

# **NETTLESTEAD PARISH COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY 2023 IN NETTLESTEAD VILLAGE HALL at 19:45**

### **PRESENT:**

Cllr David Meredith - Chairman  
Cllr Anita Van Hensbergen – vice chair  
Cllr Jackie Bennett  
Cllr Emily Corfe  
Cllr Alison Green  
Cllr Martin Evans arrive at 19.55pm  
The Parish Clerk Mrs M Rumble,  
Borough Councillor Claudine Russell  
County Councillor Simon Webb  
Two members of the Public

### **1. Apologies**

Cllr Rebecca Pullen  
PCSO Nicola Morris

### **2. Councillor Declarations**

No interests declared.

### **3. Minutes of the Meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January 2023**

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

The meeting was adjourned to hear from two members of the Public, they both resided down Hampstead Lane and raised concerns about the following issues and would like the help of the Parish Council. Cllr Webb also stated that he would speak with the residents after the meeting to see if he could offer any help.

- Speeding down Hampstead Lane
- Flooding
- The new Yalding Enterprise Park (concerns about the amount of traffic and lorries using Hampstead Lane)
- Safety of pedestrians using Hampstead Lane – she has young children who she would not allow to walk on this road alone due to the speed of the vehicles.
- Gas Leak corner of Hampstead Lane and Station Road – The Clerk said that if the resident can forward her all the details, she will report this to SGN.
- Litter pick needed (Clerk will report this to MBC)

The Resident stated that she had only lived there since August 2022 and all of the above are of concern to her. The Parish Council said they would try and help as much as possible. The resident thanked the Parish Council for letting her speak.

The meeting resumed.

#### 4. EXTERNAL REPORTS

##### **County Councillor Report**

Cllr Webb was in attendance and gave a verbal report which was mostly around the Budget. There was a deficit in the County Council's Budget of 42 million and next year it is expected to be about 38 million. The majority of the Budget is spent on Adult Social Care, Children's Care and Education.

The Members' Grant scheme has been cut from £10,000 to £3,000 for the coming financial year.

##### **Borough Councillor Report**

##### **MBC Members Report from Cllr Claudine Russell**

**Dated: February 2023**

##### **The Boundary commission published its final report**

<https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/have-your-say/32722>

Their latest report is final and the new boundaries will come into effect at the May 2024 elections. You will remember that our Marden and Yalding ward has got larger and now encompasses Hunton.

##### **Local Plan Review**

MBC received the letter back from the inspector. The main points of which are as follows.

- The inspector wishes to progress to the stage 2 hearings as soon as is practicable
- He is satisfied that the duty to co-operate has been met
- The plan period has to be extended to 2037/8 in order to ensure a minimum 15 year plan period
- Plan adoption is foreseen to be later in 2023 but start date is recommended to be 1 April 2021 to allow the years housing delivery 2021-22 to be included in figures
- Just before the plan was submitted the housing assessed need rose from 1,157 (original 883) to 1,194 – he has allowed us to keep it at 1,157 and plan for that
- He has allowed a stepped trajectory for delivery across the plan period, recognising that our spatial strategy is a bold one

Meanwhile the Levelling Up Secretary Michael Gove has announced that compulsory house-building targets in the Government's Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill are to be scrapped, after dozens of Conservative MPs threatened to vote against the Bill. Mr Gove said under the revised plans, central targets will be "advisory", and councils will be able to set lower targets where they can show "genuine constraints" on building. Mr Gove is also understood to have agreed to higher infrastructure levies on greenfield development, to stronger action against land banking by developers, and to consult on requiring planning permission before residential properties can be used as short-term lets. These are all sensible proposals but many changes can happen in the land of Westminster Politics, and Local Authorities are well advised not to drop tools on account of Westminster proposals before they pass all hurdles of Parliament. For this reason we will continue to get on with the review of our Local Plan. Nothing would be more of a card-blanc for developers than a Local Authority, which finds itself without a Local Plan.

##### **Condensation-Damp-And-Mould**

Golding Homes, Maidstone's biggest social housing supplier, started a Condensation-Damp-And-Mould campaign. They received 733 enquires from their customers which equates to about 10% of their homes. In September Golding's Board agreed additional funding to resolve Condensation-Damp-And-Mould cases. Customers are encouraged to report damp and mould problems via the following link;

<https://www.goldinghomes.org.uk/condensation-damp-and-mould>

##### **Bishops and Bryants Land Ownership**

Following last months meeting I contacted Golding Homes to clarify their ownership of the green spaces but as yet I have heard no response.

As always, if you need my help, please do not hesitate to email me at [claudinerussell@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:claudinerussell@maidstone.gov.uk)

### **PCSO Report**

PCSO Nicola Morris was not in attendance, and no report had been received prior to the meeting.

