

NETTLESTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 6 JULY 2023 IN NETTLESTEAD VILLAGE HALL at 19:45

PRESENT: Cllr Alison Green - Chair
Cllr Anita van Hensbergen - Vice-chair
Cllr David Meredith
Cllr Emily Corfe
Cllr Martyn Evans

1. APOLOGIES AND ABSENCE

Cllr Jackie Bennett
Borough Cllr Claudine Russell
County Cllr Webb
Parish Clerk, Mrs M Rumble

2. COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS

No interests declared.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 1 JUNE 2023

The minutes of the previous meeting were duly signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

4. EXTERNAL REPORTS

4.1 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cllr Webb was not in attendance.

4.2 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cllr Russell had circulated her report in advance:

MBC Members Report from Cllr Claudine Russell

Dated: July 2023

Community Governance Review

Stage 1 sought views and proposals on both parished and non-parished areas in regards to existing parish boundaries, number of councillors and if there should be any new parishes created and where these should be. The stage 2 consultation, consulting on the proposals that arose in stage 1 is now open until 6th August. The survey takes between 4 and 8 minutes to complete and can be found online at [Community Governance Review \(Parishes\) | Lets Talk Maidstone \(engagementhq.com\)](#)

Summer Community Support Fund

As part of my portfolio, applications are now open online for the MBC Summer Community Support Fund until Monday 10th July. It is available for community organisations to apply for to help vulnerable households and families who may be struggling with food poverty during the summer holidays. Further information and how to apply is found at [Grants and funding for groups | Maidstone Borough Council](#)

Maidstone Museum Friday Afternoons for Young People

The museum will open for secondary and sixth form students from 3:30-5pm on a Friday afternoon. If you need somewhere to start homework, or just pass time safely before your bus arrives the museum is here for you. You either need to be wearing uniform or have a valid

student ID and sign in at reception. Spread the word and let young people in the borough know about the “Space to Be” in Maidstone Museum.

Eco Hub

The Eco Hub will be back in August, occupying an empty shop space in the town centre, providing advice about becoming more environmentally aware and sustainable. People will be able to drop by for advice, resources, and to find out about solutions, products and services already available that can help them become more sustainable. To volunteer or share details about your business please email climateandbiodiversity@maidstone.gov.uk

Live Music in Brenchley Gardens Bandstand

Starting on the 8th July, and following on 5th August and 2nd September 1-5pm. The concerts are funded by Maidstone Borough Council as part of the UK Share Prosperity Fund and are completely free to attend. Deckchairs will be out but will be on a first come first served basis.

Literary Festival

Maidstone Literary festival will run from 2-8th October and will have a focus on schools and reading for pleasure. As part of the festival there is a draw for primary schools to win a free visit from an author. The deadline for schools to enter is 14th July and the winning schools will be announced on 17th July – schools are encouraged to enter now at info@maidstonelitfest.org

Please feel free to contact me for any help with issues via email claudinerussell@maidstone.gov.uk and I am more than happy to attend a meeting to discuss any issues.

5. COUNCILLOR REPORTS

5.1 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

Cllr Corfe had not received any reports since the last meeting. It was noted that a report had been lodged in respect of the French van that was frequently parked on the border of Gibbs Hill with Nettlestead Lane.

It was also reported that bags placed on bins put out on Mondays along the B2015 Maidstone Road were being opened before collection, and often the contents (especially batteries) were being spilt over the pavement.

5.2 PARISH MAGAZINE

Cllr Van Hensbergen gave her report, and it was confirmed that payment had been received from Patrick Duff Opticians, for which thanks were noted.

5.3 CHATTERBOX & WARM SPACE REPORT

It was noted that Cllr Bennett had applied for a Grant from Maidstone Borough Council to fund the continuation of the Warm Space at The Hop Pole to support more families with children.

6. KGV FIELD

6.1 TREE GRANT SCHEME

Cllr Green reported that she had not yet received a reply from KCC.

6.2 PLATINUM JUBILEE OAK TREE

Cllr Van Hensbergen had inspected and watered the tree and reported that it is in good health.

6.3 MAINTENANCE INSPECTION REPORT

The Clerk was asked to follow up the request for a quote to replace the bearings for the rotating platforms on the 8 Station Fitpoint.

6.4 HEDGE ADJOINING B2015

It was noted that this was now overhanging the pavement and the Chair agreed to contact Capel Groundcare to obtain a quote to cut the hedge back.

7. CHURCHYARD

Capel Groundcare had apologised for the damage to the graves that occurred in early June. The Chair will follow up on one point, but currently the Churchyard looks fine.

8. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

8.1 SPEEDWATCH

No report had been received this month.

8.2 SPEEDING

The minutes of the June meeting recorded suggestions for possible locations as follows:

- Springdale Terrace
- Glenleigh
- The Retreat Caravan Park
- The Chinese Takeaway
- North of the Zebra crossing

It had also been noted that Cllr Webb has stated that he would fund this speed survey for the Parish, but the Clerk needs to contact Susan Laporte and make the application first, as this must come from the Parish Council.

8.3 FOOTPATHS

It was noted that KM176 along the back of the Old School House was very overgrown. The Clerk would be asked to report this for cutting.

