Planning – 7 March 2017

Proposed by Cllr Wright seconded Cllr Elvy as an accurate record of the meeting and actions included to be accepted. **AGREED**

Matters Arising

97.1 – Page 3, 5.4 – **Aylesford Newsprint**. Additional information/amendments to the original application have just been received and are available in the Parish Office. Clerk will review and report to Planning Committee on 4 April. He will confirm deadline response date with TMBC.

98 – Environmental Services – 24 January 2017

Proposed by Cllr Elvy, seconded Cllr Rillie as an accurate record of the meeting and actions included to be accepted. **AGREED**

Closed Session Minute of 24 January 2017 – Proposed by Cllr Elvy, seconded Cllr Rillie as an accurate record and action included be accepted. **AGREED**

There were no Matters Arising.

99 – Environmental Services – 28 February 2017

Proposed by Cllr Base, seconded Cllr Mrs Brooks, as an accurate record of the meeting and actions included to be accepted. **AGREED**

Matters Arising

99.1 – Page 5, **Blue Bell Hill Pond Site**

Cllr Smith asked for an update on responsibility for the fencing on this site. Clerk advised that the resident has been informed that the fence does not belong to the Parish Council and therefore it has no responsibility for its maintenance or repair. Noted.

AGENDA ITEM 9 - To receive the observations of the County Councillor

100. Cllr Homewood has given apologies to this meeting and there was no report.

AGENDA ITEM 10 - To receive the observations of the Borough Councillors

101. Borough Councillor Base (Aylesford North and Eccles)

101.1 – Cllr Base reported that the 2017/18 Council Tax demands have been issued to residents together with an explanatory leaflet on the changes this financial year. This includes the change in the funding regime for parished areas whereby previously they have subsidised the non-parished areas of the Borough such as Tonbridge town centre.

101.2 – In view of the report by Mrs Wray earlier in the meeting, Cllr Base undertook to raise the matter of enforcing traffic regulation, including HGVs and speeding, by the police with the Crime Commissioner for Kent at a meeting to be held on 23 March. Matthew Balfour of KCC is also promoting more police enforcement in these areas. Cllr Base added that rural areas in particular require more pro-active and visible enforcement.

101.3 – Cllr Wright asked that reports of fox poisoning in Walderslade open space areas be advised to the Borough Council. A number of fox carcasses have been found and a number of dogs have also suffered poisoning, some fatally. Areas involved appear to be increasing. Cllr Base undertook to pass on this information.

The Clerk also asked Cllr Wright to email him full details of these reports and he will pass them to the local PCSO. Warnings will also be posted on the Council's website.

AGENDA ITEM 11 - Accounts for Payment

102 - Payment list distributed to all Members and attached at **Appendix A** to these minutes.

24 payments totalling £8188.33 were checked and proposed for payment by Cllr Mrs Gadd, seconded Cllr Elvy. **AGREED**

103 - In addition the Clerk reported that the invoice for the previously agreed contribution towards the upgrade of the Medway Towpath between Aylesford Bridge and Allington of £20,000 has now been requested by KCC. It was proposed by Cllr Shelley, seconded Cllr Rillie that this be paid immediately. **AGREED**

AGENDA ITEM 12 - To consider any other items of correspondence/Any Other Business

104. There was no further business.

AGENDA ITEM 13 - Chairman to move that: 'The press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting as publicity for any confidential aspects of the business identified in agenda items 1 – 12 above would be likely to prejudice the public interest.'

105. There were no confidential items of business this evening.

AGENDA ITEM 14 - Closure of the meeting

There being no further items of business, meeting closed at 8.20pm.