

LUDESLOW PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL ZOOM MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 20th April 2020 AT 7.35 pm

PRESENT:	Cllr Noel Clark	Chairman
	Cllr Chris Mileson	
	Cllr Matt Newnes	
	Cllr Mrs Anne Moorhouse	Vice Chairman
	Mrs Jo Barker	Clerk
	Tony Rice	Councillor

Item *Action point*
Minute number 2020/19/01

1 APOLOGIES

1 An apology for absence was received from Cllr Bryan Sweetland

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2 None

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21ST JANUARY 2020

3 It was agreed that the minutes from the meeting held on 21st January 2020 will be signed as a true record at the next Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall.

4 MATTERS ARISING

4 a None

SUSPENSION OF THE MEETING FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT AND PCSO'S REPORT

PCSO Hartley sent a report through for March 2020, this included a theft of a motor vehicle from Hays Mead and information regarding Covid 19. There were no anti social behaviour or other incidents to note.

Report by Councillor Tony Rice

GBC Budget

At the last GBC Full Council, the new budget was approved, with these being the main features:

The GBC Band D equivalent council tax amount has risen to £209, an increase of £4.95.

In context, the full council tax bill for households (Band D equivalent) has risen 3.9%, from £1773.40 to £1841.78. This is broken down as follows:

- £1351 - KCC
- £209 - GBC
- £203 - Police & Crime Commissioner
- £78 - Fire & Rescue

The GBC Budget includes ...

- An allocation of £26m to fund a new leisure centre
- Replacement and upgrades to all GBC owned play sites
- A commitment to replace all housing stock lost to 'right to buy'
- Improved street scene in the town centre
- £500k seed funding for initiatives that will contribute to Gravesham achieving a carbon neutral footprint by 2030

Lower Thames Crossing

Cllr Rice and Cllr Bryan Sweetland have been working with both GBC and KCC to ensure that local issues are represented in responses to consultations and developing constructive relationships with officers.

Cllr Rice said that he was pleased with both the GBC and KCC responses to the LTC Supplementary Consultation, both of which reflected our opposition to LTC traffic modelling and rat run impact on our local roads.

KCC are building their own, more sophisticated traffic model that will validate or challenge the assumptions made within the LTC model. This should be available by 3Q 2020.

Cllr Rice also said that KCC are skeptical whether LTC will be submitting their Development Consent Order application this year, due to CV-19 and the major challenges they will face in their revised plans.

Local Highways Improvement Plan (HIP)

KCC are keen for Parish Councils to submit HIPs. They want their plans to reflect the wishes, needs and priorities of local communities. This will enable them to look at those wishes and identify deliverability or affordability.

Cllr Rice recommended that the LPC plan to audit road signage and infrastructure is broken down into two parts:

- An audit of faulty, damaged or hidden signage. Each item should then be entered as an individual fault report using the KCC Reporting Tool - <https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>
- At a more strategic level, identification of traffic volume issues, HGV, speeding or safety issues that could be resolved with such things as changes to speed limits, or additions to signage.

Cllr Rice passed on a template and example for LPC to follow.

5 PLANNING

5 a Applications

There were no planning applications to discuss.

b Decisions

c Appeals and Other Matters

6 FINANCE

6 a Bank Mandate

On 28th January 2020 The Clerk Jo Barker had to transfer £1000 from the Savings Account to the Community Account as funds were insufficient to cover outgoing costs. This was approved by Councillors via email.

JB

- 7 **b Bank Balances**
- The bank balances as listed on Appendix A were noted.
- 8 **c Payments Made Since the Last Meeting**
- Please refer to Appendix A. *JB*
- 9 **d Accounts for Payment**
- There were no accounts for payment. Payments that had been made by the Clerk by bank transfer were agreed by Councillors via email. *JB*
- 7 **GRANT APPLICATIONS**
- 10 **a None**
- 8 **RECREATION GROUND**
- 11 **a Cllr Matt Newnes reported that the children’s play equipment had been taped off due to Covid 19, this looks to be done by Gravesham Borough Council. He noted that there was no damage to the equipment. As expected it appears that the football pitch has not been used recently. New metal entry restriction barriers all seem to be in place sufficiently. The bin appears to have been emptied and the bench is in good order. Cllr Rice mentioned that GBC may have money to invest in new play equipment for the borough. Cllr Newnes asked if could follow this up with Martin Waites (from GBC) and work alongside Cllr Rice.** *MN*
- 9 **HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT**
- 12 **a Public Rights of Way**
- Cllr Noel Clark attended a meeting but the only issue was the Lower Thames Crossing. A couple of footpaths on the A2 were not on the consultation.
- 13 **b GBC Transport Panel**
- Nothing to report since the last meeting.
- 14 **c Lower Thames Crossing.** *NC*
CM
AM
MN
- 15 **d Flytipping** *AM*
NC
CM
MN
- A short update on fly tipping was discussed at the Parish Council meeting, hopefully there will be signs up around the areas soon. There will be some cameras available in the borough and Luddesdown as a council will be lobbying hard to get their fair share. The parish should definitely continue to gather photos and other evidence, this is being followed up. Cllr Newnes has been made aware of a number of investigations that are underway based on news residents have submitted including police action. Cllr Newnes thanked everyone for their continued efforts on this as he fears it may get worse before it gets better.
- Cllr Clark has had a skip donated by Gravesham Borough Council for the clean up of the village which is sited in the village hall car park. Cllr Clark and others are cleaning up the area whilst keeping safe distancing measures. Cllr Chris Mileson asked if once this skip is full would GBC donate another. Cllr Clark replied that if this scheme works well then this is a possibility.

