

PADDOCKWOOD TOWN COUNCIL
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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF PADDOCK WOOD TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON
Monday 17th September 2018, at the PADDOCK WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL,
OLD KENT ROAD, at 7.45 p.m.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs N Reay, Clerk
 Borough Cllr Stewart,
 From TWBC, Mr W. Benson, Mr J White, Mrs D Haylett
 75 residents

APOLOGY: Cllr R Turk,
 Borough Councillor A Gooda

REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The town council normally allows 15 minutes for representations/questions from members of the public. However, the Chairman has agreed to extend this to 30 minutes for item C60. Those wishing to speak were permitted 3 minutes each and were asked to register either in advance or on arrival.

Prior to representations from residents for item C60 the Chairman asked if anyone had any other issue they wished to raise.

Cllr Williams, Chairman of Planning & Environment Committee, advised that the plans put forward by Churchill Homes for consultation conflicted with the draft neighbourhood plan and did not fit with the local plan for the area. The NP group would be discussing the proposals at their meeting on 19th September 2018.

Mrs Wendy Morris who had organised the petition opposing the building of a community centre on the Memorial Field was invited to address members of the town council.

A copy of her statement is appended to the minutes.

Mrs Fulcher stated that she opposed the building of the community centre on the Memorial Field and asked to see copies of the deeds to the field.

Mr Fred Lemont spoke in support of the proposals. (copy attached)

At Statement was read out on behalf the Paddock Wood Youth Council supporting the proposals. (copy attached)

David Marriott spoke in favour on the proposals – he pointed out that the proposals would take up 9% of the field, including the car park spaces. The building itself would equate to 3% of the field. He pointed out that wherever the community centre was built it would take up green space. Also that the use of Section 106 money was governed by law.

Tony Batchelder spoke in support of the proposals, saying that it was an investment in the future and there was a need for a viable community centre. The town was growing rapidly, and the Memorial was an ideal location. He commended the plans.

Rex Wakling spoke on behalf of the British Legion in support of the proposals. The legion considered it to be a fitting Memorial for those who fell in the First and Second World wars. Their only wish was for a memorial plaque to be installed, which was in hand.

William Benson, chief executive of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, then spoke and a copy of his statement is attached.

C58 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C59 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

- (a) The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20TH August 2018 were approved.
- (b) The minutes of the Finance Committee held on Wednesday 29th August 2018 were NOTED.
- (c) THE minutes of the Estates Committee held on 10th September 2018 were NOTED.

C60 PADDOCK WOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE

Members received a report from the clerk containing details of the petition and back ground information on the project.

The chairman gave each councillor the opportunity to give their views:

COUNCILLOR	COMMENTS
Ray Moon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Had considered the comments on the petition, but no viable alternative had been proposed • He had objected to the location – felt the Town Centre or St Andrews were preferable locations • Decision taken to build on land which the council owns • Comments “not on our green spaces” – everything owned by the town council is a green space • Community centre should be for the benefit of all • Many of those present at the meeting homes had been built on green spaces • Had raised concerns about parking & tennis courts • Town Council has taken a democratic decision

COUNCILLOR	COMMENTS
John Flashman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to get the infrastructure in place – this is the comment the council has been hearing • One opportunity to get a community centre up and running • Two things have been asked for swimming pool and community centre • Council owns the site • Community centre is a legitimate recreational use •
Ray Steward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voted against the proposal • Will need to extend for the future which will take up more green space • Parking is going to take up more space – understands there are only 24 spaces • It's in the wrong place •
Sarah Hamilton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is a Town Borough & County Councillor • Held the first board meeting and set up the governance for the project • At that time did not know how much development was coming to the town • Not enough green space to meet the needs of future generation • The field is not that big • How much would it cost to re-visit the location? • Putlands was looked at – would cost £1m to upgrade • Would be a simple solution • Petition has larger nos than those who have spoken in favour • Sensitive site • Would like to see a vote on the site
Eileen Wilson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair of the working party • Has been liaising with the public • Works with the youth council – concerns that there is not a safe space for young people to go • Need a community centre • Been having open discussion with residents over the summer • Public engagement has gathered speed • No alternative site – best of all options
Carol Williams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some things are not well documented – but youth groups have given feedback and it will be them that use it • Nowhere to hold parties • Nowhere young people can meet • Will provide both an inside and outside space •

