

WOMENSWOLD PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Meeting of Womenswold Parish Council was held at the Learning Opportunities Centre, Womenswold on Tuesday 16th May 2017 at 7.45pm

Present: Cllr I HOBSON – Chairman
Cllr M McKENZIE -Vice Chair
Cllr A WICKEN
Cllr C BROWN
Cllr J PERRINS
Mrs V McWILLIAMS Clerk

There were 3 members of the public present.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for any comments from the public.

A member of the public asked if there could be more play ground equipment provided on the Recreation Ground at Woolage Village. The Chair replied that the Council were looking into it.

1. Election of Officers

The Clerk asked for nominations for the election of a Chairman. Cllr Wicken proposed Cllr Hobson; seconded by Cllr Perrins there were no other nominations. Cllr Hobson accepted the nomination and all duly elected him as Chairman.

Cllr Hobson proposed Cllr McKenzie as Vice Chairman; seconded by Cllr Wicken. Cllr McKenzie accepted the nomination and was duly elected as Vice Chairman. All were in agreement.

2. Comments from the public.

There were no comments from the public.

3. County Cllr & City Cllr Reports

County Cllr Michael Northey attended and stated that four years ago he had £45,000 in various grants available for local schemes, highways and community. For 2015/16, it went down to £25,000 and for 2016/2017, it was only £20,000. However for 2017/18 it will be £22,000.

The annual KCC budget set on 9 February has a revenue budget of £907 million, down £200 million from six years ago. However a vast array of services is being maintained. The government gave KCC an extra £26 million for social care services for this year and there will be another £26 million next year. KCC spends around

40% of its budget on adult social services, around £364 million. The population continues to age with rising demand for services.

Now that the weather has improved, the 'Pothole Blitz' has begun. Around £2.5 million is earmarked for the crews to go out, 'find and fix' potholes and the aim is to do a great deal by the end of May. Please continue to report any problems in the usual way on the website.

KCC is also acutely aware of the problems of fly tipping. KCC is beginning a complete review of the waste recycling centres to see if they are in the right places, and to see whether there could be safe pedestrian access to leave things for re-use. The whole policy of commercial waste is being reviewed. KCC and the Environment Agency will continue to prosecute vigorously where people are caught fly tipping.

City Cllr Simon Cook was unable to attend the meeting but sent the following report; He stated that CCC had appointed 11 new Enforcement Officers. Five of them will be aimed at environmental enforcement including fly tipping which should further improve our work here. CCC have already issued the most fixed penalty notices for fly tipping in Kent and cameras are proving very useful at gathering evidence. There will be a suggestion at the next RAMP meeting that a portion of the opportunities fund is used to buy more cameras (following an idea by the Herne Bay Area Member Panel) as they are particularly useful in rural areas.

CCC is working to do better at supporting community litter picking - you'll know we have a particular difficulty in villages as our health and safety guidance is not to pick on roads without pavements. This is something officers are urgently trying to find a solution.

Finally, the community governance review will start in the summer. This will include looking at parish councils and whether they wish to alter their boundaries or merge with neighbours – CCC will look forward to hearing your views on this.

4. Apologies for absence.

City Cllr Simon Cook sent his apologies for being unable to attend as the meeting clashed with CCC Annual Meeting.

5. Declaration of interests by Councillors. There was no notification by members given of any pecuniary or personal interest in items on the Agenda.

6. Minutes of previous meeting. The minutes of the meeting held on 14th March 2017 were approved and signed; proposed by Cllr Wicken & seconded by Cllr Perrins

7. Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda.

The Clerk reported that there were still no further developments regarding the Ruberry Butts issue. She will chase again.

Cllr Hobson enquired as to whether there had been any developments regarding the fly-tipping seminar promised months ago. The Clerk replied that she had heard nothing but she will chase again.

Cllr McKenzie reported that the litter on Adisham Road had now been cleared.

All action items had been executed

8. Councillors' portfolios

- **Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC);** Following the resignation of Cllr Cook there was nothing to report. Cllr Brown agreed to take on the role as the council's representative. The clerk will let him have the details regarding dates and minutes of meetings, etc.
- **Amenities and Welfare:** The swings on the recreation ground at Woolage Village need replacing the cost will be around £10,000. The Clerk has looked into obtaining grants for new play equipment and was advised to draw up a plan before applying showing the amount of children using the equipment etc. Cllr Michael Northey said that he had helped Wickhambreaux Parish Council with their grant and suggested that we contacted them asking if we could view their play area before applying for any grant. The Clerk will arrange it.

There are still repairs that need doing on various item on the Recreation Ground.. The Clerk will chase Jamie Cole and ask if he can do them before the next RosPA Inspection which has been booked for July 2017. The Clerk will let them know that Cllr Perrins will be in attendance during the inspection. The Clerk will arrange for RosPA to liaise with Cllr Perrins regarding dates and time.

Cllr Perrins will contact the manufacture with regard to obtaining an up to date quotation for the repair of the roundabout.

