

PADDOCKWOOD TOWN COUNCIL
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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF PADDOCK WOOD TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2019, at the DAY CENTRE COMMERCIAL ROAD, At 7.45 p.m.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs N Reay, Town Clerk
 Borough Cllr A Gooda
 11 residents

APOLOGIES: Cllr E Wilson, Borough Councillor C. Stewart

QUESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS

The chairman asked in the first instance if anyone had any questions other than those related to the community centre.

The following issues were raised:

Parking in Ringden Avenue – commuters were causing ongoing parking problems. Residents had raised a petition in the past, but it had been ignored by the borough council. The chairman advised that there would need to be support from local residents for a parking permit scheme and suggested that they contacted the clerk who would give advice.

It was also noted that in the minutes it stated that Mr White had visited residents. It was pointed out by a resident that he only visited one resident.

The town council was asked to supply the valuation which was carried out on the Day Centre. The clerk would supply a written answer following the meeting.

Mrs Morris, from the Friends of Memorial Field, (FMF) had forwarded a number of questions prior to the meeting and the chairman read the questions and answers, which are appended to the minutes of the meeting. She went on to say that the answers to the questions could be discussed at the forthcoming meeting between town council members and representatives of FMF.

Some Town Council members expressed concern that only Board members were meeting with FMF. It had not been agreed at the previous meeting and was outside the board's powers. Others were of the opinion that a small controlled meeting should be held in the first instance. It was agreed this would be further discussed at agenda item C117.

Residents also raised the following:

Lack of transparency

Who's telling the truth

Inaccurate story in the Kent Messenger

Was the whole building marked out on the field? The footprint of the building was marked out.

As the time for questions was exceeded the chairman tried to move the meeting on, and following a disruption proposed that the meeting be suspended until order was restored. Cllr Turk seconded the motion.

CARRIED 8 in favour

The meeting resumed after 10 minutes.

QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLORS

BC Hamilton was asked who the borough ward members for the Persimmon site were following on from the recent site meeting. She advised that she was uncertain which ward the site would fall into when complete. The clerk advised that at present the ward boundary was at the roundabout half way along Green Lane and the members for the west ward were Cllrs Stewart & Thomas.

BC Hamilton was asked if she had received a response regarding the S106 funding from the Head of Planning, which she had referred to at the previous meeting. She advised that she had not heard back but did not know why the Memorial Field had been identified in the S106 agreements. Is trying to get clarification.

CC Hamilton gave an update

- Parking is a borough & county issue – measures can be put in place, but local residents have to agree
- Currently waiting for the rail franchise to be agreed (probably June)
- Those who run the station car parks want stakeholders to look at parking for the whole of PW
- Permits do work but don't guarantee spaces
The following were discussed during a site visit with Highways Officers.
 - i) Gates are to be installed at the entrance to the town on Badsell Rod, Maidstone Road & Church Road. One cannot be installed on Gedges Hill due to sight lines
 - ii) Flooding at Church Road & Nursery Road - historically the gullies are maintained regularly by KCC but now only on a reactive basis. Need to report blockages
 - iii) Looked at island & pond outside the Hop Pocket Site – don't know who owns it but they need tidying up
 - iv) Looked at condition of Commercial Road

Questions were also asked about:

- Street lighting – there are still some not working
- Was there a schedule for repairing paths?
- Views on the reduction of hours at Paddock Wood Library – was a very positive consultation which will reveal what is required. Had questioned the tier Paddock Wood had been put in.

C112

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Hamilton declared an interest in item C117 as she is a borough councillor and does not share the same views as the borough council.

C113

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- (a) The minutes of the meeting were Approved with the following amendments:
- C102 (c) should read "resident" not "residents"
 - Questions for Borough Councillors, p113 – should read "not conditional"
 - Mr Benson's final comments on p116 should be more detailed. Cllr Atkins, who had recorded the meeting, agreed to send the information to the clerk.