COUNCILLORS	COMMENTS
David Henshaw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of KALC who meet in many different parishes with halls in residential areas – never a problem • Should have the biggest car park possible • Should move the tennis courts • Will be gaining a country park when the new developments are built • Need to think to the future • Have carried out surveys and questionnaires • With sound proofing should be a welcome addition to Paddock Wood
Elizabeth Thomas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Started discussing community centre many years ago • Have spent £59k to date • Will be gaining additional green space with new developments – total of 75 acres • Is at the Memorial as it needs easy access to allow people to walk • Needs to be on land owned by the Town Council • Putlands site was explore • Need a community centre to add “soul”
Rodney Atkins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why should it be built on the Memorial Field? • Town Council has had a communication plan in place for 18 months but has not received as many responses as the petition did • Architect has described building as a steel frame with timber cladding (casket) • Should not be built on the field
Derek Boyle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paddock Wood has been looking for a community centre for 41 years • First big project the TC was asked for was a swimming pool – this would result in the council tax doubling • The section 106 money is tied to the field and will be lost • Scouts Guides and youth groups are being held back due to lack of space • There is no other suitable space • Has been part of the local plan since 2006 • Suggested that if residents felt strongly they should stand for election in 2019
David Sargison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dismayed that the opportunity which has been presented may be lost • Can be hard to let things go • Building for future generations • Will benefit generations to come • Not originally site of choice – but it is the only option • Cannot think of a better way to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War

Mr White, Project Manager, responded to the queries raised as follows:

- The Council is committed to paying the architect up to RiBA stage 3
- If an alternative site was to be considered, then most of the costs to date would be lost as surveys etc would need to be re-done
- In RiBA stage 1 50 parking spaces were allowed for
- In RiBA stage2 that was increased to 65.
- Further parking could be allowed for
- Section 106 agreements can be changed but need agreement from the contractors

The chairman invited any additional comments from members

COUNCILLOR	COMMENTS
Ray Moon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Neighbourhood Plan identified the Memorial Field and the consultation events had been widely advertised • The Town Council must get it right and he will argue for additional parking
Sarah Hamilton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During negotiations with the developers the council was told it had to identify a site • Pushed for the wording to be flexible and refer to community facilities • No happy to have it on the Memorial Field
Eileen Wilson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will increase the use of the green space • Sees it as a “green heart” in the centre of Paddock Wood
Elizabeth Thomas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking still needs addressing • Residents of Ringden Avenue are concerned about noise and parking • Want the best the council can get

The Chairman summed up by saying that the council had listened to everyone but as far as she was concerned there was no change.

Cllr Atkins then proposed, Cllr Steward seconded:

That the council does not build on the Memorial Field

(A recorded vote was requested)

Voting: 3 in favour (Cllrs Atkins, Hamilton, Steward) 9 against (Cllrs Moon, Flashman, Wilson, Mrs Flashman, Williams, Henshaw, Thomas, Boyle, Sargison)

The motion was therefore LOST.

Cllr Hamilton proposed, Cllr Atkins seconded:

In view of the petition the council finds a way to allow the public to have a vote in some way or another

(A recorded vote was requested)

Voting: 3 in favour (Cllrs Atkins, Hamilton, Steward) 9 against (Cllrs Moon, Flashman, Wilson, Mrs Flashman, Williams, Henshaw, Thomas, Boyle, Sargison)
The motion was therefore LOST.

Before moving on Cllr Atkins asked if there was enough support from the public for a Parish Poll. The clerk asked for time to be able to check procedure.

Mr Benson, Returning Officer, for Tunbridge Wells, advised that the costs of a parish poll would need to be born by the Town Council & that the result was not binding. There had to be a question agreed which had a straight "Yes" or "No" answer.

Cllr Atkins proposed that the question for the Parish Poll should be:
Should a community centre be built on the Memorial Field?

Twenty-three of the residents present agreed with the proposal.

