

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

held at St Albans Church Hall, Blue Bell Hill

Tuesday 20 March 2018

Present: Cllrs Balcombe (in the Chair), Ms Dorrington, Elvy, Gledhill, Homewood, Ludlow, Rillie, Shelley, Smith, Winnett, Wright

In attendance: Mr Harris, Clerk Mrs Collier, Deputy Clerk

Others: PSCO Jo Tiller Community Warden Debbie Foreman (Items 1 – 5 only)

Apologies: Cllrs Base, Mrs Gadd, Walker
Borough Cllrs Keers, Sullivan

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

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

AGENDA ITEM 2 - **Apologies for absence**

95 - Cllrs Base (unwell), Mrs Gadd (personal), Walker (TMBC meeting)
Apologies and the reasons for their absence were noted and accepted.

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

96 - Cllr Balcombe referred to the recent bad weather. Whilst priority was given to staff safety in respect of travelling to work, he thanked the staff for their efforts.

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

97 - There was no public participation and the meeting was reopened.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – **Law and Order in the Parish**

98 - PSCO Tiller (Eccles, BBH and Walderslade) and Community Warden Foreman (Eccles, BBH, Walderslade and Aylesford) were in attendance and took questions relating to:

General crime activity – Generally low levels. Most of their work relates to parking issues, speeding, vulnerable people and occasional anti-social behaviour.

Cllr Ludlow referred to a number of van break-ins in the Eccles, Wouldham and Burham area. PCSO Tiller responded she was aware of these. Investigations were on-going and advice has also been given out relating not leaving tools etc in vans overnight.

Cllr Wright referred to anti-social behaviour around Tunbury Hall on occasions. PCSO Tiller responded she was aware of this last summer but there had been no recent reports. She is a regular visitor to the youth club in the area.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Tiller and Community Warden Foreman for their attendance.

AGENDA ITEM 6 - To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the Council Meetings held on 16 January 2018

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

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

100 - There were no Matters Arising

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

101 - Policy and Resources – 6 February 2018

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

There were no Matters Arising

102 - Policy and Resources – 6 March 2018

Proposed by Cllr Balcombe, seconded Cllr Elvy as an accurate record of the meeting and actions included to be accepted, including item 4. Finance Advisory Sub Committee – Acceptance of the Statement of Internal Control, Finance Regulations and Appointment of Internal Auditor. **AGREED**

There were no other Matters Arising.

103 – Planning – 6 February 2018

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Wright, seconded Cllr Smith as an accurate record of the meeting and actions included to be accepted. **AGREED**

There were no Matters Arising.

104 - Planning – 6 March 2018

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

There were no Matters Arising.

105 – Environmental Services – 23 January 2018

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

Matters Arising

105.1 – Page 1, 3. South East Water on Water Resources Management Plan

Cllr Gledhill reported that he and the Clerk had attended the SEW presentation today at the Community Centre. There had been some concerns expressed by Eccles residents that proposals would affect the Southern Water facility in Bull Lane and consequently increase traffic movements through Eccles village but it was clarified at the presentation that the SW facility is not involved in any way with the SEW proposals. Although residents' water bills have been combined, the two companies remain entirely separate.

Cllr Ludlow confirmed that this confusion has now been clarified to Eccles residents but that SEW have also agreed to stage another presentation in May in Eccles village itself to provide local residents with up to date information. SEW have also undertaken to contact SW to ascertain whether there are any matters regarding the Bull Lane facility that local residents should be aware of and to bring that information to the May meeting.

106 – Environmental Services – 6 March 2018

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

Matters Arising

106.1 – Page 2, 3.2 – Blue Bell Hill slip road lighting. Cllrs Homewood and Smith expressed concerns that these lights have now been out for nearly a year. Clerk was asked to pursue the matter urgently with Kent Highways, copying in County Councillor Homewood to the correspondence. **Clerk**

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

107 - County Councillor Homewood

107.1 – With reference to the recent bad weather and consequent increase in the number of potholes on local roads, Cllr Homewood reported that Kent Highways are treating these as priority and have introduced a system of photographic evidence before and after repairs to ensure good quality repairs.

Cllr Gledhill added that he considered Kent Highways had done a good job in keeping as many roads as possible clear in the recent bad weather. He referred particularly to Bull Lane in Eccles. Cllr Homewood noted this with thanks.

107.2 – Cllr Homewood confirmed that Kent Highways have passed a report to the Traffic Commissioner regarding the number of complaints about the Arriva 155 bus service. Their response is awaited but is likely to take some time.

Cllr Ludlow asked if the 155 service was now travelling through the Peters Village development now over 50 dwellings are occupied, as per the agreement between Kent Highways and Trenport. He was not aware of any bus stop installations. Cllr Homewood confirmed this was the agreement but it should be clarified with KH and Trenport that the new route has actually been implemented.

Cllr Shelley added that there appears to be a number of problems with Arriva routes, not just the 155 service.

107.3 – Cllr Wright reported that he was concerned to note on his local postbox in Walderslade that collection times were to be altered from the evening to the morning. Cllr Ms Dorrington reported this was happening in the Royal British Legion as well. Cllr Homewood stated any concerns regarding this should be addressed to the Royal Mail.

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

108 - Borough Councillor Base

In his absence, Cllr Balcombe read a report from Cllr Base:

“For authorities nearing the end of their Local Plan process, some relief has been granted by central government to avoid re-consultation. Whilst this will have some benefit in terms of the number of houses required (several thousand in our case), it does require us as an authority to act quickly. As such a special Cabinet and Council are scheduled for the 3rd and 12th September respectively to vote on the proposals. Borough Councillors Sullivan, Keers and myself will be having a specific meeting with TMBC Planning in April to ensure that our local Wards receive only their fair share of the required housing and that the need for Tonbridge town and surrounding settlements to expand in line with local need is fully understood.”

AGENDA ITEM 11 - Accounts for Payment

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

20 payments totalling £2968.28 were checked and proposed for payment by Cllr Shelley, seconded Cllr Elvy. **AGREED**

Post Meeting Note – Payment BA1307 to AVCC in respect of Hall hire for Environment Agency Flood Warning Training has been cancelled. The EA will pay this direct to AVCC and reclaim it from APC at a later date.

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

110 – There were no items of correspondence or any other 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.’

111 - There were no confidential items of business.

AGENDA ITEM 14 - Closure of the meeting

There being no further items of business, meeting closed at 8.14pm.