Mr Bensons comments were as follows:

- £300k is flexible as it only mentions community facility, rather than specifying the Memorial Field. (Note: this is a reference to the s106 funding from the Church Farm site)
- £700 k specifically mentions the Memorial Site (Note this is a reference to the S106 funding from Mascalls Farm & Mascalls Court Farm sites)
- In order to retain the funding, it would require the developer to confirm they were willing to allow it to be spent on another community facility
- Another facility would need to be costed and deliverable within the timeframe or it is automatically lost.

- (b) The minutes of the Estates Committee meeting held on 11th February 2019 were NOTED.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- (a) It is understood that the Police Houses are going on the market in the summer. A reminder has been sent to TWBC regarding the letter sent last year regarding the possibility of using the site for affordable housing.
- (b) The Town Council Chairman has submitted comments to KCC regarding the proposed changes to the library timings.
- (c) A copy of the notes from Greg Clarke MP were attached for members information.
- (d) The liaison meeting with Persimmon took place on 14th February and a copy of the minutes and the clerk's notes were circulated to members.
- (e) Meeting with Friends of Memorial Field – initially the 14th February was arranged. However, representatives from FMF were unable to attend and a new date of 27th February had been arranged. This matter was further discussed under C117.
- Southern Water had met with the Planning & Environment Committee at their last meeting. and the following points had been noted:
- Persimmon had been asked to leave a space along the hedgerow on the western side of their site for a "round the town" sewer
 - Plans to build holding tanks under Ringden Avenue & Goldings had been withdrawn.

NORTH EAST QUADRANT

The NW Quadrant group consisted of the following parishes:
Brenchley & Matfield, Capel, Horsemorden, Paddock Wood & Pembury

A copy of the notes from the meeting had been circulated. The idea was to employ a consultant who could put in a representation to the borough council on behalf of all parishes. This would include common issues as well as individual parishes concerns.

Members discussed the importance of working with other parishes. Each parish will have their own needs and the representation must not be to the detriment of one parish over another. Should the council consider employing its own consultant to comment solely on Paddock Wood issues?

The Town Council has budgeted £5,000 for this proposal.

Cllr Flashman has proposed, Cllr Williams seconded:

To employ a consultant to work with Councils in the NE Quadrant to respond to TWBC's draft local plan. This will involve the development of a joint response to certain issues and also individual responses from each parish/town.

CARRIED 11 in favour, 1 abstention

C116

BREXIT

Members discussed whether the UK's departure for the European Union on 29th March 2019 would have any impact on Town Council business. It was agreed that the biggest likely impact is on traffic congestion. If the M20 becomes grid locked, then that could have a knock-on effect to the surrounding road. Staff may have to work from home.

The clerk was asked to see what contingency plans KCC may have?

The only other issue was possibly the supply of spares for some of the play equipment which come from Europe.

C117

(a)

PADDOCK WOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE

A discussion was had as to which members should meet with the Friends of Memorial Field on the 27th February 2019. It had been assumed that the board members & chair of the working group would meet with representatives of FMF. However, it was pointed out that this was an erroneous assumption as there had been no discussion by the council as to who should attend. The follow points were raised during the discussion:

- The board could in the first instance discuss with FMF the format of future meetings and report back as a group
- Could discuss how they could contribute to the working party
- A small group could "feel a way forward"
- Should be an open meeting, people have the right to take part
- Concern if numbers were limited
- Can get a proper agenda with a smaller meeting, want to move things forward
- There had been no discussion as to who should attend, not within the board's powers
- The Board is the group which oversees things
- The meeting will be minuted and the board could come back with proposals
- Can move onto next stage whilst having discussions – have to pay architect up to end of stage 3
- Nothing to be gained going over old ground – want to move forward
- The assumption made by the project board suggests a lack of transparency
- The meeting cannot make any decisions – would need to refer back to full council
- Board members have the most recent information
- All councillors should be up to date

The chairman summed up asking – should the board and chairman of the working party meet with the FMF or should it be wider.

Cllr Hamilton proposed, Cllr Steward seconded:

The meeting with the Friends of Memorial Field should be open to all

Voting – In favour Cllrs Atkins, Hamilton Steward Thomas

Against Cllrs M Flashman, J Flashman, Henshaw, Moon,
Sargison, Turk, Williams

Abstain Cllr Boyle

The motion was therefore LOST

Cllr Williams proposed, Cllr Thomas Seconded:

That a group of 4 councillors should meet with 4 representatives from FMF

Cllr Hamilton proposed the following amendment, Cllr Turk seconded the amendment:

That there should be 7 members of PWTC to meet 7 members of FMF.

