

WOMENSWOLD PARISH COUNCIL

Womenswold Parish Council held an Ordinary Meeting on Tuesday 13 July 2021 in The Two Sawyers. Woolage Green.

Present: Cllr I HOBSON – Chairman
Cllr M McKENZIE
Cllr J PERRINS
Cllr P SUTCLIFFE
Cllr C BROWN
Mrs. V McWILLIAMS Clerk

1. Election of Chairman

As we did not hold an Annual Meeting due to Covid 19, the current chairman was unable to step down and he is doing so now at our first face to face meeting. Nominations were asked for. Cllr Sutcliffe nominated Cllr Hobson seconded by Cllr Perrins. There were no other nominees. Cllr Hobson accepted the nomination which was agreed by all.

2 Apologies for Absence

City/Councillor Mike Sole sent his apologies for absence due to a prior engagement.

3. Comments from the public.

Five members of the public joined the meeting. Agenda items 11 and 13 were discussed at this point to allow public comment.

There is concerned about the Canterbury Local plan and the huge development to expand Aylesham which would greatly affect Womenswold.

In view of the many complaints received regarding CCC proposed option for the increase in the number of houses of 14,00 to 17,000 new homes rather than the 9,000-figure proposed by the Government CCC have increased the consultation time which will now close on Monday 30 July at 9am. Members of the public were encouraged to visit the CCC website to express their views.

Objections to the Aylesham expansion can be expressed on the CCC or DDC website the consultation closes 30 July 2021.

4. Report from City/County Councillor Sole

Cllr Sole did not attend the meeting but sent the following report:

Parish tours – My walks around the parishes with parish councillors and clerks have continued in June and hopefully by the end of July I will have completed these. I have also attended some parish council meetings in person.

Committee places – I can now confirm that I will be serving on the Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee, Kent Flood Risk Management Committee and the Commissioning Advisory Board. Having taken an interest in flooding matters I have also been put forward to fill the vacant Canterbury City Council position on the River Stour Internal Drainage Board – I shall know later this month if this is approved.

Little Stour and Nailbourne River Management Group – I had a very pleasant and informative meeting with members of the committee and I look forward to working with them to address local flooding issues. Flooding can come from all sorts of places though and when Bishopsbourne experienced issues in June due to heavy rain and water flowing from fields, I was able to help get this resolved.

KALC – I was very pleased to be invited to speak to members of Canterbury KALC last month.

Tonford Lane Bridge – Campaigners for a new bridge across The Stour met with me to discuss their plans for a new accessible bridge that will open the Hambrook Marshes and cycle/footpath to more people.

Covid Recovery Grant – I have sent details to all parishes about the grant fund of £6,000 that I can access for local projects. I have already had several enquiries about this, and some applications have been made, so please do let me know if you are aware of organisations that would benefit from this funding.

Footpaths – Many public footpaths have become very overgrown recently. KCC are behind on their programme for cutting these back. Any specific issues can be reported here: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/environment-waste-and-planning/public-rights-of-way/report-a-problem-on-a-right-of-way>

City Council issues:

Bins - There are still quite a few persistent issues with bin collections that I am following up. There have been teething issues with the new technology in the trucks and also the online reporting system is still far from perfect. It really should be much better after nearly six months on Canenco.

Offices – The City Council are now considering moving offices into vacant space in Whitefriars that they own. I will be pushing for the existing offices and car parks to be developed into social housing.

5. Declaration of Interests by Councillors.

There were no notifications by members given of any pecuniary or personal interest in items on the agenda.

6. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2021 were approved and signed by the Chairman; proposed by Cllr Hobson & seconded by Cllr Sutcliffe.

7. Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda.

The Clerk has still not heard from the Caravan Club regarding the proposed site in the paddock at the rear of Beggars Roost, Woolage Green. She will chase them for an update.

There was no further news on progress on preservation of the Three Barrows Down. Cllr Hobson reported that he had no further information on the progress of the protection of the site. He has not yet received the minutes of the May meeting. Damage is still being caused by vehicles and in particular motorbikes. Further meetings will be taking place and costing is being sought.

Cllr Perrins asked whether there had been any progress with the "hedgehog" signs for Woolage Village. Cllr McKenzie confirmed that these will be dealt with under the next review of signs by the Highways Department.

8. Finance

Business Current Account £18,294.37

Savings Account £1,882.55

Money Out

Clerks Salary + Expenses (2 months May/June x 26 hours at £10.50 = £273+ Office maintenance £80 Sanitisers £5.98

Total £358.98

Vineyard Garden Centre Church Yard (£223.00 +VAT £44.60) Total £267.60

Harmer & Sons Ground Maintenance (£656.00 +VAT £131.20) Total £787.20

Pest Control Moles £100

Ian Hobson website (£14.199 +VAT £3.00) Total £17.99

Total £1,531.77

VAT reclaim £2,913.21 not yet received

Agreement to approve payment of the expenses was proposed by Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr Perrins.

The Clerk has applied to Barclays in order to change to online banking. The necessary forms have been completed and we are just waiting for confirmation from the bank to formalise everything.

