

PADDOCKWOOD TOWN COUNCIL
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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF PADDOCK WOOD TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON Monday 17TH JUNE 2019,
at the Day Centre, Commercial Road, at 7.45 p.m.

- PRESENT:** Cllr M Flashman, in the Chair
 Cllrs D. Boyle, R. Moon, D. Sargison, C. Williams
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs N Reay, Town Clerk
 17 residents
- APOLOGIES:** Cllrs R. Atkins (TWBC), S. Hamilton, (TWBC, KCC), B. Hills, E. Thomas (TWBC)
 R. Turk

QUESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS

It was suggested that as Southern Water are ignoring concerns about the sewage system people should be advised not to buy a new house in Paddock Wood.

The Chairman of the Planning Committee advised that this had been discussed at the previous planning meeting and the council had been in touch with OFFWAT, the Environment Agency as well as KCC about the matter. She would like support to contact BBC South East about the matter.

The Estates Committee was asked if the hedges along Mascalls Court Road could be trimmed more often, and whether the edges could be tidied. The mowing in Linnet Avenue referred to was not the responsibility of the town council.

The chairman was asked the following questions:

Was it wise not to co-opt onto the Town Council those who had stood in the West Ward but were not elected? It looked bad.

The Chairman advised that it was important to be clear and transparent about the co-option. Becoming a town councillor was more than just about the Community Centre.

Members also made the following points:

Following KALC Guidance

There was no bias against certain candidates

Co-option is not ideal

Considering the amount of development in the Draft Local Plan, do members feel it is significant enough to affect their decision on choosing the Memorial Field for the Community Centre?

Members comments were as follows:

- It could take 15 years for the houses to be built – need for the community centre is now, now it in 15 years times.
- Green spaces are important & there is a Green Infrastructure Plan for the Neighbourhood Plan which is on the website
- Every house was built on a green space once
- It is important to get the infrastructure right
- Will not cover all the field
- A 1000 houses to the South East of the Town justify the location
- No plans for expansion at present – but space has been allowed for should it be needed in the future. Council would have been criticized if it had not allowed for expansion
- Young people would like to see the Community Centre built at the Memorial Field.

The Chairman of Friends of Memorial Field asked the following:
That Paddock Wood Town Council re-looks at the Putlands Plan from 2015?

The chairman advised that it could be looked at in July.

A letter had been received asking for dates of when the decisions were made and the voting. The clerk provided copies of the following minutes:

15th Feb 2016 – ref C104

Jan 2018 – ref C93

19th Nov 2018 – ref C82

QUESTIONS FOR THE BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

The county councillor was asked if the Hop Pickers Line could be included in the Rights of Way Improvement Plan. (the clerk would pass the request on)

C19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C20 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

(a) The minutes of the meeting held on 20th May 2019 were APPROVED.

(b) The minutes of the Estates meeting held on Monday 10th June 2019 were NOTED.

C21 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

a) C13 – Persimmons had agreed to the Council's request that they pay all legal costs and the £450 survey fees for the transfer of land at Green Lane.

b) Capel Parish Council has agreed principle to work closely with PWTC on areas of mutual concern in the Tunbridge Wells draft local plan.

C22 PADDOCK WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Members discussed whether a statement from the Town Council on the academisation of Paddock Wood Primary School was appropriate and should be submitted. Paddock Wood Primary School had been invited to attend the Council meeting but were not present. A briefing note on the academisation was provided by Cllr Boyle and had been circulated to members.

The chairman suspended standing orders to allow parents from the school to speak.

The council was thanked for considering the matter – the parents had previously made their opposition clear. Members were also advised that the order had been made on 14th March 2019 and can only be revoked by the Secretary of State for Education.

Whilst the Town Council does not have direct influence over the matter members felt they could comment and were concerned about the lack of transparency over the procedure.

Cllr Boyle proposed; Cllr Williams seconded:

That the Town Council resolves to OBJECT to the academisation of Paddock Wood Primary School.

CARRIED 4 in favour, 1 abstention

Cllr Boyle would assist the Clerk in writing an appropriate letter which would be sent to the Leigh Academy Trust and copied to Paddock Wood Primary School and Mr C Marshall.

C23 CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLORS

Members discussed the co-option procedure for the three vacancies on the East Ward.

Cllr Boyle proposed; Cllr Williams seconded:

That an extraordinary meeting should be held on Wednesday 24th July 2019.

CARRIED 4 in favour 1 abstention

The Clerk advised that TWBC had been informed that the Town Council was seeking to co-opt. Details of the co-option would be sent to Times of Tunbridge Wells and the Courier who had agreed to run a piece. Adverts would also be placed on the noticeboards and using the Council's social media.

