

PADDOCKWOOD TOWN COUNCIL
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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF PADDOCK WOOD TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON Monday 16th
December 2019, at the Day Centre, Commercial Road, at 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllr M Flashman, in the Chair
 Cllrs R, Atkins (TWBC), S. Barrett, D. Boyle, D. Kent, R. Moon, M. Ridger,
 D. Sargison, E Thomas (TWBC) C. Williams

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs N Reay, Clerk
 Borough Councillor M Bailey
 6 members of the public

APOLOGIES: Cllrs B. Hills, S. Hamilton, (KCC & TWBC) R Turk

QUESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS (15 minutes)

Responses from the council are in italics.

The Chairman had previously been asked by the Friends of Memorial Field where it was stated on the Town Council website that documents could be obtained by members of the public if they called the office.

She advised that there was a statement on the agenda page of the website. The Clerk was asked to forward the email from the FMF to all members. The chairman also advised that she had answered all other questions asked.

The chairman was thanked for her response, but the group did not feel it was right that residents had to contact the town council to obtain the documents.

They also noted that the costs had increased from £2.3m to £3m, what was the maximum cost was the council prepared to pay?

The costs would be part of the RiBA3 decisions and a meeting to discussion the financial side of the project is scheduled.

The following other points were made:

- *the longer the project is delayed the more the costs will increase*
- *the cost projections are based on changes to the design*
- *the town council will answer when it is able to do so*
- *Members are very aware of their responsibility with regards to public funds.*

Does the town council agree not to push through the plans?

There is another meeting scheduled to discuss the financial side. The decision to sign off the project will be a Town Council decision.

Do you believe that when the Town and Borough Councillors are elected it is a democratic process?

The parish poll was a democratic process.

The Parish Poll is advisory.

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

County Councillor Hamilton had sent her apologies and sent an update to the Chairman. She would also like an update on the progress of the Highways Improvement Plan.

Cllr Williams advised, as Chairman of the Planning and Environment Committee, that members had been busy with the Local Plan it had not yet progressed.

However, she also stated that much of the work should be the responsibility of the Highways Authority and she objected to their work being devolved to unpaid councillors.

Cllr Williams thank the Planning and Environment Committee members for the work they had put in to date.

County Cllr Hamilton also advised that she had just authorised payment for what are called the 'Entry Treatments' for the road markings that will be at the entry points to the town. She was also waiting to hear back from KCC officers regarding ownership of the bench on the corner of Ringden Avenue and suggested that the Town Council might be willing to look after the area. Cllr Boyle asked for it to be put on the next Estates Agenda.

The Borough Councillors had not had any questions forwarded to them. Cllr Williams asked if they would take note of the town council's response to the application for a further 117 houses at Mascalls Park Farm application. BC Bailey agreed to ensure the application was called into the planning committee.

Concerns were also raised that water appeared to be being pumped from the above building site. Borough Members were asked to investigate.

C102 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C103 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- (a) The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18th November 2019 were APPROVED.
- (b) The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9th December 2019 were APPROVED with the following added to the heading "The meeting was called to discuss the RiBA stage 3 report".
- (b) The minutes of the Finance meeting held on Monday 25th November 2019 were NOTED.

C104 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

- (a) The Chairman of the Estates Committee had received a response from Paddock Wood Cricket. The issues will be discussed at the Estates Committee on the 17th December 2019.
- (b) The Clerk reported that dedicated email addresses had been set up for all councillors and would be implemented in the New Year.

C105 FINANCE

- (a) Cllr Williams proposed, Cllr Boyle seconded:
The Council APPROVES the payments voucher nos: 558 – 608.
 CARRIED unanimously
- (b) The receipts list was NOTED.

C106 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Chairman of the group updated members as follows:

The NP plan group had originally been advised by their consultant that they should not move forward until the Local Plan had been published. This has not happened, and the borough has advised that it intends to have drawn up a Master Plan for Paddock Wood. Fera are now of the opinion that the NP should now wait until that process has been completed. This is contrary to advice from TWBC who want the NP to move forward with the Master Plan.

The NP group wish to continue with the plan and get it completed, and have asked for a second opinion, which is being sought. Once that has been received the group would like to engage another consultant to carry the project forward.

The Chairman was advised at the KALC meeting on the 4th December that adjoining parishes were proceeding with their Neighbourhood Plans.

The following issues were raised:

- Concern that the consultants felt they way they did
- Need to investigate what, if any obstacles there were in the way of the Neighbourhood Plan
- Contract with consultant was up until the end of phase 1.
- The work which has been carried out to date will not be lost.

Members felt that, subject to a second opinion, the project should continue.

C107 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Councillors' Guide to Handling Intimidation - Cllr Williams had written a briefing note which had been forwarded to members for consideration.

This issue was being discussed by the Borough Council at their meeting on Wednesday 18th December 2019.

Cllr Flashman proposed, Cllr Boyle seconded

That standing orders should be suspended to allow the Borough Councillors to comment.

CARRIED unanimously

BC Atkins commented that there was an agenda item to discuss councillor conduct as there had been some issues recently.

BC Bailey advised that the Borough was looking to update the Code of Conduct.

Standing orders were re-instated.

The Council chairman also advised that it would be discussed at the Chairman's meeting.

Cllr Moon proposed, Cllr Boyle seconded:

That the report should be considered by the PPP committee and its recommendations reported to the Full Council for approval.

CARRIED unanimously

The Clerk would forward all relevant policies to members for information.

C108 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

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

- (a) Chairman's meeting – next meeting on the 17th December 2019. Agenda includes:
 - Revision of TW Agreement
 - Local Plan
 - Waste Collection
 - Councillors convention
- (b) Paddock Wood Business Association – nothing to report
- (c) Bereko Committee - nothing to report
- (d) KALC meeting
 - had a talk on the Rural Task force which has doubled in size
 - TW Agreement
 - Code of conduct and bullying
 - Neighbourhood Plan
 - KALC executive increasing in size to add to training capacity

KALC Conference

 - Talk about IMAGO social action group & Chairman of SECAMB
 - All 5 motions on the agenda were carried.
- (e) Medway Valley Line – nothing to report
- (f) Hop Pickers – Held their AGM and re-affirmed the principles of the group which was to open the Paddock Wood to Hawkhurst route as a long-distance trail. Now the group was concentrating on waymarking and interpretation boards.
- (g) Youth Council – The young person of the year award was made at Paddock Wood Lights Up. They discussed projects they would like to put forward for section 106 funding. This included an extension to the skateboard park. They would also like a dedicated youth hub
- (h) Councillor's Surgery – next date was 18th January 2020. Cllr Williams would attend. Both Cllrs Boyle and Kent said that provisionally they might be available.
- (i) Newsletter – members were asked to forward contributions
- (j) Training events – the webmaster would be attending a course on Accessibility in the New Year. A training course for the Estates staff on Legionella testing had also been arranged for January 2020.
- (k) Putlands Leisure Centre Liaison meeting – no meeting
- (l) Persimmon Liaison Meeting – no meeting
- (m) Strategic sites meeting – 4th December 2019. Cllr Williams had attended on behalf of the Town Council and Cllr Flashman on behalf on the NP group. The Borough Councillors were also present. A summary of the meeting had been requested.

C110 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday 20th January 2020.

The meeting closed at 9.28 pm.

CHAIRMAN