

NETTLESTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2022 IN NETTLESTEAD VILLAGE HALL at 19:45

PRESENT: Cllr David Meredith – Chairman
Cllr E Corfe,
Cllr J Bennett,
Cllr M Evans
The Parish Clerk Mrs M Rumble,
County Councillor S Webb,
Borough Councillor C Russell

1. Apologies

Cllr Alison Green (personal), Cllr Rebecca Pullen (personal), Cllr Anita Van Hensbergen (personal) PCSO Nicola Morris

2. Councillor Declarations

No interests declared

3. Co-option Parish Councillor

It was proposed by Cllr Meredith and seconded by Cllr Corfe that Mr Martyn Evans is co-opted onto the Parish Council. All the relevant papers had been signed at the meeting.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on the 7 JULY 2022

The minutes of the meeting had been previously distributed. The Chairman signed off the original copy as a True and Accurate Record

**5. Councillors Report
Neighbourhood Watch Report**

Cllr Corfe had circulated prior to the meeting the Neighbourhood watch report
On Tuesday 26th of July between 07:00 and 07:20 in Bishops Close. Somebody stole an unsecured bicycle from the road. Crime Report No. 46/143975/22
On Friday 19th of August around 09:11. Somebody injured two Alpacas at a farm. The animals later died. Crime Report No. 46/162535/22

Chatterbox Report

Cllr Bennett reported that the Chatterbox meetings had been taking place at the Hop Pole and the Railway on alternate months and has been working very well, they have at any one time between 15 and 20 members attend the meeting.

Parish Magazine

Cllr Van Hensbergen was not in attendance but was thanked for her article on Dog poo in the Parish magazine.

6. EXTERNAL REPORTS

County Councillor Report

Cllr Webb had circulated his report prior to the meeting which had been circulated to all members.

August/September 2022

Along with assisting parents in the division to gain school places in the primary schools, much of my time has been spent assisting in trying to ensure the bus routes for young people are either restored or that many fears for loss are abated. Recently, KCC sent out information via a press release as follows.

KCC's commitment to Kent bus passengers

Kent County Council (KCC) and commercial bus operators have worked together to secure school bus services for as many pupils as possible this September, following notice given by bus operators of their intention to withdraw services across the county.

Some commercial bus operators had planned to stop running routes that serve schools which were economically unviable, due to the difficult challenges of lower passenger numbers, rising costs and driver shortages. These are not services that KCC subsidises or controls.

The scale of the planned changes by bus operators and the impact on school routes was considerable, leaving many children and their families facing the prospect of not being able to get to school in September.

The severe financial constraints faced by the council means that it is not possible to provide large-scale, long-term additional subsidies to bus operators.

Having recognised the significant impact on families, KCC's Public Transport team worked with bus operators throughout the summer to come up with a range of different measures to provide as many pupils as possible with access to school bus services in September.

As a result of this joint work, bus operators have:

- Maintained school transport options for schools in Maidstone from the Aylesford area.
- Retained connections for children travelling from Herne Bay and Whitstable to Spires Academy in Canterbury
- Provided an alternative network of buses taking children from the Sevenoaks area to Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells
- Restored connections for pupils attending Harvey Grammar School in Folkestone.
- Retained some services to Homewood School.
- Retained a service from Canterbury to Westwood and one return journey in the off peak.

Details of all service changes can be found on KCC's website at www.kent.gov.uk/buses.

Although it has not been possible to find solutions for all service changes and some may also be less convenient than previous services, KCC is continuing to explore opportunities with bus operators. This includes working with bus operators in the east of the county, who are planning substantial changes to services later this year that will affect school routes.

KCC's Leader, Roger Gough, said: "We recognised that the scale of the changes planned by operators would have a serious impact on the ability of many pupils to get to and from school independently this September.

"That is why I tasked our dedicated public transport team to work with operators to find ways to secure school bus routes for as many pupils as possible. Together, they have done a tremendous job of turning round a worrying situation for families in some parts of the county and offering a range of services that enable as many pupils as possible to access school bus routes from September.

"Despite best efforts, we know that there will still be some service gaps, but unfortunately the council is not in a financial position to adopt the services which operators are looking to withdraw. However, I hope our work so far will give Kent residents confidence that we will continue to work in partnership with operators to deliver the best outcomes possible for communities."

While the majority of bus withdrawals announced are being proposed by private bus firms, KCC has also planned to withdraw subsidies from a smaller number of bus routes, in line with its approved budget. These plans have been put on hold pending further council meetings in September. Therefore, the bus services that would have been affected will continue as usual until further notice and accept Kent Travel Saver bus passes and other ticket types.

Visit www.kent.gov.uk/buses for an updated breakdown of the updates planned for Kent's bus services.

Borough Councillor Report

Cllr Russell was in attendance and gave her report.

Local Plan Review

Examination will hopefully begin next week, on the 6th of September, an outline programme is available on the website.

Ward Cluster Meeting

The ward cluster has been split and invitations have been sent out to the parish and borough councillors. We are now in cluster 6B with Marden, Yalding, Collier Street and Staplehurst. It has been split to align with the task force who are currently based in our ward.

Bins

MBC came to Nettlestead to check the bin arrangement and decided that there were enough. All MBC bins can take dog waste. There can be a re-configuration so perhaps a survey of what exists and placement and an awareness campaign that dog waste can go in all of them would be a good place to start.

