

THANET AREA COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held in the
Birchington Parish Council Offices on
Thursday 3rd August 2017, commencing at 7.00pm

Present: Vice Chairman in the Chair: Cllr T King (Westgate on Sea Town Council)

Members: Cllr A Blaydes (Clifsend Parish Council)
Cllr Ms S Bransfield (Acol Parish Council)
Cllr Mrs I Osborne (Acol Parish Council) and Secretary
Cllr J Quittenden (Minster Parish Council)
Cllr Ms L Wright (Birchington Parish Council)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- were received from Cllr J Way (Monkton Parish Council) and
Cllr Ms L Samme (Manston Parish Council)

Concern was expressed at the non-attendance at the TAC meetings by representatives from some of the local councils, and all should be encouraged to arrange a substitute should the regular attendant not be available. It was agreed that the Secretary should write to each of the Councils represented to strongly remind them of the importance of this Committee – it is representative of the entire population of Thanet and it is the channel of communication on any matter that affects the electorate. There have been several instances in recent months where it is considered that the views of “the man in the street “ have been ignored and this Committee is a certain way of ensuring that this situation is not allowed to continue.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 15th June 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

4. GUEST SPEAKER

Mr Trevor Kennett – Head of Operational Services (Interim) TDC

Regrettably, Mr Kennett failed to attend – there had been no communication from him. The Secretary would contact him following the meeting.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

Regrettably, the Chairman, Cllr J Way had been unable, at very short notice, to attend the meeting. Therefore, Cllr King had been unprepared to provide any detail under this item.

6. KALC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Cllr King had attended the Executive meeting on 15th July and he provided a detailed summary of the matters discussed.

- a) Learning and Development Programme – KALC had facilitated a place for Chairmen on the programme.
- b) Policy Issues – Salaries of Officers were reviewed and it was finally agreed that an increase of 1% would be made, although the decision was not unanimous.
- c) Finance – the draft accounts were considered and all the recommendations were followed.
- d) Annual meeting due to be held on 17th November. Any motions should be notified by 22nd September ie 56 clear days before the meeting date.
- e) County Issues. Development of services – Canterbury City Council is considering sharing services and a governance review is being carried out over a 12 month period.
- f) HGV Parking – this problem continues to be reviewed.
- g) Parish Online - this continues to be encouraged for all Councils.
- h) KCC Warden Scheme – the scheme is ongoing, five new volunteers have been confirmed.

- i) Possible Rochester Town Council – this is still under consideration.
- j) National Issues – the right to hold a referendum. Still an item of discussion.
- k) Both NALC and KALC were encouraging all Councils to provide good clear reasons why a precept is being increased in order to justify money well spent.

7. JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Cllr King reported that the main item of discussion at the recent meeting had been the question of increased parking charges. There was a unanimous decision that the matter be referred back to Thanet District Council asking for a more sensible suggestion as the increases proposed would have an extremely detrimental effect on tourism and local trade.

8. MATTERS OF REPORT BY MEMBERS

Acol Parish Council

Cllr Bransfield reported:

- a) Following the long ongoing negotiations with Southern Water regarding the sewerage problems in Crispe Road, a reset button has now been installed to the electrical system in the pumping station. However, with the additional businesses now under construction on the adjoining Industrial Estate, she is in correspondence with both Southern Water and TDC regarding the effect this addition will have on the pumping station capacity.
- b) Crown and Sceptre Public House – once again, there are problems with TDC not complying with procedure regarding notification to the Parish Council of a planning application.
- c) Traffic monitoring strips have been identified in various locations within the village but no reason for this can be established.

Birchington Parish Council

Cllr Wright reported:

- a) She had received numerous reports regarding the finish to pavements etc following the cabling work being carried out by Virgin Media.
- b) A pelican crossing had been created outside King Ethelbert's School.
- c) Problems are being experienced with the asset transfers that are being arranged.
- d) The beach shelters are being painted.
- e) A gardening group is being set up.
- f) A Citizen's Award is being planned – a black tie dinner is being held in the autumn to launch the plan.
- g) The rooms in the library are being refurbished to provide a meeting room.

Cliffsend Parish Council

Cllr Blaydes reported:

- a) Young's Nursery – the planning application for housing development on this site had been sent to Ramsgate Town Council and not to Cliffsend PC. As a consequence, the Parish Council had to investigate with Land Registry and had found that the roadside verge was in fact public land.
- b) The large planned housing development on the Asparagus Field site in the centre of the village had raised numerous complaints, particularly regarding the narrow roads and the lack of footpaths.
- c) A further three planning applications have been submitted – 90-100 objections to each.
- d) As the village borders the Manston Airport site, any plans by Stonehill Park are carefully considered by the Parish Council.
- e) The power station work on the Richborough site is going ahead.
- f) A further 34 wind turbines are being planned in addition to the current 100.

Minster Parish Council

Cllr Quittenden reported:

- a) The annual open gardens event had raised £5k to aid the Church funds.
- b) The new CCTV had been installed but only after new lamp standards had had to be erected to carry the new cabling.
- c) New parking bays and yellow lines were being installed – the cost being met from the 106 monies obtained from the Heronsbrook development.
- d) The future of the ownership of the car parks is still under discussion as the Parish Council wishes to continue to provide this facility free of charge.

- e) An application from MacDonald's to keep the restaurant open 24 hours has been sent to the Licensing Board – the Parish Council is concerned as the facility already causes litter problems etc.
- f) A presentation is being held in the Library to show the plans for a development on the land near to MacDonald's and the Co-op to house a Farm Shop and a Costa Coffee outlet.
- g) An archaeological dig is being carried out on the land adjoining Tothill Street where 250 homes are planned.
- h) The Parish Council have been stopped from managing the vegetation on the roundabout at the entrance to the village. This must now be done by Highways – the roads approaching have to be coned off – and the cost would be £2k each time. The Council would be unable to meet this cost from their agency fee allocation.
- i) Finally, Cllr Quittenden was sad to report the death of Gerry Glover, who had been active over many years in Parish Council activities, particularly in the establishment of Minster as a Market Town.

Westgate Town Council

Cllr King reported:

- a) The paperwork stating ownership of the Recreation Ground had finally been received. The football pitch would be back in use in September. KCC had agreed to line out the pitches.
- b) The changing rooms in the Pavilion are in a poor state. A replacement is being considered - this would include a cafeteria, with profits going back to the Town Council.
- c) The Council has now moved to a new office in Ethelbert Square having vacated the Town Hall building where there was no disabled access.
- d) Asset transfers have produced a truck which now bears the Town Council crest, but the transfer of the sun deck and the putting green at St Mildred's bay is being requested. The children's play area would also be updated to provide a themed play area.
- e) The showers in the toilet block had been painted by volunteers.
- f) The bank holiday event would include a Punch and Judy show.

9. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on 28th September 2017 at 7.00pm in the Birchington Parish Council Office.

The Annual General Meeting would be held on 16th November 2017.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Chairman

Date