8.4 PLANTER AT WATERINGBURY STATION

It was noted that the Planter had not been planted up, and it was agreed that Cllr Sarah Hudson (Tonbridge & Malling) should be notified. The Chair agreed to contact her.

8.5 WATER LEAKS

It was reported that the leak opposite Nettlestead Place had been reported to South East Water, and that it was on their list for investigation and repair.

Cllr Evans had also reported a leak in Bryant Close to South East Water.

8.6 HAMPSTEAD LANE JUNCTION WITH B2015

Whilst it was noted that traffic lights were in place at the Junction, no work seemed to be happening. Concern was expressed about the potential for accidents, particularly at the A228/B2015 roundabout, but the traffic lights are due to be removed again soon, and any report made now will not be actioned before the work is complete.

9. OLD SCHOOL HOUSE CLOCK

It was agreed that no further action be taken with regard to the clock until the next maintenance service is due.

10. PLANNING MATTERS

10.1 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

23/502562/LAWPRO	<i>The Three Pines, Gibbs Hill, Nettlestead Lawful development certificate for proposed single storey porch extension, conversion of garage to habitable space, plus erection of part single storey, part two storey rear extension.</i>
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It was resolved that the Council make NO COMMENT.

10.2 DECISIONS MADE BY MBC

<i>19/504910/OUT</i>	<p><i>OUTLINE APPLICATION FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE FORMER SYNGENTA WORKS SITE TO PROVIDE A NEW BUSINESS PARK OF UP TO 46,447 SQM OF B1(C), B2 AND B8 ACCOMMODATION WITH ASSOCIATED ACCESS, PARKING AND INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS. (ACCESS ONLY BEING SOUGHT) - FORMER SYNGENTA WORKS, HAMPSTEAD LANE, YALDING, KENT</i></p> <p>The Committee considered the report and the urgent update reports of the Head of Planning and Development. Ms O'Hare addressed the meeting by way of an audio recording on behalf of residents of Hampstead Lane who objected to the application. Councillor Stead of Yalding Parish Council addressed the meeting by video link.</p> <p>The Chairman read out statements on behalf of Nettlestead Parish Council and Mr Medhurst, the applicant. Councillor D Burton (Visiting Member) addressed the meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED: 1. That subject to: A. The prior completion of a legal agreement in such terms as the Head of Legal Services may advise to secure the Heads of Terms set out in the report with: 4 (i)</p> <p>The contribution of £14,344 towards capacity improvements at the A26/B2015 Wateringbury crossroads junction being put towards access improvements at Yalding Railway Station as it was not considered necessary to mitigate the traffic impact of the development at the junction, including investigation of use for disabled access improvements. If this is not feasible, the contribution should be used for other improvements to the Station; and (ii) An additional Head of Terms regarding the establishment of a Development/Delivery Group to discuss the reserved matters applications in order to deliver an exemplar scheme and requiring a financial contribution towards the setting up and running of the Group. The membership of the Group is to include the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Political Group Spokespersons of the Planning Committee, Ward Members and representatives of Nettlestead and Yalding Parish Councils. Issues for the Group to focus on include transport issues in relation to access to and egress from the site in terms of staff and freight; design issues; landscaping and biodiversity; and flood attenuation/mitigation; AND B. The conditions set out in the report, as amended by the urgent update report; the Head of Planning and Development be given delegated powers to grant permission and to be able to settle, add or amend any necessary Heads of Terms and planning conditions in line with the matters set out in the recommendation and as resolved by the Planning Committee. 2. That the reserved matters applications are to be reported to the Planning Committee for determination.</p> <p>Voting: 11 – For 1 – Against 1 – Abstention</p>
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The decision was noted.

10.3 PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

The receipt of the Community Governance Review (Parishes) Stage 2 was noted, and members were free to comment directly if they wished. It was noted that there was no direct impact on Nettlestead or Nettlestead Green.

11. FINANCE

11.1 RESOLVED by all members to approve the Budget Monitoring report for JULY 2023

11.2 RESOLVED by all members to approve payments for JULY 2023

11.3 RESOLVED by all members to agree the holiday pay for the Clerk to 31 August 2023.

11.4 INTERNET BANKING

It was **RESOLVED** by all members present to defer a decision on any changes to banking arrangements until after a new Clerk was appointed.

11.5 RESOLUTION TO CANCEL CLERK'S STANDING ORDER

It was **RESOLVED** by all members present that the Clerk's standing order would need to be cancelled after the August payment, but the letter prepared before the meeting did not specify this. Instead, Cllr Meredith agreed to prepare a fresh letter for signature by himself and Cllr Corfe.

11.6 CLERK'S RESIGNATION

The Clerk had initially submitted her resignation on 2 June 2023, and despite an initial indication that she would continue, she reconfirmed her resignation on 18 June 2023. As a result, it was noted that an advertisement had been placed with KALC to seek applications for a new Clerk.

12. SOCIAL MEDIA

It was noted that the PC Facebook page is being regularly updated with relevant information for local residents.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence

14. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Warm Space additional Grants
Tree Grant
Speeding

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Thursday 7 September 2023 at 7.45pm at Nettlestead Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.15pm.