

# Alkham Parish Council

## Minutes the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 7:55pm in Alkham Village Hall

Present: Cllrs N Burrows ( Chairman); M Hibbert; A Barrier  
In Attendance: Irene Bowie (Parish Clerk) and 15 Members of the Public

### 1. Apologies and absences:

- 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 75(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 were received from PCSO McGuinness.
- 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. There were one

### 2. 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. It was RESOLVED that agenda items 12.5 and 16 would be taken in private.

### 3. Public comments and observations. (Maximum 15 minutes)

The meeting will be adjourned to allow members of the public to speak. Individuals may speak for up to three minutes, at the discretion of the Chairman, on agenda items only. The minute book will be closed.

### 4. Reports from external parties (if present).

Kent County Councillor David Beany, Dover District Councillor Martin Hibbert, PCSO Sarah McGuinness. Report from KCC Cllr Beany ( given at the Annual Meeting of the Parish) is attached as Appendix 1. DDC Cllr Hibbert was unable to give his report during the pre-election period.

### 5. Alkham Parish Councillor Reports

- 5.1 Chairman of the Parish Council Cllr Burrows
- 5.2 Byways Cllr Barrier
  - 5.2.1 Proposed diversion of public footpath ER150 at Alkham. Cllr Barrier reported that a meeting on site had taken place with the Definitive Map Officer. It was RESOLVED to accept the proposal of the parish council to change the amended diversion to the footpath. The Landowner agreed to this change in alignment. Attached as Appendix 2
- 5.3 Parish Plan Cllr Burrows  
The Parish Plan was agreed by both the Parish Council and the steering committee in January 2023. It is currently being edited to correct numerous spelling and grammatical errors. The formatting is also being updated. It was reported that the plan will be made available on the Parish Council website within the next two weeks.
- 5.4 Drainage and Flood Wardens Report Cllr Hibbert  
Councillor Hibbert gave his report.  
Latest work updates for submitted Alkham drainage fault reports to Kent Highways drainage department are as follows:
  - 666264 – Martin Vale, Hogbrook Lane – scheduled to be cleaned
  - 642292- Village Sump, job completed.
  - 652656 – Alkham Ditch, Valley Cottages. Request to clear out whole length of ditch. Work completed.

The Village Green swale. To discuss for annual clearing funding from APC. Ongoing.  
Village Green Ditch – compaction of leaves in ditch causing downstream blockages in Short Lane culverts and local flooding risk. Need discussed for petrol blower to regularly remove

debris from ditch in autumn period to mitigate this risk. Work to be undertaken by volunteer riparian owners. Blower to be held by KCC Flood Warden. Resolved that request not granted.

**6. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting**

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 were taken as read and confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**7. Clerk's Report:** (not included in other agenda items).

**8. Finance:**

- 8.1 To receive and authorise payments listed on the schedule (to be provided at the meeting)
- 8.2 Late Payment Request/s to be discussed for approval and payment. It was RESOLVED to approve the payments on the schedule.
- 8.3 To receive the 2022/23 Accounts. It was RESOLVED to accept and approve the 2022/23 accounts.
- 8.4 To review the 2022/23 spend vs budget. The performance against budget was noted.
- 8.5 Review the APC Fixed Asset register (new assets updated during the year). It was AGREED that Councillor Hibbert would update , via the Clerk, the location of all assets on the register.

**9. To receive the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for the financial year ended 31st March 2023**

- 9.1 To receive and note the Annual Internal Audit Report Internal audit report: The Annual Internal Audit Report was received and accepted.
- 9.2 To receive and approve the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1)  
The parish council considered and approved the Annual Governance Statement for the year ending 31st March 2023. It was RESOLVED that the Chairman and the Clerk signed the Annual Governance Statement.
- 9.3 To receive and approve the AGAR Accounting Statements (Section 2)  
The parish council considered and approved the Accounting Statement for the year ending 31st March 2023. It was RESOLVED that the Chairman and the Clerk signed the Accounting Statement. It was RESOLVED that the reserves would be allocated .
- 9.4 To approve the Certificate of Exemption. It was RESOLVED that the Chairman and the Clerk would sign the Certificate of Exemption.