In favour Cllrs Atkins, Boyle, Hamilton, Henshaw, Moon, Steward, Turk, Williams

Against: Cllrs J Flashman, Sargison

Abstain: Cllrs Thomas, M Flashman

The amendment was therefore CARRIED.

- (b) A request had been received from Friends of Memorial Field for Mr J Thompson & Mrs W Morris to join the community centre working party.
Members of the Community Centre Board would like to defer a decision on membership of the CC Working Party until the Friends of Memorial Field have met with the council.
One member of the working party has resigned
Members of FMF were happy to wait until after the meeting on the 27th February
- (c) The clerk had provided an update on the current position of the project.
- (d) Cllr Atkins raised the following issues:
The intentions with regards to the Council offices was not clear – the project board had recommended that the council re-consider locating the offices in the new community centre but the council had not yet made a decision.
Quoted a recent statement from James Brokenshire MP – regarding open spaces Tennis court improvements – were the costs included in the cost for the Community Centre. They were no included, it was intended to seek grant funding.
There appeared to be a difference in costs – would seek clarification

C118

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

There will be a meeting with Tunbridge Wells Borough Council on 14th March 2019 with representatives from PWTC, Neighbourhood Plan group (5 in total) and Capel Parish Council. Cllrs M Flashman, Henshaw & Williams would attend on behalf of the Town Council.

C119

FINANCE

(a)

Cllr Hamilton proposed, Cllr Steward seconded:

The payments list voucher nos: 739 – 812 be APPROVED
CARRIED

(b)

The receipts list 320 – 327 was NOTED.

(c)

The following grant requests for 2018/2019 were considered:

The clerk advised there was £450 left in the grant fund for this financial year.

Cllr Thomas proposed, Cllr Flashman seconded:

That both groups be awarded £225

i) 11th Tonbridge Scout Group

ii) Paddock Wood Football Club

CARRIED unanimously

Both groups would be asked to re-apply in the next financial year. They would also be advised that both Borough and County councillors have member grants.

For 2019/2020

Cllr M Flashman proposed, Cllr Williams seconded:
That £500 should be awarded for each event.

- iii) Paddock Wood & District Lions – Rockin’ in the park
- iv) Paddock Wood & District Lions – Carnival

CARRIED unanimously

C120

KENT HIGHWAYS

The County Councillor had advised that gates are scheduled to be installed at the entrances to the town.

These will be white PVC and the town council was asked if it would take ownership of the gates.

Cllr M Flashman proposed, Cllr Boyle seconded:
That the town council should take ownership of the gates

CARRIED 10 in favour, 2 abstentions

C121

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

- (a) Chairman’s meeting – no meeting
- (b) Paddock Wood Business Association – looking to relaunch
- (c) Bereko Committee – Soup lunch at the Church on Friday 22nd February & a quiz planned for the summer.
- (d) KALC – no update
- (e) Medway Valley Line – no update
- (f) Hop Pickers -
- (g) Youth Council – updating terms of reference & had two new members
- (i) Councillor’s Surgery – 9th March The event will be to highlight the forthcoming elections and have information for those interested in becoming town councillors. Cllrs Boyle, Steward, Henshaw, M. Flashman & Williams would attend
- (j) Newsletter – a copy was distributed to all members
- (k) Training events – Planning Training - Cllr Williams & Deputy Clerk 15th March 2019

C122

ANY OTHER INFORMATION

The Annual Town meeting will take place on 3rd April 2019. Community grant groups would be invited to speak. The Clerk would see if the school hall was available.

The Public Transport Forum – the railway franchise would be discussed on 23rd June 2019

The pond on the corner of Hop Pocket Lane belonged to Condor who manage property for Network Rail. The Clerk would try to make contact.

C123

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday 18th March 2019.

The meeting closed at 10.22

CHAIRMAN