

PADDOCKWOOD TOWN COUNCIL
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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF PADDOCK WOOD TOWN COUNCIL HELD VIRTUALLY VIA
 ZOOM ON Monday 17th August 2020, AT 7.30 PM**

PRESENT: Cllr M Flashman, in the Chair
 Cllr R. Atkins, (TWBC) S. Barrett, D. Boyle, S. Hamilton, (KCC & TWBC)
 D Kent, R. Moon, M Ridger, D. Sargison, R. Turk, C. Williams

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs N Reay, Town Clerk
 Borough Cllr M Bailey
 15 residents

APOLOGY: Cllr E. Thomas,

There were no questions from members of the public.

There were no questions for or reports from the Borough and County Councillors.

C36 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C37 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the meetings held on

- a) 20th July 2020 were APPROVED.
- b) 28th July 2020 were APPROVED
- c) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning & Environment Committee held on 20th July 2020 & 3rd August 2020 were NOTED.
- d) The minutes of the PPP Committee meeting held on the 10th August 2020 were NOTED.

C38 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

- a) KCC had previously advised that Commercial Road, Paddock Wood is one of the locations which is included within the Government's Tranche 1 funding for a temporary one-way system to assist with social distancing due to the Covid 19 pandemic. However, since that advice had been received the clerk had been notified of a change of plan. The new scheme will prohibit motor vehicles (except for access, buses, and taxis) on the northernmost section of Commercial Road (from the car parks to the War Memorial) and allow full movement/access for pedestrians and cyclists. This will be installed with a temporary order and will be monitored for 6-18 months. The scheme will have easily amendable features such as posts and planters, meaning they can be removed or changed quickly if necessary.

Members expressed concerns about the proposed plans and made the following points:

- Will there be access to the disabled bays?
- Who will monitor the scheme?
- No consultation with the town council or the business association prior to the scheme put forward
- The only access from the north side of the town to the supermarket and station will be via Warrington Road – which is unsuitable

- There does not appear to be a problem with social distancing in Commercial Road
- Will there still be access to the car park behind the Chinese restaurant.
- It will not increase the pedestrian area, as buses and cycles will use the road

Cllr Williams proposed, Cllr Boyle seconded:

That the Town Council writes to KCC rejecting the scheme. The Town Council would be willing to discuss with officers what would be appropriate.

CARRIED 10 in favour 1 abstention

C39 CONSULTATION ON CODE OF CONDUCT

At the meeting held on the 20th July it was agreed that Cllrs Williams, Flashman & Moon would draw up a draft response for approval by members.

Members had received a copy of the proposed response.

Cllr Hamilton made a statement setting out her concerns regarding the council's response.

Members considered the draft document and raised the following points:

- A forced apology is bullying
- There were concerns that the section on social media was not strong enough and there should be clear guidance about the lines of demarcation when using social media.

Cllr Moon proposed, Cllr Barrett seconded

There should be a separate code for the use of Social Media

CARRIED 6 in favour, 5 against

- The document The Voice of the Councillor, [2017] Local Government Research Unit, De Montfort University should be referenced in the response.

Cllr Flashman proposed, Cllr Williams seconded:

The draft document, with the above amendments, should be submitted to the LGA.

CARRIED 8 in favour (Cllrs Williams, Ridger, Flashman, Barrett, Sargison, Moon, Boyle. Turk) 1 against (Cllr Hamilton). 2 Abstentions (Cllrs Atkins, Kent)

C40 COMMUNITY CENTRE

- a) Cllr Hamilton had put forward the following motion, Cllr Atkins had seconded the motion:

Paddock Wood Town Council reviews the site options for the Community Centre, with the people of Paddock Wood and as part of the Neighbour Plan, with a particular focus on the existing Putlands site as shown for community use in its deeds.

Members discussed the motion and considered the following points:

- The town is growing and needs the sports centre
- Additional sports facilities are required
- The town council appointed a contractor for the pre-construction phase of the project on the 28th July 2020
- Putlands has not yet re-opened following the Covid 19 shutdown
- The Putlands building is not suitable for conversion and it would require demolition and re-building.

- Reference has been made to the parish poll which was held two years ago (at total of 13% of the population took part 6.9% against the location at Memorial Field 6.1% in favour) – many young people were unable to vote in the parish poll but are in favour of the community centre at the Memorial Field
- Both Putlands and a new community centre are required
- There is nothing for the young people in Paddock Wood
- An outline plan had been drawn up by Alan Legg, Urban Designer, at TWBC some time ago which show that Putlands could be enlarged (Clerk's note – the plan is dated 2015)
- This plan had been reviewed by the Town Council in 2019, at the request of the Friends of Memorial Field

The clerk advised that the phased re-opening of sports centres was being considered by Tunbridge Wells Council at a meeting on Monday 24th September 2020.

The motion was put to the vote.

Voting: 3 in favour, (Cllrs Atkins, Hamilton & Kent.) 8 against (Cllrs Williams, Ridger, Flashman, Barrett, Sargison, Moon, Boyle & Turk)

The motion was therefore LOST

- b) The section 106 funding which was being held by TWBC for the Mascalls Court Farm site has been released to the Town Council. The sum of £384,750.00 plus a further £9709.78 for indexation was transferred to the council's account last week.
- c) The minutes of the meeting held on 1st & 16th July 2020 were attached for members information.
- d) A press release announcing Baxalls as the successful contractor for the Pre contract stage for the community centre was issued on 7th August 2020.

