

PADDOCKWOOD TOWN COUNCIL
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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF PADDOCK WOOD TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON Monday 16th
March 2020, at the Day Centre, Commercial Road, at 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllr M Flashman, in the chair
Cllrs R. Atkins, (TWBC), S. Barrett, S Hamilton (TWBC & b KCC), R. Moon
M Ridger, R. Turk, C. Williams

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs N Reay, Clerk.
4 residents

APOLOGIES: Cllrs D. Boyle, D. Kent B. Hills, D. Sargison, E Thomas (TWBC)

QUESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS (15 minutes)

The following questions/statements were put to the council.

Are any of the section 106 monies for the community centre attached to the Memorial Field?
The funding from 2 of the 3 sites specify the Memorial Field in the S 106 agreements. They are the Mascalls Farm & Mascalls Court Farm sites. The agreement for the Church Farm site does not specify the location.

When did the council know that the £400k from TWBC was linked to the Day Centre lease?
It was first raised in 2017 when the borough proposed linking the £400 k grant with the Day centre lease, Putlands Lease and the sale of the land at the Wesley Centre. At the time the council resolved not to re-negotiate on the Day Centre lease. This was re-iterated at the meeting on the 24th February 2020.

If the Council does not do proper consultation on the future of the Day Centre, then they (Friends of Memorial Field) will ensure the town is aware of the lease on the Day Centre. They are tired of being driven by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council.

When are the council going to start fighting for Paddock Wood?
At this moment Paddock Wood needs the Day Centre, all members in agreement.

FMF were pleased borough recognized that the town was together in wanting a Community Centre. They fully support the council on a "no break" in the lease for the Day Centre. The Town does need to know if there is going to be any negotiation on the lease.

Surprised that the town council attending a meeting at which the borough council were discussing negotiating with the town council on the lease for the Day Centre.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FOR THE BOROUGH & COUNTY COUNCILLOR (10 minutes)

No questions had been submitted in advance for the County & Borough Councillors.

CC Hamilton advised that additional funding had been allocated for repairing potholes, and the county was asking for priority areas to be identified. She also asked for an update on the

Highways Improvement Plan. She was advised that it was in draft form but not yet finalised as there were other priorities.

BC Hamilton also asked that any correspondence sent from the Town Council to the Borough Council, should be copied to the 4 borough councillors, as per the standing orders.

The following questions were asked of the County Cllr, a response would be given at the next meeting.

How long has the social care precept been part of the Council tax notification?

A lot has been spent on potholes, but the answer would be to repair the roads rather than just filling holes – how much has spent on potholes in Kent?

C139 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There are no declarations of interest.

The chairman made the following statement in light of the Covid 19 (corona virus) pandemic and the government's announcements this afternoon.

We have an unprecedented situation in the country at present, and on the grounds of expedience and reasonableness the council should now discuss the coronavirus, and the actions the council needs to take.

It had been recommended by the Prime Minister this evening that all unnecessary social contact should not take place.

The council needs to discuss forthcoming meetings.

Some meetings are laid down by legislation – the Annual Town Meeting has to be held by the 1st June.

The Clerk had circulated information to members as it became available.

The following issues were considered & discussed:

- Postponement of meetings
- Closure of Day Centre
- Closure of the office to the public
- Continued working for the office & ground staff
- No provision for virtual meetings
- Delegated powers to the Clerk to keep the council functioning
- Provision for the Clerk to be able to work from home if necessary

The chairman explained that technically as the item was not on the original agenda the council should call an additional meeting, however, due to the exceptional circumstances she felt the council should make some decisions this evening, subject to members being in agreement.

Members agreed that some decisions should be made.

Cllr Atkins proposed, Cllr Moon seconded:

That the Day Centre is closed in view of the government advice on social interaction.

CARRIED unanimously

It was agreed that the hearing aid clinic, as an essential service should be allowed to continue.

Cllr Flashman proposed Cllr Ridger seconded:

To extend the delegation of Council decisions to the Clerk during any period of restricted activity declared by the Government in respect of the Covid-19 virus. Such delegation to enable the Council to fulfil its responsibilities to its residents.