- **Roads & Services:** Cllr McKenzie reported that the work to improve the Firs Road issues had not been completed, only signs had been put up but there were no new road markings. The Clerk will contact Highways and discuss it with them. Cllr McKenzie had spoken to Highways regarding the issue of lorries parking on the verge on the B2046 road next to Westmore House. Highways are looking into trying to get something done and will get back to her
- **Communication – Website and News Letter.** Cllr Hobson reported that the newsletter was still receiving regular hits. The next publication of the Newsletter will be in July. The website is up to date.
- **Police Liaison:** Cllr Wicken advised that PCSO Lisa Williams has sent her crime report in which has been circulated to all

9. Planning/Trees

New CA/17/00927 Proposed single-storey side annexe extension following the demolition of existing garage. Walnut Tree Cottage, Woolage Green Road, Womenswold, CT4 6SF

There were no objections to the proposed plans. The Clerk will let the Development Department at CCC know.

CA/1700295 Application for listed building consent for 3 dormer windows to front elevation and 1 no dormer window to rear elevation together with porch to rear , removal of chimney and internal alterations Nethersole House, The Street, Womenswold CT4 6HE **Granted**

CA/17/00261 Application for listed building consent for 3 dormer windows to front elevation and 1 no dormer window to rear elevation together with porch to rear , Nethersole House, The Street, Womenswold CT4 6HE **Granted**

CA/17/00514 proposed two-storey extension, single –storey rear extension and car port with external alterations. South Down, Woolage Green Road, Woolage Green, Womenswold CT4 6SF **Granted**

Regarding the caravan that is parked in the Orchard next to Stone Cottage on Wick Lane, Woolage Green, the Clerk has heard from the Enforcement Department at CCC informing her that an Enforcement Officer would be going to inspect the site.

10. Election

The Chairman welcomed Craig Brown onto the Council and congratulated him on his win following the Election for the Vacancy of Councillor. The Council was grateful for Nick McHard's interest in becoming councillor and felt that he had shown great energy and enthusiasm during the campaign. The Clerk was asked to write and thank him for his efforts. The Clerk has still not received an invoice for the election.

11 Woolage Green - Village Green.

The Grass is being cut every two weeks during the growing season. It was agreed that the Meadow Turf area was no better than last year, despite it having been cut right down. It is even worse this year, it still looks like a weed patch. The Clerk was asked to write to the supplier and complain again.

12. Finance

Barclays Community Account £14,540.01
Business Saver Account £2,966.15

Expenses

Clerks Salary SCP 20 £10.50 per hour 26 hours in March/April £273.00 plus Office £80 + Toner Cartridge £28.42 Total £381.42
McCabe Ford Williams Pay Roll (£160.00+VAT £32.00) Total £192.00
KALC Subscription (£130.76 +VAT £26.15) Total 156.91

The Fifth Trust £72.50 ((Deducted from credit note)
ACRK Subscription £50.00
Harmer & Sons Grass Cutting £377.00 + VAT £75.40 Total £452.40
Came& Company Insurance £738.99

Total £2,042.72

These figures were approved by the Council; proposed by Cllr Wicken and seconded by Cllr Brown.

The Clerk presented the accounts to the Council, which had been audited by the Internal Auditor.

Councillors approved the Annual Return and all supporting documents for the financial year end 2016-2017 which was signed by the Clerk and dated prior to the meeting The Chairman duly signed the Section 1 page: the Annual Governance Statement. (Section 1 is for the parish council around the effectiveness of the system of internal control.)

The Annual Governance Statement Audit form was duly approved and signed by the Chair and Clerk. Acceptance of the forms was proposed; by Cllr Wicken, seconded by Cllr Perrins. The Clerk will now forward the forms on to the P K Littlejohn, for acceptance by the External Auditor.

All records of the annual finances will be put on the website and notice board. Anyone is permitted to view the accounts should they wish by contacting the clerk.

Cllr Wicken had handed the Clerk a £350 cheque from the Residents Association and £405 in cash from collection in The Two Sawyers towards the cost of 4 defibrillators. He was thanked by the Council. It was agreed by all that the Clerk would bank into our Saver Account at Barclays, ring-fenced only for the use of defibrillators.

There were no additional finance questions to the Clerk from Councillors

13. General Correspondence

Clerks & Councils Direct March 2017
Field Work
Kent Voice

Emails sent to all

Good Councillors Guide
NALC Putting Communities in Control
Southern Eastern Rail Franchise Consultation
Canterbury South Urban Extension Development

It was agreed that the Council should not give any funds to the Proposed Development; South Canterbury, Mountfield Park towards fighting the proposed plan to build 4,000 houses. It was something we could not afford and Councillors felt it

would be wrong to use public money obtained for the cost of the running of the parish for this project.

14 Any Other Business.

Cllr Perrins stated that the North Downs Way sign had still not been replaced. Proposed static caravan park in Elham Valley – it was agreed at the meeting that the Council could not support the request from Elham Parish Council to oppose the site. It is not part of our Parish and as such it was deemed inappropriate to get involved.

Cllr Perrins agreed to contact Mark Townsend, the local First Responder, to ascertain the cost of four defibrillators.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

NB: Thursday 6th July 2017 at the Learning Opportunities Centre, Womenswold.