

PADDOCKWOOD TOWN COUNCIL
The Podmore Building, St Andrews Field, St Andrews Road
Paddock Wood, Kent, TN12 6HT
Telephone: 01892 837373
www.paddockwoodtc.kent.gov.uk

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF PADDOCK WOOD TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 15th
April 2019, at the DAY CENTRE COMMERCIAL ROAD, At 7.45 p.m.**

PRESENTATION OF LONG SERVICE CERTIFICATES

The chairman presented Long Service Certificates to:

Cllr D Henshaw – 31 years

Cllr R Moon – 27 years

Cllr E Thomas – 35 years

All three were thanked for their work over the years – in particular, Cllr Henshaw who was standing down at the end of his term of office in May.

Cllr Thomas thanked the council for the certificates.

PRESENT: Cllr M Flashman, in the chair
 Cllrs R Atkins, D. Boyle, J Flashman, D. Henshaw, S Hamilton (KCC & TWBC) after item C137, R. Moon, R. Steward, E Thomas (TWBC) C. Williams

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs N Reay, clerk
 Borough Cllr C Stewart,
 9 residents

APOLOGY: Cllr D. Sargison, R. Turk, E Wilson

QUESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS

Those in receipt of Long Service Certificates were congratulated.

The following issues were raised:

The parking arrangements for the Paddock Wood Half Marathon.

There were too many cars parked in town, Ringden Avenue in particular, was choked with cars.

There was no police presence and lorries were unable to get into town to the industrial estates.

The Town Council would write to the Athletics Club regarding this issue.

Parking at the Day Centre – there is no disabled parking now that the space at the front had been designated “Drop off only” and the drop-down bollards were too high.

The Clerk advised that the only parking the Day Centre users had a right to use was the parking behind the Day Centre – the area to the front belonged to Dowding House. The office was aware that the bollards had been set too high and they had been removed for the time being. The contractors would return the following week to re-site them.

Representatives from the Friends of Memorial Field raised their concerns at the Chairman's update in the Annual Report. They were seeking an apology as they were only opposed to the location of the Community Centre and not the building of a new Community Centre, as was suggested in the report. The Chairman said she stood by her report which stated that FMF were opposed to the project. The project as far as the council was concerned was a Community Centre

on the Memorial Field. However, it would be made clearer that it was the location FMF were objecting to rather than a community centre.

FMF also advised that they had asked for the meeting in April, with the Council, to be postponed as they had been advised that it would be difficult for current council members to attend due to the forthcoming elections. They would very much like to meet once the elections were over.

QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLORS

The following issues were raised:

A 21% increase in the cost of school bus fares – it was now the same cost as the train.

The academisation of the primary school – normally only failing or a school in financial difficulties would look at academy status. This was not the case for Paddock Wood Primary School. In allowing the plans to go ahead the County Council was allowing valuable assets to be handed over to an unelected body.

Paddock Wood Library had had its hours cut from 40 – 23 hours. The library was a life line for members of the community – particularly those without IT.

The Borough Councillors were asked to write to the County Council about these issues.

As these were all county council issues members were advised that they should be referred to the County Councillor.

Complaints were also made about the condition of the Wesley Centre and the poor level of cleanliness in there.

Borough Cllr Stewart advised that she take up the issues regarding the state of the Wesley Centre with the relevant Borough Officers.

She went on to say that she would not be seeking re-election in May. She said it had been a pleasure to represent PW West and thanked members of PWTC who worked hard for no payment. It had been a pleasure working with them.

(Borough Cllr Stewart left the meeting.)

C135 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C136 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2019 were APPROVED.

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 3rd April 2019 were NOTED.

The minutes of the Estates Committee meeting held on 8th April 2019 were NOTED.

C137 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

(a) C127 - Draft Local Plan – following on from the previous meeting members of the Town Council and Neighbourhood plan will meet with Tunbridge Wells Planners at the end of the April. This will be followed up by a public engagement event at the end of May.

(b) C132 – the litter pick was very successful with over 50 residents helping. Sadly, however there was a lot of rubbish after the weekend.

(Cllr Hamilton arrived)

C138

5 YEAR PLAN & STRATEGIC PLAN

Cllr Boyle proposed; Cllr Williams seconded:

That the council should adopt the attached Strategic Plan.

CARRIED unanimously.

The updated Five-Year Plan was noted.

C139

ROAD NAMES, BERKLEY HOMES SITE

Berkley Homes had asked the town council to consider themes for the road names at their development on Badsell Road.

The following suggestions were made:

- Links to Foal Hurst Wood
- A plaque should be installed commemorating the dead pilot whose Messerschmidt had crashed on the site – Berkeley's had recognised the importance of the site and registered it with the War Memorial Commission
- Should recognise the proximity of Mascalls Manor and its links to Frederick Morgan and the D Day landings
- The Royal West Kent's were in Dunkirk, may be famous battles in which they were involved.
- No need to rush into a decision as it would be some time before the names were needed. Members were advised that the developers had asked for suggestions quickly.

