

POSTLING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Postling Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 25 January 2017 starting at 6.30 pm at Postling Village Hall.

PRESENT:

Cllr Frank Hobbs (Chair), Cllr Helen Calderbank, Cllr Christine Hobbs, Cllr Jane Reynolds, Cllr Charlie Wilkins, Cllr John Elphick, Cllr John Patrick and 9 members of the Public

Parish Clerk: Jo Maher

1. Apologies: Cllr Jenny Hollingsbee, Cllr Susan Carey. Reports received and reviewed, see attached
2. Declarations of Interest:
Cllr Reynolds declared a significant interest in 5 and left the meeting whilst item was discussed.
3. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 30 November 2016 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

4. Matters arising from Minutes

A. Broadband: Cllr Carey reports

"We should know more in April about whether Postling will be included in the upgrade of broadband that KCC is funding. If it is not included there are other community led options we can pursue if there is local support"

5. Tiger Club Pent Farm:-

A. The Parish Council is in receipt of 10 written complaints from concerned parishioners. The Chairman opened the meeting to the Public. Questions were put to the landowner and he responded to them.

B. Landowner action plan:-

Landowner Chris Reynolds has been in discussion with the Tiger Club and the following protocol has been imposed to the Club:-

- Numbers of take-off on any weekday or Saturday by the Tiger Club aircraft are restricted to 5 per day and there must be no circuit training
- There are to be no Tiger Club movements on Sundays or Bank Holidays
- Joining procedures and flightpaths must take into account the sensitivities of the local residents as per the current airfield standing instructions

The Chairman closed the meeting to the Public and it was agreed that the council will write back a response to the landowner.

6. Planning Applications:

"To confirm the planning applications received since the last meeting, circulated to Councillors for comments, the outcomes of those deliberations, and to consider any further applications received since this agenda was published."

Y16/1115/SH: 1 Honeywood Cottages, Ashford Road, Sandling, Hythe, Erection of 3 terrace dwelling houses within vacant land adjacent to number 1 Honeywood Cottages

Y16/1378/SH: Postling Lodge, Farthing Common, Lyminge, Erection of a two storey side extension, underground garage and leisure facilities, and rear swimming pool extension, together with new turning circle, landscaping and erection of garden walls (alternative to planning permission Y15/098/SH)

Y16/1396/SH: Douglas Farm Cottage, Cuckoo Lane, Postling, Hythe, Erection of a single storey side extension

The Parish Council was unable to comment on any of the above mentioned planning applications as the Shepway website offers insufficient documentation to comment on, plus the promised CD with all planning info has not materialised.

In view of this, the Parish Council has decided that, where possible, they will contact the applicant to view paper plans.

7. Lorry Park: Update and online questionnaire by KCC to completed by the Parish by 12 March (www.kent.gov.uk/freightactionplan)

8. Otterpool Garden Town: Cllr Carey reports:-

"The Otterpool Park Community Engagement Sessions that took place in December 2016. Jenny attended 3 out of the 4 and was able to talk and listen to all views and concerns. Arcadis, the Independent Consultants, are due to report their findings on the sessions shortly which will help shape the master planning of this important Development. Further Community Engagement sessions will take place in March and will include Schools and Youth Organisations as well as other groups in the wider area. In order to influence the master plan it is really important that local residents get involved."

9. Finance:

- A. Confirmed precept 2017/2018 to David Christie is £2,000 as agreed previously
- B. Donations as agreed previously to Age UK (£100) and Postling Church (£200). Both cheques were signed.

10. Discussion defibrillator in Postling phone box. Following advice from Dr. P Le Feuvre, it was agreed to take the matter no further.

11. Call for Kent Mineral Wastes Sites. Postling Parish Council has no sites to bring forward.

12. Battle's over – A nation's tribute & WW1 Beacons of light. It was agreed that Postling will join the nation in lighting the beacons on 11 November 2017 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1. Clerk is to inform the Pageant master.

13. Annual Civic Service Rochester Cathedral Invitation. No Councillor is able to attend.

14. Date of next meeting is Wednesday 29 March 2017

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.45 pm

District Councillors' Report to Postling Parish Council for 25 January 2017

We are sorry not to be with you for your meeting on 25 January 2017 but it clashes with a briefing of Shepway District Councillors about the possible amalgamation of district councils in East Kent.

The Otterpool Park Community Engagement Sessions that took place in December 2016. Jenny attended 3 out of the 4 and was able to talk and listen to all views and concerns. Arcadis, the Independent Consultants, are due to report their findings on the sessions shortly which will help shape the master planning of this important Development. Further Community Engagement sessions will take place in March and will include Schools and Youth Organisations as well as other groups in the wider area. In order to influence the master plan it is really important that local residents get involved.

In December Shepway District Council bought 10 acres of land at Biggins Wood in Folkestone for £1.5m which has planning permission for 77 houses (23 of which will be affordable) and employment use. It's an area that is rundown and the intention is to get the development built promptly so that much needed homes and jobs are created. Once developed, the land will generate an income for the council and help finance our services to you.