Cllr Williams proposed that proposal should be amended as follows:

To extend the delegation of Council's "day to day" decisions to the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman/Vice Chairman during any period of restricted activity declared by the Government in respect of the Covid-19 virus. Such delegation to enable the Council to fulfil its responsibilities to its residents.

The amendments were seconded by Cllr Atkins.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

The following actions would be taken:

The Day Centre closed from Friday until further notice

All meetings cancelled until the end of April when it would be reviewed

Staff would continue working normally for the time being – this would be kept under review

The office to be closed to the public

C140 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- (a) The minutes of the meeting held on 17th & 24th February 2020 were APPROVED.
- (b) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 17th February were NOTED.
- (c) The minutes of the Finance Meeting held on 18th February 2020 were NOTED.
- (d) The minutes of the PPP committee held on 2nd March 2020 were NOTED
- (e) The minutes of the Estates Committee meeting held on 9th March 2020 NOTED

C141 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

- a) C134 – the council was asked when the Badsell Road site was included in the option analysis document? This was included in the original document which was drawn up in December 2013.
- b) The questions which had been asked by representatives of the U3A who had met with the Chairman and Vice Chairman have been circulated to all councillors. The suggested amendments to the layout will be considered by the Working Party.

C142 FINANCE

- a) Cllr Williams proposed, Cllr Turk seconded:
The payment list voucher nos:709 – 791 should be APPROVED
CARRIED 6 in favour, 2 abstentions
- b) The receipts list was NOTED

C143 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

As previously advised the group are seeking a new consultant. Only one of the consultants approached had submitted a quote in time for the previous meeting. Another did not have the capacity to take on the work. A third consultant has been contacted and his quote had just been received.

C144 COMMUNITY CENTRE

- (a) The working party had met on the 26th February 2020. The minutes of the previous meeting are attached. The Agenda had been amended as the clerk had not received the required information to consider the changes to the governance document. Cllr Hamilton asked for it to be noted that she had not commented on the Governance document as she believed the review should be carried out by a professional.
- (b) The Renewable Energy Consultant at KCC was available at short notice to talk about making the building as energy efficient as possible. The next meeting due for the 25th March 2020 has now been cancelled.

- (c) The Board had met on the 4th March 2020 and the minutes of the previous meeting are attached. The procurement process had been discussed as well as the Chairman's attendance at the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Cabinet meeting on the 12th March 2020.

C145 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The Annual Town meeting has now been postponed

C146 EMAILS

Some members were having difficulties accessing their emails. The Clerk would ask the IT consultants to contact them to try to sort the problems out.

C147 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

To receive a report from the council's representatives when available:

- (a) Chairman's meeting – cancelled
- (b) Paddock Wood Business Association – will take place on the 17th March 2020
- (c) Bereko Committee - quiz currently planned for the 16th May.
- (d) KALC – discussion had primarily about the agenda for the forthcoming chairman's meeting. And covered the TW agreement, Neighbourhood plans and the quality of CCTV>
- (e) Medway Valley Line – no report
- (f) Hop Pickers – no report
- (g) Youth Council – are resident had attended to talk about the campaign #trash tag.
- (h) Councillor's Surgery suspended for the time being
- (i) Newsletter/Annual report – will be issued as soon as possible
- (j) Training events - Cllr Williams had attended the Planning Conference on the 13th March 2020
The rescheduled Legionella Training took place on the 18th February and was attended by all Estates Staff and the Town Clerk
- k) Putlands Leisure Centre Liaison meeting – 4th March 2020, there had been a change in management at the centre, and complaints about the litter around the centre had been passed on.
- l) Persimmon Liaison Meeting – took place on the 5th March 2020, the informal notes had been circulated, and the formal minutes would be sent around as soon as they are received
- m) Strategic sites meeting – 4TH March 2020 – no meeting scheduled for April
- n) The Litter pick is scheduled for the 24th April has now been postponed.

C148 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be advised

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

CHAIRMAN