**10. Planning:**

- 10.1 To table planning applications received for consideration:
  - 10.1.1 23/00403 Tree Tops Greenwich Lane Ewell Minnis CT15 7EA  
Creation of roof terrace, balustrade and doors (retrospective)  
APC No Objection
  - 10.1.2 23/00114 The Hermitage Slip Lane Alkham CT15 7DD  
Erection of a two storey side extension, dormer extension and external alterations including cladding.  
APC No Objection
- 10.2 To Table Planning Applications dealt with since the last meeting
  - 10.2.1 23/00248 Ellinge House Little Everden Road Alkham CT15 7EG  
Change of use of land to mixed agriculture/equestrian and the erection of stables with associated works. APC Objection
  - 10.2.2 23/00124 Southbank Newcastle Lane Ewell Minnis CT15 7DY  
Erection of a dwelling, car port and access.  
APC Defer to DDC Planning
  - 10.2.3 23/00160 Sunrise Meggett Lane Alkham CT15 7EN  
Certificate of lawfulness (existing) for the continued use of buildings in breach of agricultural conditions CH/6/63/0117 & DOV/04/00385 and continued use of land as residential.  
APC Objection
  - 10.2.4 23/00186 Rhodus Mead Wolverton Hill Alkham CT15 7DT  
Erection of raised decking and balustrade.  
APC No Objection
  - 10.2.5 22/01625 Evergreen Slip Lane Alkham Dover CT15 7DA  
Erection of porch, raised terrace with balustrade, storage underneath dwelling and associated changes in ground levels, replacement cladding to elevations, erection of retaining wall and alterations to fenestration (retrospective)  
APC Objection
  - 10.2.6 22/0157 Common Hill Cottage Green Lane Ewell Minnis CT15 7DX

Certificate of Lawfulness (existing) for the continued use of outbuilding as a dwellinghouse.

APC No Objection

10.3 To table decisions by Dover District Council (DDC) since the last meeting

10.3.1 TC/22/00150 Malmaims Manor Slip Lane Alkham Kent CT15 7DB

Fell one Eucalyptus tree situated within a conservation area. DDC Permitted

10.3.2 Mon 28 Nov 2022 Certificate of Lawfulness (existing) for the continued use of outbuilding as a dwellinghouse

DDC Certificate Existing Refused

10.3.3 22/01658 Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Hogbrook Hill Lane Alkham CT15 7BU

Creation of a menage with post and rail fencing

DDC Application Approved

10.3.4 23/00186 Rhodus Mead Wolverton Hill Alkham CT15 7DT

Erection of raised decking and balustrade.

DDC Application Approved

10.4 To table late planning matters:

10.5 Dover District Local Plan 2040: Notice of Submission. The Clerk reported that the submission made by the Parish Council had been accepted .

## 11. Highways

11.1 Highways Improvement Plan (Update). It was reported that KCC Highways had not responded to emails. It was RESOLVED to request via KCC Highways that the Alkham Valley Road would be included in the Vision Zero Campaign,

11.2 To receive the Alkham Speedwatch report.

11.3 To receive the parish portal report. The report was noted.

11.4 To receive any other Highways matters. It was reported that the parish council has AGREED to submit a request for a KCC Members Grant for £300 for the purchase of two body cams for the Speedwatch Team.

## 12. Play area and Village Green

12.1 To receive the Monthly Playground Inspection Report. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk would contact Harmer to obtain quotes for any identified maintenance matters. It was RESOLVED under the adopted Scheme of Delegation (s101 of the 1972 LGA that the Clerk would progress this matter.

12.2 Commemorative Bench. The Clerk reported that the bench order had been updated to include a plaque for the Coronation of King Charles III and well as a plaque for Queen's Jubilee. It was AGREED that the bench would be delivered to Cllr Burrows.

12.3 To consider any other matters pertaining to the play area and/or the Village Green. It was AGREED that the obstacle course in the play area should be replaced. It was AGREED that the Clerk would identify grants that may be available to assist with the cost.

