

MINUTES
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL
Orchard Room, St Margaret's School
on Monday 8TH APRIL 2024
commencing at 19.00PM
In attendance

Cllr Andrew Papas [Chairman] [AP]	Cllr Steve Sandys [SS]
Cllr Deborah Papas [DP]	
Parish Clerk Michelle Rumble [MR]	Borough Councillor – Cllr Russell
1 member of the public	

24.04.01 APOLOGIES	Cllr Lottie Parfitt-Reid, Cllr Highwood, Cllr Rigden, Cllr Barham	
24.04.02 DECLARATION OF INTEREST.	None	
24.04.03 MINUTES	MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN MARCH 2024 TO BE APPROVED.	
	Full Council approved the minutes of this meeting as representing an accurate recording of the said meeting. Cllr A Papas signed the minutes as a true and accurate record.	
24.04.04 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORT	<p style="text-align: center;">MBC Members Report from Cllr Claudine Russell</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dated: APRIL 2024</p> <p>Cllr Russell was in attendance, and gave her report, it was about Bins and collection days which had changed. There had been some initial problems, but they were working with the Bin Contractors to work this out.</p> <p>Cllr Russell also stated that the Local Plan had been voted through – it was now adopted and was now in the 6-week Judicial Review period. Supplementary planning documents will come next.</p> <p>As always, if you need my help, please do not hesitate to email me at claudinerussell@maidstone.gov.uk</p>	
24.04.05 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT	<p>Cllr Lottie Parfitt-Reid was not in attendance, but a Report had been received prior to the meeting.</p> <p><u>Kent County Council:</u></p> <p><u>Budget</u></p>	

Prior to the budget, KCC received news that government were giving some additional support to local authorities which with the exceptionally challenging financial pressures all councils are under is very welcome. Of the 600M announced, 500m is new funding for councils with responsibilities for adult social care and children's social care. The benefit to KCC is around 12.9 M, however this really doesn't address the structural issues we are faced with. Circa £13m, when we were looking at requiring £118m in savings isn't going to cut it and difficult decisions to ensure the councils sustainability will have to be made.

Adult Social Care

ASC is still, and probably will be until the whole sector is reformed, the biggest and most troublesome aspect of our statutory responsibilities. Many transformative initiatives are happening which are starting to show green shoots of delivery, but it is early days, and the problem is ever increasing. There's a big push or drive to increase the uptake of direct payments.

We have launched a new technology service; Enabled Lives with a raft of digital technologies with the aim to keep people living independent healthier and longer lives in their own homes.

I was asked to serve on the ASC committee which started in March. I have a personal interest in this area and am looking forward to contributing to this department.

Children's Services:

The closure of the Marden Children's centre remains first and foremost for our division, and whilst it's a very disappointing decision I have constantly sort assurances that the money will be invested in staff and people to deliver a comprehensive and reliable outreach service for our residents. I have also been reassured no closure will happen until we know what and where and HOW the service will be delivered. Our meeting with the team was positive but now we need to see the actions. My concern is that things are happening at a snail's pace and then suddenly it's all change so I will keep asking for updates.

UASC:

We continue to press for a comprehensive national transfer scheme as this is the only long-term solution to enable us to dispatch all out legal responsibilities. This is after all a national issue and must be treated so. Reception capacity for 9 sites is being established to comply with the court judgment from last July, no such site is currently in our division.

Highways

The state of the road network

The state of our roads is blatantly clear for all to see, and the situation is not good, we are of course at the worst time of year for torrential rain coupled with freeze thaw the damage is

unprecedented. This is unquestionably a national problem, driving the back lanes of Norfolk on a regular basis I see the same problems everywhere. This of course provides no comfort to residents. Recent correspondence with Neil Baker our highways cabinet member with whom I'm in constant touch has emphasised that to repair and bring up to standard our entire network would cost £700M and if all assets were included it would be in excess of £1B this puts the government's announcement which allocates us £134m over the next 10-11 year into context, it should be noted this is also back-ended...it will help but is hardly transformational. On a positive note, we are bringing the pothole blitz forward and the funding does give us a degree of confidence to set longer term plans.

Utility Roadworks

This is probably the number one issue I get contacted about - Emergency Road closures. These spring up instantly and seemingly with no thought or consideration for planned or scheduled works that are going on currently. Consequently, we have set up a Project Team to look at the whole issue, which is more complicated than might be supposed. This is not least because a significant percentage of Utility Roadworks are classed as emergencies, on their own definition of the term, which mean that KCC gets no notice of them, and only has to be informed two hours after they start. I will give more detail about this in my annual report which will be sent over in the next couple of weeks. But just to note in conclusion over 30% of road closures are done under Emergency powers.