Storm Angus damaged the roof of Hythe swimming pool on 20 December. The pool was out of action whilst repairs were done and reopened on 23 January but there's no doubt that this building is on its last legs. Shepway is progressing plans for a new leisure centre (swimming pool, gym stations and exercise rooms) on the former municipal tip site at Princes Parade.

Our budget for 2017/18 will be set at the council meeting on 22 February and a rise of just under 2% is proposed. This equates to around an extra 9p a week for a typical household.

Shepway is signed up to 'The Armed Forces Covenant' which is a promise by the nation to ensure that those who serve, those who have served, and their families are treated fairly. On 17 February there is a free 'Fun Day' at Folkestone Sports Centre which will also be informative. Jenny is the Armed Forces Champion for Shepway and she is pleased to report that we will be hosting the Kent & Medway Armed Forces Conference at the Leas Cliff Hall on 14 March. If you have an idea about work you would like to do in the local community to support the armed forces, then it may be possible to access the Armed Forces Covenant Grant Scheme. Further details can be found at www.shepway.gov.uk/armed-forces.

Shepway continues to fine HGVs that park in the restricted areas and collection rates for the fines have risen from 30 to 40% and will continue to be pursued. Shepway came 10th out of 11 for the number of overnight lorries parked from a Kent wide survey taken of illegally parked HGVs in September and the fines do seem to have had a positive effect. We know there is more to do and we are as keen as anyone to deal with the problem.

We have no further news on Highways England's plans for the lorry holding area at Stanford which have been delayed by the judicial review.

Postling Parish council supported the proposed development at Highcroft, Sandling Road Y16/1281/SH but the Shepway planners had concerns. Some changes were made and we are pleased to report it has now been agreed.

Susan Carey and Jenny Hollingsbee your Shepway District Councillors.

Report to Postling Parish Council for 25 January 2017

KCC's Kent Freight Action Plan is out for consultation till 12 March. I attach a copy and you will also find it on the website. A network of smaller lorry parks is suggested but this would be in addition to the Highways England lorry holding area not a substitute. Do please take the opportunity to make your views known.

As you know, I am opposed to Highways England's lorry holding area proposal but of the two options put forward I believe the Stanford West is the least bad. KCC supports the lorry holding area as did a large majority of those who responded to Highways England's public consultation last year.

I have already sent your clerk a copy of the consultation on the Minerals and Waste Plan and in view of a possible sand extraction site in the parish it would be good for us all to be involved in all stages of the planning process.

KCC's government grant for next financial year (2017/18) will reduce by £46m as part of continuing efforts to balance the nation's books. At the same time demand for social care is rising because of increased numbers of frail elderly and costs are rising (the increase in the National Living Wage has a big impact on social care costs). Social care now accounts for over half KCC's spending.

The Government is allowing councils with social care responsibilities to raise council tax by an extra 2% over and above the 2% referendum limit to meet the extra costs of social care. This will still not bridge the gap and, recognising this, the government has switched some funding between councils and KCC has been allocated an extra £4.6m for 2017/18. We believe that more can and should be done through social care to help older people live independent and healthier lives for longer and that this would relieve pressure on our hospitals. KCC is continuing to make the case for the changes to the funding of social care and the NHS that are needed for a long term solution.

Our proposed council tax increase of just under 4% means an increase of around 68p a week for a typical household. As well as social care for the elderly, care for those with Learning Disabilities and mental health problems, KCC also has responsibility for 5,000 miles of road, winter services such as gritting and salt bins, child protection services, children's centres, the library service, youth services, the coroner's courts, trading standards, school transport, bus passes and much more.

KCC is also active in supporting businesses and job growth through a number of regeneration funds. You may remember Pfizer closing its operations in East Kent in 2011 with the threat of 2,400 job losses. Thanks to the work of KCC and Government support, the Pfizer site was reborn as the Discovery Business Park in 2012 with 150 new companies - many set up by scientists who had been working for Pfizer. Today there are 2,400 new jobs at Discovery Park.

Across Kent as a whole £55m has been given in 0% loans to 242 companies creating 2,212 jobs and safeguarding a further 1,663. Now these loans have begun to be repaid which has released £5 for small and medium sized businesses with good business plans to create or safeguard jobs in Kent. The new Kent & Medway Growth Fund was launched at Westenhanger Castle on 12 January. Westenhanger Castle was a fitting venue for the Business Fund launch as Kent Castle Ltd was one of the businesses to benefit from a £25,000 loan to grow its events business at Westenhanger Castle. There's more information about the Business Growth Fund and how to apply on the KCC website.

We should know more in April about whether Postling will be included in the upgrade of broadband that KCC is funding. If it is not included there are other community led options we can pursue if there is local support.

I am also pleased to report work has been programmed for the reinstatement of the verges and footpath on the A20 near Newingreen and, depending on the weather, should be complete by the end of February. The cost of the work is £2,500 which is being funded through my KCC member grant.

Susan Carey, Member Elham Valley, Kent County Council