Sheep/Alpaca injuries

I was made aware of the attacks on the sheep and the Alpacas. The Rural Police Team are involved in the incident and have taken DNA swabs from the sheep involved, please continue to report any incidents like this to the police.

Car Glovebox Break Ins

I saw that a few residents had their car doors broken open and the contents of their gloveboxes etc rifled through. I have alerted the PCSO Nicola Morris to this.

MBC Events

There are so many events coming up, we have walking festival through September, the Mela is on next weekend in Mote Park and rather more poignantly the knife angel will be coming to Maidstone shortly.

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

7. KGV Field

Goal post

The Survey on the goal posts still needs to be worked on, it will be discussed at the next meeting. Cllr Corfe did report that back of the Basketball hoop board was being used as a goal at the moment.

Grounds maintenance

The Clerk had circulated the Grounds maintenance Schedule to all members

Maintenance Report

Damage to the Chain-link fencing was deferred until a later meeting.

This was circulated to all members and the Clerk was asked to contact CAPEL Ground care to quote on the following works: -

BMX Track – Moss needs treatment

Cableway – Overhanging vegetation

TYRE – Needs filling in

Brickwork bottom of steps – needs to be repaired

It was also **RESOLVED** by all member present to accept the quote supplied by Capel Ground care for the new Cableway anti-vandal seat at a cost of £393.00, this was hoping that it would solve the problem of the resident who is letting their dog hang from the seat.

ROSPA REPORT

This was circulated to all members prior to the meeting and items highlighted were discussed.

Thank was given to Cllr Corfe, Cllr Van-Hensbergen and Cllr Green for watering the Oak Tree during the hot weather. The Clerk was also asked to contact the GM Contractor to ask if the rabbit fencing around the Oak Tree could be planted into the ground further.

8. Churchyard

Nothing to report

9. Highways and Footpath Matters

Cllr Salter reported Potholes up Gibbs Hill

Speedwatch

This was continuing

Footpaths

There were no items highlighted.

10. Planning matters

Planning Applications:

22/503550/FULL	2 Malthouse Cottages Maidstone Road Wateringbury Maidstone Kent ME18 5EJ Installation of 2no. new conservation rooflights THE PARISH SUBMITTED NO COMMENT TO THIS APPLICATION OUTSIDE OF THE MEETING.
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Decisions made by MBC since last meeting

None

11. FINANCE

To note Budget monitoring report to AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2022

The Budget monitoring report was **Noted**

To note Expenditure

				NPC CHEQUE LIST - AUGUST	
				Supplier	
Cheque No	Gross	VAT	Nett	Details	
622265	£56.75	£0.00	£56.75	Mrs Michelle Rumble	Expenses - August
622266	£92.40	£15.40	£77.00	ROSPA	PLAY EQUIPMENT INSPECTION
622267	£202.43	£33.74	£168.69	STREETLIGHTS	MAINTENANCE CONTRACT
622268	£502.94	£83.82	£419.12	CAPEL GROUND CARE	INSPECTION/GM CONTRACT
622269	£107.89	£5.14	£102.75	N POWER	STREETLIGHTING ELECTRICITY
DD0801	£8.40	£1.40	£7.00	Sage Payroll	Payroll fee - August
S00801	£572.00	£0.00	£572.00	Mrs Michelle Rumble	Salary - August
	£1,542.81	£139.50	£1,403.31		

				NPC CHEQUE LIST - SEPTEMBER	
				Supplier	
Cheque No	Gross	VAT	Nett	Details	
622270	£119.84	£0.00	£119.84	Mrs Michelle Rumble	Expenses - August/September
622271	£198.00	£0.00	£198.00	Hadlum Design	Parish magazine printing
622272	£584.54	£97.42	£487.12	CAPEL GROUND CARE	GM CONTRACT
622273	£240.00	£40.00	£200.00	PKF Littlejohn	External Audit
622274	£380.38	£0.00	£380.38	Mrs Michelle Rumble	July/ August salary underpayment
622275	£29.25	£0.00	£29.25	HMRC	Employer NIC

DD0901	£8.40	£1.40	£7.00	Sage Payroll	Payroll fee - September
S00901	£762.19	£0.00	£762.19	Mrs Michelle Rumble	Salary - September
	£2,322.60	£138.82	£2,183.78		

Bank Reconciliation

The Bank Reconciliations were signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

STANDING ORDER

The new Standing Order for the Clerk was signed by Cllr Meredith and Cllr Corfe

CODE OF CONDUCT

The Clerk had circulated prior to the meeting the new Code of Conduct for members, it was **RESOLVED** at the meeting to ADOPT the new Code of Conduct.

EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2021/22

The Clerk had circulated to all members Section 3 and the Closure Letter from PKF Littlejohn, the External Audit Report for 2021/22 and there were no findings that needed to be noted by the Parish Council. The Clerk would advertise the Notice of Conclusion of the Audit.

12. SOCIAL MEDIA

Cllr Pullen was not in attendance so this will be deferred until the next meeting.

13. Correspondence

None

14. Future agenda items

Dog poo bins
Goal posts

15. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday the 6th of OCTOBER 7.45pm, NETTLESTEAD VILLAGE HALL.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.03pm