On a final and personal note, whilst I have many concerns regarding the budget, I felt it my duty to vote it through. Things are very challenging, but nothing compared to the consequences of having to issue a 114 notice. There was however a saving put forward of 1.3million which involved the allocation of approx. £330k to MBC to assist with recycling, which was to cease immediately. On the surface it would be easy to conflate this with money that could be used to save the HWRC, but they are different things. This money is vital for the borough and would in the long term save KCC money in the form of gate fees at the Allington incinerator by diverting recycling to material recovery facilities in advance, therefore less waste to Allington. It also helps us hit recycling targets allowing us to reclaim PRN. An amendment was put forward by the opposition to restore this payment to the 4 boroughs which I explained to the leadership team I felt I must support and therefore voted for this amendment.

Public Rights of Way:

The headlines (the tables are below for information):

- Length of PRow network in Maidstone Rural South (as best as we can get it): 132Km.
- 5Km length of PRow are cleared three times by contractors through the summer months. We're always happy to discuss amendments to our programme with the Parishes if they feel that routes should be added (or removed).
- 177 issues reported through the last 12 months,
- 97 of which are resolved.
- 41 are awaiting inspection.
- 31 are in progress in one way or another.
- 8 alignment/ long term obstruction issues have been reported/ identified. Just one or two of these can generate huge amounts of work for officers, can take many months and involve legal challenges.
- 21% of the network has been inspected by volunteers in the last 12 months.
- 29 Hours of volunteer work.
- One temporary closure to facilitate work.
- Interestingly 155 property searches were responded to. It's a very accurate indicator of the volume of property sales.

Works of note:

Boughton Monchelsea:

KM110 – several trees cleared, revetment work to riverbank hopefully planned for this year.

KM115 – completely obstructed by palisade fence by the landowner after repeated acts of vandalism and an assault on a farm worker, originating from Park Wood. Now open again but access more secure. Several trees cleared and path strimmed.

KM116 – very overgrown path cut back.

Chart Sutton:

KH548 – re-opening of long obstructed footpath.

KH562 – management of path through unauthorised traveller site.

KCC has been operating without an officer in the Maidstone area for the last few months. Recruitment is underway and hopefully we'll have someone in post early in the new financial year.

Maidstone South: Key PRoW Data (last 365 days from 13/0			
Issue Status	Boughton Monchelsea	Chart Sutton	
Resolved/ Closed	45	7	
Awaiting Allocation	0	0	
Allocated - Awaiting Inspection	8	7	
In Progress	0	1	
Landowner Action	0	1	
Long Term Obstruction/ Alignment	1	6	
Work Added to Forward Maintenance Plan	5	0	
Work Scheduled	3	1	
Parish Total	62	23	
Issues Resolved/Closed (%)	72.58%	30.43%	
Issues Open/Live (%)	27.42%	69.57%	
PRoW Network	Boughton Monchelsea	Chart Sutton	
Length of PROW (m)	16,300	24,927	
Length of PRoW (m): Vegetation Clearance	1148	868	
% Length of PRoW : Vegetation Clearance	7.04%	3.48%	
Total Length of Clearance Over 3 Cuts (m)	3444	2604	
Length of network (m) inspected by volunteers	5423.41	2608	
% Length of PRoW inspected by volunteers	33.27%	10.46%	
Barrier	5	0	
Bridge	12	29	
Fingerpost	51	44	
Gap	16	14	
Gate	31	43	
Steps	6	7	
Stile	16	42	
Parish Total	137	179	
Furniture inspected by officers during period	74	52	
% Furniture Inspected	54.01%	29.05%	
Property search requests for PRoW and CLVG (Full response required)	2	5	
Property search carried out for PRoW and CLVG (Full response not required)	3	38	
<p>As always if there are any particular topics of interest don't hesitate to contact me.</p> <p>Lottie Parfitt-Reid</p> <p>Lottie.parfitt-reid@kent.gov.uk</p> <p>07919 360000</p>			
24.04.06 PLANNING MATTERS	This part of the meeting was Chaired by the Chairman. NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS		
APPLICATION REF: 24/500677/LAWPRO			

full

ADDRESS: 21 The Bentletts, Collier Street, Yalding
PROPOSAL: Lawful Development Certificate for proposed single storey rear extension with insertion of 4 no rooflights.
PLANNING OFFICER: Sema Yurtman
IT WAS RESOLVED BY ALL MEMBERS TO A NEUTRAL STANCE