## **5. COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

### **Neighbourhood Watch Report**

Cllr Corfe forwarded her report to all members prior to the meeting.

Between 21:00 on Tuesday 10th of January and 08:00 on Wednesday 11th of January. Somebody smashed a window of a residential property at Blumers Lock Crime Report No. 46/10570/23

### **Chatterbox Report**

Cllr Bennett was in attendance and reported that Chatterbox was going well.

### **Parish Magazine**

Cllr Van Hensbergen was in attendance and gave her report. Cllr Van Hensbergen asked if the Clerk could forward her the up-to-date list of Parish magazine advertisers. Cllr Van Hensbergen stated that there was an article in the magazine this month about lorries over 7.5tonnes using the Maidstone Road. There was also an article about parking in Bishops and Bryant Close and being respectful of neighbours.

## **6. KGV Field**

It was **RESOLVED** by all members present to accept the Inspection Maintenance quote for the Play equipment on the KGV Field from Capel Groundcare for the coming year.

The quote accepted was as follows:

To carry out a visual inspection of the Fit point exercise station; the Seated Leg Press & the Cableway at 3months & 9months at a cost of £31.00 plus VAT per visit.

To carry out a 6month inspection of the same equipment with additional maintenance work set out in the attached document at a cost of £64.00 plus VAT.

To carry out a 12month inspection of the same equipment with additional maintenance & cleaning work set out in the attached document at a cost of £128.00 plus VAT.

### **KCC Trees Grant**

The Clerk reported that she had received one quote which had been circulated to all members. Cllr Green will take this forward and report back to the Parish Council.

### **KGV GM Contract Cutting Schedule**

It was **RESOLVED** by all members present to look at the Schedule when it is sent through before the first cut of the season to see if the cuts could be more spread out during the summer season when the growth of the grass is minimal, to allow additional cuts in the autumn.

## **7. Churchyard**

Nothing to report.

## **8. Highways and Footpath Matters**

### **Speedwatch**

No Report received for this meeting.

## Footpaths

There were no items highlighted.

## Highways

The HIP had been circulated to all members after the Clerk had a virtual meeting with a representative from the West Kent Highways Improvement team. Highways agreed to carry out three speed surveys on the Maidstone Road through the Village. Following the concerns raised by the members of the public, the Clerk was also asked to request a Speed Survey along Hampstead Lane to be carried out as well.

The Clerk was asked to request a Litter pick for Maidstone Road and Hampstead Lane/Station Road.

## Noticeboard

The Clerk was asked to seek quotes for either a new Noticeboard, or to repair the existing one.

### 9. Old School House

The Clerk had circulated prior to the meeting a quote for the Clock to be removed from site and looked at with any repairs being carried out. It was agreed that off-site maintenance could not be afforded, but it was hoped that an on-site initial service be carried out, in line with the previous quote that had been received. It was further agreed that this be deferred and included in the Budget for 2023/24.

### 10. Planning matters

None

### Decisions made by MBC since last meeting.

None

### 11. FINANCE

To note Budget monitoring report to FEBRUARY 2023

The Budget monitoring report was **Noted**.

### PAYMENTS

It was **RESOLVED** by all members present to make the following payments.

				NPC CHEQUE LIST - FEBRUARY	
				Supplier	
Cheque No	Gross	VAT	Nett	Details	
622300	£89.58	£0.78	£88.80	Mrs Michelle Rumble	Expenses - January/February
622301	£7.88	£0.00	£7.88	HMRC	Employers NIC
622302	£428.54	£71.42	£357.12	CAPEL GROUND CARE	GM CONTRACT
622303	£198.00	£0.00	£198.00	Hadlum Design	Parish magazine printing
622304	£36.00	£0.00	£36.00	CPRE	Membership
622305	£201.71	£33.62	£168.09	Streetlights	Contract
DD0201	£8.40	£1.40	£7.00	Sage Payroll	Payroll fee - February

S00201	£815.10	£0.00	£815.10	Mrs michelle Rumble	Salary - February
	<b>£1,785.21</b>	<b>£107.22</b>	<b>£1,677.99</b>		

**Bank Reconciliation**

The Chairman and the Clerk signed the Bank Reconciliations.

**Budget 2023/24**

The Chairman handed out at the meeting a revised Budget for 2023/24 which was discussed, and it was **RESOLVED** by all members present to accept the Budget.

**Precept Request Form**

It was **RESOLVED** by all members present that the Clerk and Chairman sign the Precept request form.

**12. SOCIAL MEDIA**

Cllr Pullen was not in attendance, but her report was noted.

**13. CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**14. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on Thursday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of MARCH at NETTLESTEAD VILLAGE HALL, starting at 7.45pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.06pm