

# **PLUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7.30 pm in Pluckley Village Hall**

**Present** : Cllrs Newman (in the Chair), Taylor, Whatman, Breach & Mills

**In attendance** : Mr. G Eaton, Clerk to the Council, ABC Cllr Bell and one member of the public

**Action by:**

### **1 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Dracott

### **2 Declarations of Cllrs Interests in items on the Agenda**

There were no declarations of Cllrs interests in items on the Agenda

### **3 Minutes of the last Meeting & Matters arising**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were agreed and signed

### **4 Public discussion and Parishioners Questions**

There was a brief discussion with the member of the public regarding the recently refused planning application at Parsonage Cottage

### **5 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman's Report is covered elsewhere in the Minutes

### **6 Planning & Enforcement**

#### New Planning applications

**20/00014** – Variation of condition 3 to vary the approved plans  
**Ridge House, Egerton Road**

Although there were no objections to the application it was noted that the application had recently been granted by ABC

## Other Planning Matters

There was a discussion regarding planning application 20/00033, Lambden Farm, Lambden Road – Lawful development certificate (existing)- use of dwelling in breach of condition 5 of the planning permission restricting the occupancy of the dwelling to persons solely or mainly employed, or last employed, in agriculture. Although there were no consultees for the application concern was expressed about the possible loss of a dwelling for agricultural workers especially in an area where house prices were above average

There was a discussion regarding Maidstone Borough Council's proposals for a garden town of over 5000 homes on Lenham Heath. Concern was raised about how this might adversely impact Pluckley and other surrounding Villages

## **7 Ashford BC Report**

ABC Cllr Bell updated on various matters including the upgrading of street lighting in the Borough. Cllr Bell kindly offered funding from her Ward Member Grant for ground works around the 'Kissing Gate' in the recreation ground. It was agreed that Cllr Whatman would make the application

**Cllr Whatman**

## **8 Finance Matters and Accounts for payment**

The following accounts were approved for payment:

|                                                     | <b>£</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Cheque No 501607 J Johns, Recreation Ground tidying | 45.00    |
| Cheque No 501608 D Heasman, street sweeping         | 90.00    |
| Cheque No 501609 G Eaton, Clerk's salary & expenses | 461.00   |

## Internal Audit recommendations 2018 – 2019

The three recommendations were discussed:

1) Inspection of Parish Council owned trees – the Clerk reported that the advice of Zurich the Council's insurers was that the frequency of inspection was dependent on a risk assessment of each area of trees. High footfall areas warranted more frequent inspection than less used areas and that the inspections should be undertaken by a competent person. A written record should be kept of each inspection and of any actions taken. It was agreed that Cllr Whatman would get a quote from Aspire to undertake tree inspections. It was also agreed that Cllr Taylor would approach Nick Mengham to ascertain what inspection service he might offer

**Cllrs Taylor & Whatman**

2) Possible revision to the Financial Regulations – The Clerk reported that the updates to the Financial Regulations were very minor and would not be relevant to the Parish Council. It was agreed to look again at reviewing the Financial Regulations following further updates

3) Parish Council specific email addresses – after a discussion it was agreed to consider this matter further

## Finance Report 1<sup>st</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019

The previously circulated Finance Report for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 was discussed. The healthy balance in hand was noted but was earmarked for projects which were likely to proceed in the next financial year. The Report was approved

### **9 Neighbourhood Plan (NP)**

There was nil of note to report as the revised planning application for dwellings on the eastern side of the Brickworks site was still awaited

### **10 Traffic and Highways including Speed Watch**

It was noted that the new Village gates had been installed and that the Speed Watch team was operational

### **11 Village Hall (VH)**

There was nil of note to report

### **12 Recreation Ground, Sports Pavilion & Tennis Courts**

Cllr Whatman outlined the quote received from Aspire for the maintenance of the Recreation Ground. It was agreed that Aspire were doing a good job and the price offered for a 3 year contract was accepted

### **13 Communications**

Cllr Newman reported that he and Cllr Dracott had presented Mr. Fisher, Pluckley Station Master, with a cheque for 'Villager of the Year'. Mr. Fisher duly handed the cheque to a representative of The Royal National Lifeboat Institute. An article should appear in the Kent Messenger in due course

### **14 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported that he had recently attended a course run by KALC on the new website accessibility requirements and gave a brief report. It was agreed that Cllrs Newman Taylor and Mills would arrange a meeting with Dewar Green who host and manage the website to discuss the implications of these requirements and possible developments to the website

**Cllrs Newman Taylor & Mills**

### **15 Correspondence**

Letter and documents from ABC re gypsy and Traveller accommodation

Emails re school bus route timetables. Cllr Newman explained that this had become a safety issue as some of the buses were overcrowded with children having to regularly stand. It was agreed that Cllr Newman would write to KCC Cllr Simkins

**Cllr Newman**

Email from Highways re highway improvement plans. After a discussion Cllr Newman kindly agreed to circulate a possible 'wish list' for discussion at the next Meeting

**Cllr Newman**

ABC Leaders briefing re free trees

Email re Kent Downs AONB tree packs

Emails re new web site accessibility requirements

### **16 Diary: Meetings and Events**

There was nil of note to report

### **17 AOB and items for future consideration**

There was no other business to discuss

### **18 Date of next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next Meeting would be held on **Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 at 7.30 pm** in Pluckley Village Hall

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.20 pm