

ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 7th March 2021 at 7.10 pm in Alkham Village Hall

Present: Cllrs N Burrows (Chairman); M Hibbert; A Barrier

Also present: I Bowie (Clerk) and members of the public.

Prior to the start of the meeting:

Representations from the public *will be taken for a period up to fifteen minutes before the opening of the formal meeting. Individuals may speak for up to three minutes, on agenda items, at the discretion of the Chairman. The minute book will be closed.*

1. Apologies, Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

1.1 Apologies for absence received and confirmed by the Council Members who cannot attend a meeting shall tender their apologies to the Parish Clerk prior to the meetings, under Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the members present must decide whether the reason(s) for a member's absence shall be accepted. Apologies and the reason given were accepted from Cllr D Beaney. Cllr R Marczin- Bundy's apologies were noted.

1.2 **Declaration of Changes to the Register of Interests.** There were none

1.3 **To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda. In accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of members and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of officers.** There were none

1.4 **Requests for Dispensations.** There were none

1.5 **Declarations of Lobbying.** Cllrs present were lobbied by residents re agenda item 11.2.1 Letters from residents re Alkham Valley Road Speed Limit

2. **CO OPTION of Parish Councillor/s: To consider candidates for co-option.** It was AGREED to delay the co-option until the May meeting.

3. **Consideration of items to be taken in private (Exclusion of Public and Press):** In accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded from the meeting by the reason of its confidential nature. There were none

4. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting:

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9th December 2021 were taken as read and confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters arising from the minutes (not included in other agenda items):

6. Finance:

6.1 To authorise payments on the schedule: It was RESOLVED to authorise the payments on the schedule.

Harmer and Sons	Playground Repairs	90.00
Harmer and Sons	Playground Inspections Dec-Jan	90.00
Ionos	Emails and Domain (Jan, Feb, March)	90.00
HMRC	PAYE Q3	153.00
HUGO Fox	APC Website 2022/23	287.86

- 6.2 Late Payment Request/s to be discussed for approval and payment .There were none
- 6.3 To receive the bank reconciliation: The Clerk reported that despite completing the HSBC Account Reviews the parish council account had been closed in error by HSBC. Clerk to progress.
- 6.4 To confirm banking arrangement: It was RESOLVED to open a current account with Unity bank. Clerk to progress.

7. Highways:

- 7.1 To Review the Highways Improvement Plan (HiP)
Cllr Hibbert gave an update on the current HiP. He reported that the bus shelter had been installed. The results of the three KCC Speed surveys commissioned by the parish council to support requests for 20mph speed limit and additional speed reduction initiatives were discussed. It was noted that because of these surveys KCC Highways did not consider it was necessary to take any further action as the speeds recorded were suitable for the road environment. There is little evidence to show that introducing a 20mph speed limit without any obvious change in the road environment will make any significant difference to the driven speeds. Also, there would be a need for a permanent system of street lighting, whilst there is none now. The speed limits recorded were considered, by KCC Highways, to be within the given parameters for the road, and shows good compliance for a 30mph limit.

It was AGREED that the parish council would try to find ways to work collaboratively with and support the findings and recommendations of the Alkham Valley Speedwatch team's findings as these recorded different speeds than those of KCC Highways. It was also AGREED that the recommendations by the Speedwatch team would be reviewed by members in the compilation of the draft HIP.

Entrance gateways, roundels, additional road markings and roundels were discussed. It was AGREED that the draft 2022/23 HIP would be circulated to Cllrs to consideration and then agreed at the May 2022 meeting. It was AGREED to request, via KCC Highways, a review of the road makings and signage on the Alkham Valley road. Although a C classified highway, the AVR is considered a designated distributor route by KCC, linking A20/A2.

- 7.2 To receive the Alkham Speedwatch reports. Members thanked the Alkham Speedwatch Teams for their work and the reports that were produced. A request for the parish council to purchase Speedwatch equipment for £800 had been received from the Alkham Speedwatch co-ordinator. It was AGREED that Cllr Hibbert would contact Capel Le Ferne and Lydden parish councils to establish if they would be consider sharing the equipment jointly thereby reducing the cost to each parish council.
- 7.2 To receive the parish portal report. The report was received and noted. The clerk reminded Cllrs to report Highways matters directly on to the KCC Highways portal as they are logged and can be followed up and tracked.
- 7.4 To consider any other Highways matters. Agenda item 11.2.1 was brought forward. The 5 letters had been received from residents requesting the speed limit on the Alkham Road was reduced. The letters had been circulated to all Cllrs. Cllr Hibbert reported that 15% of road users were speeding and most accidents were down to driver error rather than speed. The parish council will raise these matters via the HiP with KCC Highways.
Cllr Hibbert to enquire if the PC would be permitted to repaint the railings at the Village Hall.