It was agreed that the Clerk would check on the timescale and advise members when they needed to submit suggestions by.

C140

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

A town forum meeting took place on 4th April. It was organised by the Business Association in conjunction with the Town Centre group from the Neighbourhood Plan. The event was let by Richard Barsley & Paul Smith, and approximately 40 people attended. There was concern about the number of empty shops – it was hoped to encourage “pop up” shops.

Cllrs Williams and Flashman had hoped to meet with representatives from Feria, but the meeting had been cancelled. The NP now needs to be finalised before the draft local plan. The group had not yet received a list of sites put forward in the call for sites.

C141

(a)

PLANNING UPDATE

Cllr Williams advised members that of the two options put forward by southern Water to resolve the drainage issues in Paddock Wood, option 1 was not viable, but they were not prepared to carry out the second option. Alternative solutions were being explored.

Berkley Homes and Persimmon were both pushing for option 2 to be implemented as this would allow a new sewer around the town to be built.

Berkley Homes were working on ecological concerns on the Badsell Road site throughout May. The tree removal had been carried out under the guidance of Natural

England. Bat & Bird boxes would be installed. Roman remains and the remains of a plane had been found onsite.

Wheel washing facilities would be installed, and it was not planned to have any complete road closures.

- (b) Due to the forthcoming elections the Planning & Environment Committee meeting scheduled to be held on the 7th May 2019 will have to be cancelled. The P & E Committee had given delegated power to the Deputy Clerk and Committee chairman to respond to any planning applications up until the 2nd May, 2019 which cannot be held over until 20th May 2019 when the new committee membership will be approved.
- (c) Cllr William proposed; Cllr Hamilton seconded:
That Nick Ide, planning consultant, should be engaged to put forward an objection on behalf of the Town Council to the appeal by Churchill Homes.

CARRIED unanimously.

C142 COMMUNITY CENTRE

The working party met on the 27th March 2019 for an update. The meeting scheduled to be held with the Friends of Memorial Field on the 27th March was postponed at their request. A new date has yet to be arranged.

The board meeting was also cancelled, due to the availability of board members.

Cllr Atkins asked BC Hamilton if the feasibility study for Putlands could be circulated to all members. Also, whether the Town Council had asked if the Borough Council had any plans for any of the 10 sites during the evaluation process.

C143 FINANCE

- Cllr Hamilton proposed; Cllr Boyle seconded:
That the payments list voucher nos:869 – 922 be APPROVED
Carried unanimously
- (b) The receipts list 342 – 365 was NOTED
Members considered the attached grant application from 11th Tonbridge Scouts.

Cllr Atkins proposed; Cllr Boyle seconded:

That the request should be deferred until the following month.

Voting: 4 in favour, 5 against – the motion was therefore LOST

Cllr Hamilton proposed that a grant of £250 should be made.

Cllr Moon proposed; Cllr Atkins seconded the following amendment:

That a grant of £50 should be made

Voting 4 in favour, 5 against – the motion was therefore lost

Cllr J Flashman then seconded the original motion.

CARRIED: 5 in favour, 2 against, two abstentions.

C144 PADDOCK WOOD CARNIVAL

The carnival will take place on Saturday 13th July 2019. The Youth Council will be having a stand and members agreed that they would also like a stand for the council.

C145

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

- (a) Chairman's meeting – there was no meeting
- (b) Paddock Wood Business Association – A town forum was held on 3rd April to discuss the future of the town centre.
- (c) Bereko Committee - quiz night on 11th May 2019. Cllr Flashman will be quizmaster.
- (d) KALC – no meeting
- (e) Medway Valley Line – no meeting
- (f) Hop Pickers – Will be taking part in the Walking Festival in Goudhurst on the 18th September and will be joining 21st Sept at the Horsemorden Heritage Group.
- (g) Council Web site
- (h) Youth Council – will be having a stand at the Carnival and will be raising funds for Burns Trust & Children's Ward
- (i) Councillor's Surgery – The next surgery is scheduled for the 8th June 2019
- (j) Newsletter
- (k) Training events
The Deputy clerk and one of the Groundsmen have completed their First Aid Training.
KALC have arranged for several Dynamic Councillor events following the elections. A schedule of dates is attached for members information.

C146

ESTATES COMMITTEE

This item was withdrawn from the agenda

C147

ANY OTHER INFORMATION

Cllrs Steward, Flashman & Henshaw were all thanked for the work they had done over the years, as Councillors.

Cllr Flashman said he would miss the role after 16 years.

The Chairman thanked members for their support over the past year.

C148

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday 20th May 2019

The meeting finished at 9.45 pm.

Chairman