Application No: 24/501081/FULL
Address: Woodview, Benover Road, Yalding
PROPOSAL: Garage conversion to create annexe ancillary to the main dwelling (Retrospective)
PLANNING OFFICER: Gautham Jayakuma
IT WAS RESOLVED BY ALL MEMBERS PRESENT TO A NEUTRAL STANCE COMMENT

APPLICATION REF: 24/501085/SUB
ADDRESS: White Hart, Claygate, Marden
PROPOSAL: Submission of details to discharge conditions 3 – External Materials, 4 – Biodiversity Enhancements, 5 – Renewable Energy, 6 – Hard and Soft Landscaping, 8 – SuDS Details, 10 – Storage and Screening of Refuse and 14 – Vehicle Turning Details, Subject to 22/503088/FULL
PLANNING OFFICER: Gautham Jayakuma
IT WAS RESOLVED BY ALL MEMBERS PRESENT TO A NEUTRAL STANCE COMMENT

APPLICATION REF: 24/500874/FULL
Address: 32 The Bentletts, Collier Street, Yalding
PROPOSAL: Conversion of garage to a habitable room.
PLANNING OFFICER: Gautham Jayakuma
IT WAS RESOLVED BY ALL MEMBERS PRESENT TO A NEUTRAL STANCE COMMENT

APPLICATION REF: 24/501160/SUB
Address: Saxonden Collier Street Tonbridge Kent TN12 9RT
Proposal: Submission of details to discharge conditions; 3b (roof materials), 3c (rainwater goods) and 4a (external joinery) of planning application 23/505235/LBC.
PLANNING OFFICER: Louise Welsford
IT WAS RESOLVED BY ALL MEMBERS PRESENT TO A NEUTRAL STANCE COMMENT

APPLICATION REF: 24/501025/PNQCLA
Address: The Packhouse, Den Lane, Collier Street
Proposal: Prior notification for the change of use of a building and any land within its curtilage from agricultural to 3 no dwellinghouses and associated operation development. For its prior approval to – Transport and Highways impacts of the development. – Noise impacts of the development. – Contamination risks on the site. – Flooding risks on the site. – Whether the location or siting of the building makes it otherwise impractical or undesirable for the use of the building to change from agricultural use to C3 (dwellinghouses). Design and external appearance impacts on the building. – Provision of adequate natural light in all habitable rooms of the dwellinghouses.
Planning Officer: William Fletcher
IT WAS RESOLVED BY ALL MEMBERS PRESENT TO A NEUTRAL STANCE COMMENT

APPLICATION REF: 24/501192/LAWPRO
Address: 5 The Nortons Industrial Estate, Collier Street
Proposal: Lawful Development Certificate for proposed change of use to include a spray room, to be used in conjunction with joinery workshop.
Planning Officer: Sam Cowdry
IT WAS RESOLVED BY ALL MEMBERS PRESENT TO A NEUTRAL STANCE COMMENT

24.04.06.01

PLANNING DECISIONS

Address: Cherry Gardens, Collier Street, Tonbridge

APPLICATION REF: 23/505129/SUB

Address: Cherry Gardens, Collier Street, Tonbridge

Proposal: Submission of details to discharge conditions 8 – Site Development Scheme, 9 – Landscaping Details, 11 – Exterior Lighting, 14 – Energy Requirements and 15 – External Surfaces of application
23/503600/FULL

APPLICATION GRANTED

APPLICATION REF :23/505235/LBC AND 23/505234/FULL

Address: Saxonden, Collier Street

Proposal: Listed Building Consent for erection of oak framed garden room to the rear following removal of existing conservatory

APPLICATION GRANTED

24.04.06.02

PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

NONE

24.04.07

PUBLIC FORUM

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no members of the public present who wished to speak.

24.04.08

CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTION POINTS

Email from PC Jason Wright on Speed watch. Cllr D Papas said that she would look at placing an advert in the Parish magazine for possible volunteers. The Clerk was asked to contact PC Wright to ask if there was a minimum number of times that the Speed watch volunteers would need to carry out this.

Email from member of the public about signs for Moat Farm Bend. The Clerk was asked to contact the resident to seek further clarification on this.