9. Planning/Trees

CA/21/00566 single-storey rear extension along with replacement porch, car port and erection of workshop to side elevation along with balcony to first-floor rear elevation. Stone Cottage, Wick Lane, Woolage Green, Canterbury CT4 6SD. This has been granted.

CA/20/02521 Change of use of existing detached garage/home office building to a holiday let comprising two units. Beggars Roost, Woolage Green, Canterbury CT4 6SF.

There is no further news on the progress of the application. The Clerk had spoken to the planning office who said that everything was on still hold. Awaiting decision

CA/21/00426 Fairview, Westcourt Lane, Woolage Green, Canterbury CT4 6SE
Single storey rear extension 2 no to side of to allow additional accommodation in the roof space. Awaiting a decision

10. Highways

Nothing to report.

11. Canterbury District Local Plan

There was a Parish Council Virtual Briefing on 1 July 2021 which the Clerk attended. Much of the debate was surrounding the so called "principal" preferred option of A by CCC. CCC would like to build between 14,000 to 17,000 houses instead of the decreed minimum 9,000 homes suggested by the Government. This would enable more funding towards an eastern by-pass.

The consultation ends of on 30 July. Councillors are encouraged to submit personal responses as well ones from their parish council.

More information is available on the CCC website.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would include information in the newsletter regarding this issue to ensure that as many residents are made aware of the proposals.

12. Environmental Issues

The goal posts have still not been erected on the Recreation Ground at Woolage Village. Cllr Brown reported that it was a four-man job to erect the post. He is hoping to get enough volunteers very soon on order to erect it.

Litter pick took place on 23 May 2021. The event was well attended, and much litter/rubbish was collected.

The Clerk has had no further news regarding the registration of the Green at Woolage Green. The application has been acknowledged by the Land Registry. The process of completing the application will take some time as the Land Registry has a huge back log. By acknowledging the application has priority over any subsequent application made by a third party. The Clerk will chase the solicitor.

Bollards at the Beacon. The damaged bollards have now been replaced. The owner of the vehicle has finally been traced. The insurers will now look to recover their outlay of £800.00 and the excess of £250.00 from the Third-Party Insurers. The Council will pay the VAT which can be reclaimed.

Item 13 – Giving to Local Charities

A member of the public requested that if such donations are to be made by the Parish Council, then residents are made aware of this prior to payments being made.

The Clerk reported that Parish Councils can donate to charities provided that the service provided by the charity has a proven direct benefit to parishioners.

Grants will not normally be made to support services which are the statutory responsibility of a government department, local authority.

The grant must be used directly for the provision of services and must not be used to pay for management costs or any other overheads.

The size of individual grants should be modest. The total amount awarded in grants to charities should normally not exceed 5% of the precept in any one year.

The award of grants by the Parish Council is entirely discretionary.

14. Councilors' Portfolios

Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC): Nothing to report

Amenities and Welfare:

HAGS have still not sent anyone down to examine the carousel on the recreation ground, Woolage Village. The Clerk will chase again.
ROSPA are booked to do the recreation ground inspection of play equipment this month.

The moles have been treated.
Cllr Perrins advised that the broken bench on the Village Green at Woolage Green had been repaired.

Roads & Services: Nothing further to report.

Communication: Website - Cllr Hobson asked for material for the next newsletter which he hopes to get out very soon

Police Liaison: No crimes reported in the area.

15. General Correspondence

EMAILS sent to all.

National Association of Local Councils <newsletter

Vo KALC Newsletter May

Awareness Week

Chief Executive Bulletin

The Queens Platinum Jubilee

KALC NEWS

Chief Executive Bulletin

KALC Local Bulletin

PCSO McLeish Police Report

Volunteers Week

Chief Executive Bulletin July

KALC Newsletter

Fraud Alert

CFF Funding

Mike Sole July Report

All correspondence has been circulated to Councillors.

It was agreed to register the lighting of the Beacon for the Platinum Jubilee Ceremony on 2 June 2022 at 9.15 pm. The Clerk will let the authorities know

16. AOB

Marilyn Lewis, Churchwarden of St. Margaret's Church, Womenswold, explained the installation of Interpretation Board and where it would be sited next door to the Parish Council's notice board in the church yard.

She also stated that the parish council were welcome to use the church for meetings. The chairman thanked her, and it was agreed to hold the next meeting in the church.

Cllr Hobson suggested that a Facebook page is set up for Womenswold Parish Council. All Councillors agreed to this unanimously. He will arrange this.

Cllr Perrins reported that the salt bin at Woolage Village is empty and the one at Woolage Green is also low on salt. The clerk will let KCC know she does not think they will refill them until the winter months.

As mentioned under item 14, the bench on Woolage Green has been repaired by volunteers. Cllr Perrins asked if 50% of the cost of wood, bolts and the like could be paid by the Parish Council with the remainder being paid by Womenswold Parish Residents Association. This was agreed, proposed by Cllr Hobson and seconded by Cllr Brown. The clerk requested a copy of the invoice and will arrange payment.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 14 September in St. Margaret's Church, Womenswold at 6.30pm

The meeting closed at 7.55pm