12.4 To consider areas for Re-Wilding. It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council would identify areas that could be left un-mowed and possibly rewilded.

12.5 To consider the Maintenance Contract 2023/24 . Taken as a confidential item in private . It was RESOLVED that the Maintenance Contract for 2023/24 would be awarded to Harmer and Sons Ltd.

13. **Volunteer Policy Review:** It was RESOLVED to adopt the policy.

14. **KALC Community Awards Presentation** . The Parish Council had unanimously nominated Den Barnard for this award. "For his tireless commitment and dedication as the driving force behind the Community Plan for the benefit of all of those who live in Alkham"

The award was presented by the Chairman of the Parish Council Neill Burrows at the Annual Meeting of the Parish.

## 15. Correspondence:

15.1 To table items of late correspondence : There were no late items of correspondence.

15.2 Items circulated .

15.2.1 Notice of Election - Thursday 4 May 2023

15.2.2 Southern Water: Pioneering solutions to reduce storm overflows 'will bring nature back to communities'

15.2.3 NHW Message - latest newsletter from the National Neighbourhood Watch Team

15.2.4 Largest number of new council homes in a generation is being delivered by DDC

15.2.5 KALC Dover Area Committee Minutes 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023

15.2.6 Civility and Respect March Newsletter

15.2.7 Hedgehog Highway Project

All correspondence was noted.

**16 Staffing Matters. NALC Annual Salary Award 2023.** It was RESOLVED that the Clerk's salary would be increased in line with the NALC Salary Award.

**Meeting Dates 2023 : 11th May Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, 3rd July,  
4<sup>th</sup> September, 6<sup>th</sup> November.**

## Appendix 1

KCC David Beaney Report 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023

This year has been very challenging for everyone living in Kent. KCC along with so many other Councils have struggled to deal with difficult problems all year.

We have seen huge inflation, the war in Ukraine and our borders constantly being broke with Asylum seekers.

We had a huge task of trying to set a budget this year, financial monitoring at the 9th month which is December showed a predicted overspend of 53 million pounds we was able to use a reserve tank of £25million against this, however it is inevitable that we will over spend this year.

As mentioned before we have huge mandatory sectors of KCC that could use our budget alone, SEND being one of those.

We have had to deal with constant battles with border force. In the last year we have had three occasions where the problem has become a huge problem for Dover Town and Kent. For the up and coming Easter weekend ferries are being asked not to book too many coaches on to one boat to try and ease immigration problems at passport control. We have continued to help residents as much as we can. In the last several school holidays we have given out food vouchers for eligible children we continue to give free school meals, we have run a financial hardship scheme and have tried to keep as much support and services going to entitled residents with energy vouchers and water bills being paid. We saw children's services receiving outstanding by Ofsted. In February KCC was designated one of the only 14 trailblazer councils for developing in the government's family hubs which is designed to provide integrated support for families and children this eventually gives us to access to 10 million pounds for transformation funding over the next two years.

We have seen a increase in Asylum seekers entering our country on small boats we are currently trying to home and support 1390 unaccompanied Asylum seeking children from last year and we have now seen 260 enter this year that will receive the same help and support.

As a country we made the choice to try to help people in Ukraine by offering them refuge in England, Kent currently have 1767 guests staying with 854 sponsors. We have 349 Ukrainian children in our primary schools and 234 in our secondary schools.

I will continue to help and support our rural buses. we have received some money from central government but unfortunately, we won't know how that is being spent until June or July this year.

KCC have fixed 14000 potholes in the last year and have patched 68414 sqm of road. We have received another 6 million for well needed road repairs.

KCC are constantly looking for funding, they have just received 1.83 million to put towards refurbing 5 of their old buildings, this money is going to be spent on making them more efficient and this includes new windows.

We saw 19007 apply for secondary school places 78.2% of children got there first choice.

I believe you will see a difference in how s106 money will be contained when planning applications for larger developments go forward, I can see a lot more monies being asked for better forms of sustainable transport.

This is just a few points from a very busy year.

Many thanks

KCC Cllr Beaney.