24.04.09

CIL MONIES

Cllr D Papas has said that she has an idea of a spend for the CIL MONIES, the idea was perhaps 4 or 5 new composite benches on the Recreation Ground. They would cost approx. £450 each including fittings. This will go forward to the next meeting.

Cllr A Papas would like eventually to add Electric which means they could then have CCTV Installed with the possibility of having the entrance gate remotely opening and closing which would make the recreation ground more secure. Perhaps a track around the outside of the Recreation Ground which would make the Recreation able to be walked and run all year round.

Cllr Russell said that Marden Parish Council have installed this onto one of their fields.

24.04.10

VILLAGE HALL

Cllr A Papas reported that they had started clearing some of the land near the Village Hall, including the rotting floor.

24.04.11

HIGHWAYS

Cllr D Papas updated members on the HIP and that KCC have updated the Parish Council in that the Safety Signs which are to be placed in the Parish awaiting approval.

24.03.12

FINANCE

Copy documents sent electronically to all members in advance of the meeting.

24.04.12.01. BANK RECONCILIATIONS – MARCH 2024 AND 1ST APRIL 2024

It was Proposed by Cllr D PAPANAS, seconded by Cllr A Papas and **RESOLVED** by all members present to To accept the Bank Reconciliation and the Chairman and RFO both signed the paperwork.

24.04.12.02. RECONCILIATION STATEMENTS – MARCH 2024 AND 1ST APRIL 2024

It was Proposed by Cllr D PAPANAS, seconded by Cllr A Papas and **RESOLVED** by all members present. to accept the Bank Statements for both Accounts and the Chairman and RFO both signed the paperwork.

24.04.12.03. BUDGET REPORT YTD – MARCH 2024

It was Proposed by Cllr D PAPANAS, seconded by Cllr A Papas and **RESOLVED** by all members present to To accept the Budget Report.

24.04.12.04. TRIAL BALANCE REPORT – MARCH 2024

It was Proposed by Cllr D PAPANAS, seconded by Cllr A Papas and **RESOLVED** by all members present to. Accept the Trial Balance Report.

Copy documents sent electronically to all members in advance of the meeting. Cllr D Papas asked if the Clerk could circulate all the papers a week before the meeting giving them enough time to look. Through the papers.

24.04.12.05. FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT

This was circulated to all members prior to the meeting and **RESOLVED** by all members present to adopt. The Financial Risk Assessment and will be actioned again next year

24.04.12.06.**PAYMENTS FOR AUTHORISATION**

It was Proposed by Cllr D Papas, seconded by Cllr Sandys and **RESOLVED** by all members present to Approve the Payments below.

		CSPC PAYMENTS - APRIL 2024		
DATE		PAYEE	AMOUNT	NARRATIVE
08.04.2024	BACS	MICHELLE RUMBLE	£654.33	CLERKS SALARY
08.04.2024	BACS	MICHELLE RUMBLE	£97.68	CLERKS EXPENSES
08.04.2024	DD	HSBC	£8.00	BANK CHARGES
08.04.2024	DD	IONOS	£33.59	EMAILS
08.04.2024	BACS	CAPEL GROUND CARE	£361.87	REPAIRS TO PLAY EQUIPMENT
08.04.2024	BACS	RIALTAS	£230.40	ANNUAL SOFTWARE CHARGE
08.04.2024	BACS	PAUL WARING	£703.08	GM CONTRACT
08.04.2024	BACS	CAPEL GROUND CARE	£48.00	OUTDOOR PLAY EQUIPMENT INSPECTION
		TOTAL	£2,136.95	

24.04.13**RECREATION FIELD**

The Clerk circulated prior to the meeting the Play Inspection Report.

GM CONTRACT 2024

The Clerk had received the invoice from the GM Contractor and there was an item on the Invoice which the Clerk has queried which was additional work as requested: - Additional work as requested: -

- Strimming long grass either side of footpath
- Edging path at playing field and removing arisings

The Clerk is awaiting a reply. It was also **RESOLVED** by all members that the Fertiliser was not required now.

**24.04.14
FLOODING UPDATE**

There was no update

**24.04.15
DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Parish confirmed that the next full Council meeting will be, in The Orchard Room, St Margaret's School on MONDAY 13th MAY 2024, due to the 6TH of MAY being a BANK HOLIDAY. This will also be the Annual Meeting and Annual Parish Council meeting and will commence at 6.45pm
There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.00PM

Prepared by | MICHELLE RUMBLE | Clerk to Collier Street Parish Council