8. To receive reports from:

- 8.1 Kent County Councillor KCC Cllr Beaney
It was AGREED to apply for a KCC members grant for £200 towards the Alkham Village Green Jubilee Celebrations. It was RESOLVED to apply for a KCC Members grant of £1500 towards the cost of a short path behind the Village Hall towards Newlyn Meadows. It was RESOLVED that the maximum cost for the path should be no more than £3500 (inclusive of the KCC members grant). It was AGREED that since this expenditure was not in the 2022-23 budget it would be funded from the parish council reserves. Cllr to send the Clerk specifications for the path. Clerk to progress with contractor quotes.
- 8.2 DDC Report DDC Cllr Hibbert
Cllr Hibbert gave his report. He highlighted the Freight Action Plan and the £250 million of funding for this plan. This will include a freight journey planner to try and prevent HGV's using rural roads. He also reported on the KCC Bus funding consultation. It was AGREED that this would be placed on the PC website. He reported on GLEAN – Consultation to stop the use of green lane by recreational vehicles.
- 8.3 Byways Cllr Barrier
It was RESOLVED that the parish council would pay for and instal anti-slip strips on the bridge outside the village hall. A budget of £120 was set. It was RESOLVED that Cllr Hibbert would purchase, on behalf

- of the PC, a tin of black paint and repaint the kissing gate.
- 8.4 Parish Plan Cllr Burrows
Mr Barnard gave his report. It was noted that the parish plan committee would resubmit the plan to the parish council for review in the next few weeks.
- 8.5 Drainage and Flood Warden Report Cllr Hibbert
See appendix 1.
- 8.6 Clerks Report I Bowie
It was RESOLVED that all historical APC documents would be stored in the KCC archive. The clerk raised the issue of the bins on the Village Green and the lack of action by DDC last year. It was AGREED that the Clerk would contact DDC and that Cllr Hibbert would follow up. DDC agreed in 2020 to increase the emptying of the bins.
- 8.7 PCSO Report PCSO Keehner
- 8.8 Environmental Initiatives Group Cllr Marczin-Bundy
8.8.1 To agree members
8.8.2 To agree Terms of Reference
It was AGREED to defer this item to a later meeting.
- 9. Planning:**
- 9.1 To consider the following applications: There were no new applications to be considered
- 9.2 To table planning applications dealt with since last meeting:
- 9.2.1 22/00082 Alterations to existing garage to include pitched roof and replacement windows and doors Firbank Slip Lane Alkham Dover Kent CT15 7DA APC No Objection
- 9.2.2 21/01882 The creation of a sand school manage with post and rail fencing for personal use . The Willows Green Wood Slip Alkham CT15 7DD APC No Objection
- 9.2.3 21/01889 Erection of stables and equestrian manage with post and rail fencing for private use Lyoak Wood Farm Warren Lane Ewell Minnis CT15 7EB APC No Objection (Concerns raised re no of stables)
- 9.3 To receive an update on any outstanding planning applications and results:
- 8.3.1 21/01918 Erection of two storey side extension to facilitate car port with retaining walls and exterior stairs. Drellingore Cottage Stombers Lane Drellingore CT18 7ER
DDC Application Permitted
- 8.3.2 21/01439 Erection of a block of 2no. stables, tack room and feed store . The Paddock Ferne Lane Ewell Minnis CT15 7FF DDC Application Permitted
- 9.4 To receive late planning applications and other late planning matters:
- 10. Play area and Village Green**
- 10.1 To receive the Monthly Inspection Report. It was AGREED that the Clerk would seek new quotes and arrange a full annual RoSPA Inspection.
- 10.2 To consider any other matters pertaining to the play area and Village Green:
It was AGREED that the Clerk would investigate a commemorative bench for the Queen's Jubilee for discussion at the May parish council meeting.
- 11. Correspondence:**
- 11.1 To Table Items of Late Correspondence:
- 11.1.1 Minutes of the Local KALC Meeting.
- 11.1.2 Residents letter HGV's on Lockering Lane. This was discussed under agenda item 7.4.
- 11.2 To Table items circulated:
- 11.2.1 Letters from residents re Alkham Valley Road Speed Limit
- 11.2.2 KALC Health and Wellbeing Conference
- 11.2.3 Folkestone & Hythe District Council Core Strategy Review – Inspectors' Report
- 11.2.4 Queen's Jubilee Street Parties Application Form
- 11.2.5 The latest Groundwater Situation report for Kent is now live on GOV.UK
- 11.2.6 The Dover Prevent Community Roundtable event - 31 March 2022
- 11.2.7 Dover District Council, Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy - Town & Parish Councils Consultation Questionnaire
- 11.2.8 An opportunity to end the use of green lanes by recreational motor vehicles in Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- 11.2.9 INSPIRE FAMILY PROJECT
- All correspondence was noted.

- 12. Meeting Dates 2022** It was RESOLVED to hold the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting on the same evening.
The meeting dates for 2022 were confirmed as :
9th May Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, 9th May Annual Parish Meeting, 4th July; 5th September, 7th November.

There being no further business to transact the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05 pm

Signed :

Date:

Chairman

Appendix 1

Alkham Drainage Work Progress Updates – March 2022

Latest work updates for submitted Alkham drainage fault reports to Kent Highways drainage department are as follows:

- 596053- Roadside drain adjacent Martin Vale, Hogbrook Hill blocked – work scheduled.
- 621039 – Thorn Cottage, Megget Lane. Usual continuing silt trap and roadway culvert blockage.
 - The double culvert underground pipes, linking the Garden Centre ditch to the ditch outside the entrance to the Meadows scheduled for inspection.
 - Resultant enforcement actions by KCC saw re-establishment of infilled Short Lane ditch by landowner.

Martin Hibbert
Flood Warden
28/02/22