C24 HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT PLAN

- (a) Kent County Council is asking Parish/Town Councils to consider drawing up a Highways Improvement Plan for their areas. This is to help KCC manage the requests they receive from the parish for changes or improvements to the highways. The plans will give parish/town councils the opportunity to decide which community priorities they want to take forward. Not all priorities can be funded by KCC, but Kent Highways can discuss the problems and provide technical advice for the best way to deliver improvements and provide estimates of costs. Using this information parish/town councils can determine whether to provide funding for these priorities.

A copy of the Town Council's powers was attached.

Members discussed whether to include Highways Improvement Plan into the 5-year Plan with annual reviews.

Some members felt that Highways Improvements were the responsibility of Kent County Council, and that many of the examples given in the pack were safety critical issues.

However, others held the view that it was an opportunity to identify sites in Terms of the Neighbourhood Plan.

It was agreed that the County Councillor should be asked to arrange another meeting, with adequate notice, with Highways Officers for a tour around the Town to look at issues.

The Planning and Environment Committee, along with any other member who wished to be involved, could then look at the issues.

- (b) The Vice Chairman has been approached by residents concerned about the "No Entry" end of Old Kent Road. Vehicles are ignoring the signs and turning out onto Church Road by the John Brunt Pub. Improvements could be part of the HIP (see above) but in the meantime members are asked for their views on this matter so they can be put forward to the County Council via the County Councillor.

C25 RECORDING OF MEETINGS

Members discussed whether town council meetings should be recorded. The following issues will need to be considered:

- Are the recordings solely for the purposes of accuracy in the minutes or to be made available to those who are unable to attend the meeting?
- How long should the recordings be kept – there will be Data Protection issues regarding the storage of the recordings and advice will have to be sought from the Council's DP consultant.

Cllr Moon proposed; Cllr Williams seconded:

That the council agrees in principle, that it should record its meetings in the future.

CARRIED unanimously.

Further information on the matter would be sought and reported back.

C26 DRAFT LOCAL PLAN

Notes from the recent meeting with Head of Planning TWBC were attached. The presentation slides were circulated to members by email and are on the website.

C27 INTERNAL AUDITOR

Members noted the internal auditor's report. This would be discussed at the next Finance meeting.

C28 FINANCIAL REPORT

There is no financial report this month due to officer leave and the preparation of the end of year accounts.

C29 PADDOCK WOOD CARNIVAL

Only 2 members are available for the carnival stand this year. It was agreed that the council would not have a stand this year.

C30 COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Community Centre Board met on the 12th June 2019. A copy of the minutes was circulated to members.

The proposed RiBA 3 meeting for the 26th June has had to be postponed as the report will not be ready in time. A further date will be arranged once the report is available.

The Chairman reported that a request had been received by KCC to make the Memorial Field a village green. It was not known who had made the request. KCC will have to consult the planning authority before deciding.

C31 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

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

- (a) Chairman's meeting -meeting was scheduled for w/c 24th June.
- (b) Paddock Wood Business Association – it had been confirmed that a Town Guide would be published in 2020.
- (c) Bereko Committee – the group will have a stall at the Carnival
- (d) KALC – the chairman & Cllr Boyle had been unable to attend due to a prior meeting.
- (e) Medway Valley Line – last meeting was held on the 13th June. The issue of future development along the line between Tonbridge and Strood had been raised. Funds for a shuttle bus to serve the new estates would be made available. And there will be a festival train on the 18 & 19th October.
- (f) Hop Pickers – there had been no meeting
- (g) Youth Council – there are only 4 members left and the group is advertising for new members. In July they will start planning the Young Person of the Year Award and will have a talk from SALUS. A BBQ was planned for August.
- (h) Councillor's Surgery – a date for July was needed.
- (i) Newsletter – the next edition will be published in July
- (j) Training events
- (k) Putlands Leisure Centre Liaison meeting- The chairman and Cllr Moon had attended. All equipment now seems to be in working order and the centre was looking to increase its opening hours. The new manager had put in place a business plan and the centre were improving. It was agreed that a letter should be sent supporting the improvements. The Clerk was asked to find out what happens to the subsidy from PWTC.

C32 ANY OTHER INFORMATION

The POTS event would take place on the 29th June 2019 at the Memorial Field.

Cllr Sargison expressed his concern at the loss of trees in the Town and asked for help it replacing them.

C33 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday 15th July 2019.

The meeting closed at 10.05.

CHAIRMAN