C61 FINANCE

- (a) The payments list voucher nos: 295 – 349 was AGREED
- (b) The receipts list voucher nos: 186 – 209 was NOTED
- (c) The request from 5th Paddock Wood Guides for a grant of £400 was discussed.

Cllr Thomas proposed, Cllr Hamilton seconded:

That the grant should be approved

CARRIED 11 in favour 1 abstention

C62 CALL FOR SITES

Member of the town council and the neighbourhood plan group met with borough planners on the 23rd August 2018. A report will be given at the next meeting.

C63 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The group had met with the borough planners and the minutes of the meeting were awaited.

C64 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

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

- (a) Chairman's meeting – next meeting would take place on 18th September 2018
- (b) Paddock Wood Business Association – no meeting
- (c) Bereko Committee – a letter will be sent on behalf of the town council and some copies of the heritage calendar will be sent as a gift.
- (d) KALC – meeting was hosted by Paddock Wood Town Council in the Day Centre and the minutes would be circulated when they were available. Cllr Boyle reported that there were concerns about the CAV & the £52 green waste charge.
- (e) Medway Valley Line – no meeting
- (f) Hop Pickers – the group had been invited to the Horsemonden Nostalgia Day on Saturday 6th October 2018.
- (g) Council Web site – nothing to report
- (h) Youth Council – Three new members had joined this term and 1 new one last year. The Young Person of the Year had been launched and would be awarded at the Paddock wood Lights Up on the 27th November 2018.
- (i) Councillor's surgery – the next councillors' surgery would take place on 27th October 2018. The date should coincide with the next Newsletter. Cllr Hamilton offered to attend.

- (j) Newsletter – the next edition is due out in October. All members were asked if they could contribute.

C65 QUESTIONS FOR/FROM THE BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Boyle asked if there was any update on his previous request

Considering the issues with Northamptonshire CC what plans does TWBC have in the event of a no deal Brexit?

There are issues surrounding the costs of the new waste contract which is not going to make money – is the borough sure its financial modelling is sound?

Cllr Atkins had forwarded the questions below to the borough councillors prior to the meeting:

- (a) If the frequency of the CAV to Paddock wood will be reduced or varied in any way
- (b) There will be the restriction of preventing the collecting garden waste in the future
- (c) If there will be any reduction in what is allowed to be collected at the CAV
- (d) What our borough Cllrs are doing now (dii) and what will they do in the future - to ensure that there is no restrictions of waste collected or change of frequency of the CAV for residents in Paddock Wood?

Borough Cllr Hamilton suggested that an FOI request would be most way to get the information.

Mr Benson from TWBC advised that CC are responsible for Adult Social Care which was causing financial problems.

With regards to the waste contract the council leader had given a commitment that the civic amenity vehicle will continue. However, there will be restrictions on green waste.

There will also be a weekly glass collection and weekly food waste collection. Recycling was up from 50% to 55% and fly tipping had halved.

Although the contract was the same as that with Tonbridge & Malling Council they had elected to have lower fees for green waste, but their council tax is higher.

BC Stewart reported that she had argued against any reduction in the CAV.

Cllr Atkins had previously submitted the following questions to the County Councillor about LOBOs?

- (a) Why isn't Kent who has many of its LOBOs with Barclays not joining the 14 LAs to also sue Barclay's
- (b) How much of KCC council tax is used to service the interest payments
- (c) Have any of the lenders of LOBOs exercised their option to change the interest rate? (bii) if so from what rate to what rate with dates of change?

CC Hamilton advised that these were technical questions which she was not qualified to answer and advised Cllr Atkins to contact the county council directly.

Cllr Boyle asked about an increase in police officers in the town. Currently there were problems with speeding, shoplifting and anti-social behaviour.

CC Hamilton advised that the police were liaising with the Transport Police as they were responsible for the car parks. She was aware there was a petition about speeding and was looking to see what mitigation could be carried out.

C66 ANY OTHER INFORMATION

The council should consider the upcoming boundary review at a future meeting.

C67 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday 15th October 2018.

Meeting closed at 9.50

CHAIRMAN