16 e **Spring Clean**

Unfortunately, the Spring Clean which should have taken place on 21st March 2020 was cancelled due to the Coronavirus outbreak. Depending on how long we will be in lockdown for the next clean will possibly be in the Autumn. This will be discussed at a meeting later in the year.

17 f **Litter Picking**

The Clerk has been in contact with Gravesham Borough Council regarding litter picking equipment. This equipment can be loaned from them but this would mean collecting and returning the equipment each time. Clerk to look into buying own equipment.

JB

18 g **Other Highways Issues or Transport Matters**

Cllr Mileson addressed the issue again about collating signage information around the village. Cllr Mileson will email Cllrs with locations in the village to be looked at. Cllr Mileson will then compile a report which will be sent to KCC. To be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

*NC
CM
MN
AM*

10 GBC MEETING OF PARISH CHAIRMEN

19 The March meeting of the above has been cancelled and therefore the last meeting was held on 22 January and was attended by Anne in Noel's absence. A number of the subjects that were discussed have been updated since that meeting or have already been covered under other items this evening.

The meeting was chaired by John Burden who was anxious to encourage the creating of affordable homes - he expressed a preference for 1-2 bedroom apartments (i.e. 1 bed and a study) as these afforded more flexibility in the future for both singles and couples and housing benefit was available on 1 bed accommodation. The charity Shelter recommend 35% of salary for rent or mortgage, 40% in London. The present GBC Housing List has between 3 and 3.5 thousand people who must have lived in the borough for 2 years. It was recommended that young people who lived with parents in the borough should put their name on the Housing List. Housing development on Green Belt land would happen with or without permission from parishes.

The difficulties of getting planning permission was discussed. Gravesham have a backlog of planning applications and are short of Planning Enforcement Officers as they have lost two good officers to the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation. They are finding it difficult to recruit (even though salaries are in line with the industry). KCC only have 2 qualified Fire Officers and 1 part-time Conservation Officer who works 2/3 days a week. Owners/builders are going ahead with building plans and submitting them retrospectively, which makes even more work for the hard pressed GBC Planning Dept. Planning fees do not cover the cost of the Planning Dept. Please read the Kalc CEO Bulletin April 2020 which includes Government plans to support communities to deliver more homes for local people. This includes reform of the planning fees and encouragement for planning permissions to be built more quickly. The Government will back brownfield building in and around urban areas and encourage building upwards. The deadline for all local authorities to have up-to-date local plans is December 2023.

Street lighting - GBC have 144 and the local parishes 294. (None in Luddesdown?) KCC will only maintain those that have been converted to LED. This will cost £300 a light by a KCC contractor and if parishes choose not to convert them they will have to be switched off.

- 11 **DEFIBRILLATOR** NC
- 20 Cllr Clark has been checking the defibrillator weekly at the Village Hall. Some residents have shown an interest in training, this hopefully will take place later in the year.
- 12 **KALC/GRAVESHAM AREA COMMITTEE** MN
- 21 The latest meeting was unfortunately postponed due to the Coronavirus. AM
- 13 **CHAIRMAN’S LETTER**
- 22 The Chairman’s letter will be discussed at a meeting later in the year. If the Autumn Clean can go ahead this will be advertised in the letter.
- 14 **REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCILLORS AND CLERK NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA**
- 23 a The Clerk attended a Web Accessibility Training Course at the end of January which proved useful. The Clerk also attended a Planning Conference in March 2020. The Clerk found it extremely interesting and would recommend Councillors attending should another course become available. Cllr Clark attended Saving The Landscapes meeting in February, notes were circulated. JB
- 15 **VACANCY FOR COUNCILLOR**
- 24 The Parish Council still have a vacancy for a Councillor, to date we have had no feedback. Cllr Newnes may know someone who is possibly interested in the position who he will contact. The vacancy may also be advertised on the Village Whats App group.
- 16 **CONSULTATIONS**
- 25 a KCC Consultation on Rights of Way which is county access plan. NC
- 17 **CORRESPONDENCE**
- 26 a KALC Subscription and ARCK was renewed. CPRE – Country Voice. Letter from Medway Council regarding the Consultation – Planning for Growth on the Hoo Peninsula, this was emailed round to Councillors.
- 18 **REPORTS AND CIRCULARS**
- 27 a None JB
- 19 **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS AT CHAIRMAN’S DISCRETION**
- 28 a None.

PUBLIC SESSION

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending and closed the meeting at 9.05pm

Signed Chairman

On theday of..... 2020

