

PLUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th March 2023 at 7.30 pm in Pluckley Village Hall

Present : Cllrs Taylor (in the Chair), Breach, Washer, Cahill & Sargent

In attendance : Mr. G Eaton, Clerk to the Council, ABC Cllr Bell, Mr. New Neighbourhood Watch, and three members of the public

Action by:

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Marchbank and Rattray

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 7th February 2023 were approved

4 Public discussion and Parishioners questions

Mr. Peter New, Neighbourhood Watch, spoke to his report, previously circulated by email which emphasised the prevention of violence towards women and girls

5 ABC Cllr Bell's report

Household Waste Collection and Council Tax

Last Thursday ABC full council approved the budget for 23/24 with an increase of 5% council tax. Band D council tax will be £181.25

From March 2024 the contract will be taken over by a new contractor, Suez. The bin crews will stay the same, and we will continue the system of food waste collected every week, residual and recycling every other week and optional green waste collection fortnightly. Suez will be using new, more environmentally friendly vehicles. Some collection days may change and these should be communicated to residents well in advance. Regarding the bulk collections, the new contractor will be partnering with the charity Demelza House, so that items that can be re-used rather than go to waste.

National Planning Policy Framework

Ashford Borough Council has submitted its response to the Department of Levelling Up and Communities' consultation on alterations to the National Planning Policy Framework. Support was expressed for:

- Reforming the need for local authorities to continually demonstrate a deliverable 5-year housing land supply
- Amending the Framework to increase the supply of specialist older people's housing to meet the needs of the ageing population
- Taking into account an applicant's past behaviour in decision making – in recognition that public confidence in the planning system is undermined if planning rules are deliberately and persistently ignored.
- Proposed changes to afford Neighbourhood Plan areas the same level of protection from speculative development as those afforded to Local Planning Authorities with an up-to-date Local Plan. Given the time often taken to achieve a Neighbourhood Plan, providing protection for 5 years is more appropriate.

6 Planning & EnforcementNew Planning applications

2023/0042 – single storey rear extension

4 Victoria Cottages, Lambden Road, TN27 0RB

The Parish Council is happy to support this application and understands that the neighbours are also supportive of the application

2023/0029 – single storey rear extension following demolition of shed

4 Fit Toll, Station Road, TN27 0QZ

This application was previously considered under 22/00997/AS and rejected by ABC. It was rejected on grounds of size, height and scale and the fact it would have a harmful impact on the residential amenity of adjacent residential occupiers at No.3 Fir Toll. The owners of No.3 attended the last Parish Council meeting, strongly reiterated these points and the Parish Council agrees with ABC's original decision to reject the application as we can see no material changes that justify supporting the revised application

2023/0234 – garden room

11 Otium Lake, Station Road, TN27 0DZ

Our concern here is that there seems to be a continuing trend for buildings being constructed at the brickworks development to be made ever larger and to have external buildings constructed that potentially impact on the residential amenity of neighbours. It's very hard to know how neighbours will react or be impacted as effectively they have "no voice" and we would ask ABC to consider how developments of this type will impact on the nascent community that is being built

7 Finance Matters & Accounts for payment

The following accounts were approved for payment:

	£
J Johns, recreation ground tidying	45.00
D Heasman, street cleaning	90.00
ABC, grounds maintenance	2700.00
KCC, scrub clearance	348.00
Opinionography, bus survey contribution	157.50
Whitstable Designs, website hosting	180.00
Goddard Planning, professional fees NHP Review	3600.00
Printing.com, printing Communicate	235.00
Napier Technical Services, CCTV works	1180.00

The Clerk's salary/expenses of £514.41, paid by monthly Standing Order, was approved

Annual review of the Clerk's salary

After a brief discussion it was agreed to increase the Clerk's hourly rate of pay from £13.50 to £14.50 per hour with effect from 1st April. The Clerk thanked the Cllrs for the increase

Finance report and full year forecast

The Finance report for the period 1st April – 31st Dec 2022 was discussed and approved

The full year forecast was considered and the following reserves proposed -

Nature Reserve	£5k
Village Hall	£20k
Pavilion/Recreation Ground	£20k
Events	£3k plus the returned money from previous "Bash"
Sinking Fund	£40k
General = remaining balance	c£35k

Note that the previous "Bash" account of approximately £1500 is being transferred back to PPC

8 Traffic & Highways

The independent traffic consultant John Elliott (Elliott and Veasey) had carried out an initial assessment and had provided some helpful advice and suggestions. Contractual details to be agreed.

9 Recreation Sport & Leisure

There was nil of note to report

10 Events: Litter pick, Coronation & Bash

It was agreed that the litter pick would take place on 25th March 2023 and a working group of Cllrs Taylor Marchbank & Rattray kindly offered to organise the event

Cllrs Taylor Marchbank & Rattray

It was agreed that the Coronation event would take place on Sunday 7th May 2023 and a working group of Cllrs Taylor Washer & Cahill kindly offered to organise the event. Coronation mugs would be provided by PPC.

Cllrs Taylor Washer & Cahill

The 'Pluckley Bash' to be held on 10th June 2023. Cllr Sargent kindly offered to co-ordinate

Cllr Sargent

11 AOB and items for future consideration

There was a discussion about the forthcoming Parish Council elections in May

It was noted that the Neighbourhood Plan Review, Stage 15, had been signed off and sent to ABC with associated documents

Cllr Taylor reported that the replacement noticeboard design was due. Council agreed that it would be erected in The Street.

12 Date of next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Meeting would be held on **Tuesday 4th April 2023 at 7.30 pm** at Pluckley Village Hall

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 9.00 pm