

Meopham Parish Council

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A Civility & Respect
Pledge Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 16th April 2024 at 7:00pm at Judsons Pavilion

Members Present:

Cllr S Buchanan – Vice-Chairman
Cllr P Crow
Cllr A Evans
Cllr D Fisher
Cllr P Haslam
Cllr C Price – Chairman
Cllr G Smith
Cllr B Wade
Cllr P Watson

In Attendance:

L Winter – Assistant Clerk

Item 1: Apologies for Absence: To receive and accept apologies

F.C. 304 Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Adam (prior commitment), Cllr Bramer (work commitment) and Cllr Sims (holiday).

Item 2: Declarations of Members' Interests: To receive declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests for this meeting

F.C. 305 There were no declarations of interest.

Item 3: Minutes of Previous Meetings: To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 19.03.24

F.C. 306 The minutes of the meeting held on 19.03.24 were approved.

PROPOSED: Cllr Price. SECONDED: Cllr Smith. All in favour.

Item 4: Public Session & External Reports

4.1 Public Session

F.C. 307 There were no members of the public present.

4.2 Borough Councillors and County Councillor

F.C. 308 There were no Borough Councillors or the County Councillor present.

4.3 Police and Community Warden

F.C. 309 There was no Officer or Community Warden present.

Item 5: Officer's Report: To receive a report of items for information from the Clerk and Deputy Clerk

- F.C. 310** The Assistant Clerk presented the officer's report. A copy of the report given is attached as an appendix to these minutes.
- Item 6: Highways Improvement Plan: To consider adopting the revised Highways Improvement Plan following KCC's responses as part of the annual review process**
- F.C. 311** Version two of the Highways Improvement Plan was accepted and can be submitted to KCC.
- PROPOSED: Cllr Price. SECONDED: Cllr Wade. All in favour.
- Item 7: Parish Office – Efficiency Review: To consider the quote received to commission an efficiency review of the Council from our HR providers; Council HR & Governance Support**
- F.C. 312** It was agreed to defer this item to the May meeting as the quote had only been received today.
- Item 8: Motions from Councillors**
- 8.1 Council Culture (motion for Cllr Smith): To receive and discuss any updates on improvements to council culture, handling of confidential information and duty of care towards employees**
- This Item was moved to the end of the agenda.*
- F.C. 313** Cllr Price presented an update for Councillors to discuss after the formal meeting was closed.
- Item 9: Liaison Councillor Reports: To receive liaison councillor reports for information only**
- F.C. 314** The following liaison councillor reports were noted:
- Cllr Price advised the following points:
- MPC had been approached by the Meopham Community Academy PTA requesting marshalling volunteers for the May Day Parade on 6th May 2024. Confirmation of timings to be requested. Volunteers names needed by Friday.
 - Internal Audit date rescheduled;
 - She would be attending the St Johns Church AGM on Sunday;
 - The Chair of MPC had been invited to the Allotment Annual Show on 15th September 2024;
 - The Refernet Webinar had been circulated by email;
 - Provisions would be provided for the Visioning Day on Tuesday 23rd April 2024;
 - All invitees for the Annual Parish Meeting had been contacted to find a new date;
 - Personal safety – lone working: the inaction by the police is not acceptable and will not be dropped. The incident was flagged with other parishes, KALC and GBC. Cllr Evans gave a brief synopsis of the events;
 - The National Statistics for Parish Precepts showed the average at £85.88, so MPC are good value at £65
- Cllr Watson reported:
- He had been out in the area to promote the livestock signage;

- He had attended Halstead Farm for an event where he had procured a number of contact details from various craft stalls for our village fete;
- He wasn't sure at this stage whether the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme would progress;
- Volunteers are needed with Speedwatch
- He too was very dissatisfied with the police inaction and had spoken to Jo Hammond, who had different views on it.
- He felt that Jo Hammond's report was very good and specific to each area.

Cllr Crow reported on the Gold Street Vineyard/Cobham House Vineyard. it was noted this site would be added to our 'watch list' for the next Planning Enforcement meeting.

Cllr Haslam circulated a new website quotation. Clarification on accessibility is required and it would then be added to the next meeting agenda.

Cllr Wade advised that five more posts were missing at Meopham Green and that it was now urgent that the posts be replaced before vehicles access this area. The expenditure was agreed at a previous meeting. The Assistant Clerk advised that only one quote had been received so far.

Cllr Smith advised:

- that he had met with Minel to discuss the repurposing of the Pitfield Toilets.
- he had been in contact with Jamie Izzard regarding the car park behind the Camer Parade shops and he was awaiting the information.

Item 9: Decisions Tracker: To note the progress tracker of council decisions

F.C. 315 The following items for information were noted:

- Cllr Price stated that Luddesdown did not have a beacon
- Cllr Price advised that the Harvel Green bench was currently on a pallet behind the Harvel Village Hall and could be a trip hazard. It would be installed as soon as possible.
- Cllr Wade asked for an update on the Community Toilet Scheme. The Assistant Clerk advised that the paperwork had been dropped off for them to sign up, but until this had been returned, we could not publish who is involved. Cllr Wade advised that the opening/closing times signage was still on display at the Pitfield Toilets. This signage needs to be covered up.
- Cllr Haslam requested for all Councillors to receive the 'watch' list of enforcement issues. Cllr Price advised that a list of sites, which we had been updated on, would be circulated.

The meeting closed at 8.29pm