C41 SOUTHERN WATER

- a) Cllr Williams reported that a meeting – hosted by Greg Clark MP – had been held with representatives from Southern Water. Representatives from the Town & Borough Council had also been present.

Southern Water outlined the latest plan which required a pumping station to be built at Foal Hurst Wood, or in the buffer zone between the wood and the new development site. The pipe would then be installed along the Badsell Road, Mascalls Court Road, through the new Persimmon site before linking in with the existing pumping station in Church Road. There will be no separate sewer system for the additional houses. Neither will there be a round town sewer as previously reported. No cameras studies of the existing system have been carried out, and SW have admitted that their measurements are based on computer modelling. They have no accurate information on the existing system.

Southern Water are looking to see if there is an alternative to siting the pumping station in Foal Hurst Wood.

Some concern was expressed on the Statement from the Chairman of the Planning & Environment Committee on the Council's website regarding Southern Water. However, it was felt that this was an accurate reflection of the situation, and residents had not been misinformed.

- b) Foal Hurst Wood – a letter has been sent to Southern Water expressing members concern about using the Foal Hurst Wood Car Park for a pumping station. Alternative locations have been put forward, but members are asked to discuss whether they wished to refuse permission for the car park to be used. Southern Water are a statutory utility company. If permission is refused, they will have to demonstrate they have considered alternative locations before they can use council land. TWBC will have to give planning permission for the pumping station to be built and will have to de-declare the Local Nature Reserve. (whether this is for the whole LNR or just the area required is unclear)

Cllr Williams proposed, Cllr Boyle seconded:

That the Town Council should refuse permission for Southern Water to build a pumping station on Foal Hurst Wood Car Park.

CARRIED 10 in favour, 1 abstention

C42 CARNIVAL & FAIR

Paddock Wood and District Lions have confirmed they will not be holding the carnival this autumn as they had hoped.

However, Shaws Fun Fair are seeking permission to bring a small fair to St Andrews Field on the 10th, 11th 12th September 2020. They would arrive on the 6th September and depart on the 13th September.

They would be responsible for following the government's Covid 19 guidelines.

Members considered the proposal.

Cllr Boyle proposed, Cllr Moon seconded:

That the town council should refuse permission for the fair to operate at St Andrews Field in September, due to the continued risks of Covid 19.

CARRIED 9 in favour 1 against, 1 abstention

C43 FINANCE

- a) Cllr Sargison proposed, Cllr Williams seconded:

That the payments list vouchers nos:197 – 248 should be APPROVED.

CARRIED 10 in favour 1 abstention

- b) The receipts list 82 – 111 was NOTED.

- c) Grants – the town council made a grant of £500 to Paddock Wood and District Lions towards the costs of the Carnival. Now that it is no longer going ahead members are asked to consider whether the grant should be returned or retained by Lions. The Lions have advised that they are setting up of a project to determine the future direction of the club, with an emphasis on increasing membership thus enabling them to carry out a wider spread of community support activities post pandemic. They have asked if they may use £250 of the grant to pay for an improved website and publicity material.

Cllr Flashman proposed, Cllr Hamilton seconded:

That the PW Lions should keep the £500 for the 2021 Carnival and submit an additional request for £250 for improved website and publicity material

CARRIED unanimously

C44 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- a) The NP group had met with the new consultant to discuss the re-launch of the project, which would take place in September. A questionnaire will be circulated using Survey Monkey as well as paper copies. There is a vacancy on the steering group and a request for applicants had been circulated.

A representative from IceFox Developments would be attending the next Steering Group meeting to outline his proposals for development in the Town Centre.

- b) The group have been awarded a £10k grant from Locality, and two technical packages. One on master planning for the town centre and the other on design codes.

C45 WEBSITE

The new website was now live and would be advertised on social media. A re-direct would be placed on the old website until it was closed.

The council asked for their thanks be passed onto Teresa Maxwell for her work on the new website.

C46 INFORMATION UPDATE

- a) Paddock Wood Community Advice Centre have written to notify the council that they have been given notice to leave their current premises. They are currently seeking an alternative.
- b) PCSO Ed Avann had notified the office that he will be leaving to become a police officer shortly. He will be replaced by PCSO Sam Bolton.

C47 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

- (a) Chairman's meeting - the group had been meeting fortnightly during the Covid 19 pandemic. A formal chairman's meeting would be held on the 18th August 2020 when Stephen Baughan, Head of Planning at TWBC would be talking about the changes in government policy on planning.
- (b) Paddock Wood Business Association – no meeting
- (c) Bereko Committee - no meeting
- (d) KALC – no meeting
- (e) Medway Valley Line – it appeared to be unlikely that funding will be contributed by developers to improvements to the line
- (f) Hop Pickers Line – no meeting
- (g) Youth Council – had met for a picnic at Putlands. Plans had been made for the Young Person of the Year Award. The award this year would focus on young people who had supported others during the Covid 19 pandemic.
- (h) Putlands Leisure Centre Liaison meeting – no meeting
- (i) Persimmon Liaison Meeting – no meeting
- (j) Strategic sites meeting – the master planning consultant should be recruited by the end of the month and it is hoped the work will be completed before Christmas.

C48 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday 21st September 2020

The meeting closed at 9.43 pm