

The Minutes of Upchurch Parish Council Meeting held in Upchurch Village Hall on Thursday 11th February 2019 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr Tyrone Ripley (Chairman), Cllr John Arnold (Vice Chairman), Cllr Alan Horton, Cllr Janet Marshall and Cllr Peter Masson;
and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Also present were Ward Member John Wright, PCSO John Cork, PCSO Ryan Atherton and eight members of the public.

167. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Pam Denny (unwell); Cllr Lewin (at another meeting); Cllr Neil Sheppard (holiday) and Cllr Gary Rosewell (speaking at Swale Planning Committee meeting): apologies accepted.

Apologies had also been accepted from County Councillor Mike Whiting; apology noted.

168. Declarations of interest

Cllr Ripley declared an interest in item 179.

169. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3rd January 2019

The minutes of the Street Light Consultation Meeting held on 3rd January were amended to read item 1 paragraph 2 *Cllr Arnold reported there is a need to replace the street lights in the Parish and this can be financed by increasing the Precept and by using that to make payments on a loan.* Paragraph 4 to read *Cllr Horton said the lighting has a five-year guarantee so there should be no maintenance.*

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd January were amended to read item 159 *Cllr Horton reported that dog walker have said there is a need to have a dispenser...*

Cllr Horton **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes as amended as a true record of the meetings;
SECONDED by Cllr Arnold: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.** Cllr Ripley duly signed the minutes as a true record of the meetings.

Public Time

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Time

A resident asked for an update on the mobile home stationed at White Gate Stables, Wallbridge Lane.

Cllr Ripley said there was nothing to report and that he will follow it up.

A resident raised concern that no action had been taken following Swale Borough Council informing the owner of the Fish Shop to lower his lights.

Cllr Ripley said the resident must contact Swale Borough Council again to take action.

SBCllr Wright reported he had attended the Air Quality Strategy Meeting at Newington to consider Swale's new strategy on air quality. Swale is trying to create a clean air corridor on the A2 and this needs to be adopted by DEFRA. The strategy did not look at the pollution from homes and industry which accounts for 40% of the pollution in the borough.

SBCllr Wright said he has also been involved with Kent Highways issues and the Wallbridge Lane tree cutting issue. Workmen have been clearing the footpath on the A2.

The Spade Lane application has been heard at the High Court. The judge decided the procedure was correct and the Appeal regarding the inspector's decision failed so the decision stands.

Swale Borough Council is considering its budget and the proportion it charges residents. Over 50% of Council Tax goes to Kent County Council, Swale collects this and also the amount for Kent Fire and Rescue Service, the Police and the Parish Precept and the Lower Medway Internal Drainage Board.

Cllr Ripley thanked SBCllr Wright for attending and for his report.

A resident raised concern about dog fouling in the Recreation Ground.

Cllr Ripley reported the Parish Council has contacted Swale Borough Council and the Community Warden. The Parish Council is getting Tikspac dispensers in the village and the Community Warden has suggested two sites.

Cllr Horton said Swale Borough Council is fining dog owners the maximum permitted by law. Using paint to highlight the problem has been effective.

ACTION: Clerk to ascertain how many people have been fined.

PCSO John Cork reported that it has been quiet in the village. There have been reports of a moped in Horsham Lane and as it is not stolen Swale Borough Council have to deal with it.

There was an attempted break-in to a house in Drakes Close, the Police attended and spoke to witnesses. There have been no issues with youths in the Paddock.

Cllr Ripley thanked PCSO Cork and PCSO Atherton for attending the meeting.

170. Correspondence

KCCllr Whiting had sent the following written report:

I understand Highways have now scheduled work to ensure the trees in Wallbridge Lane are cut back from the road, and that the club is organizing for their trees to be trimmed.

I have forwarded your Clerk the first of the weekly pothole report produced by Highways at my request. The new blitz has started and the report includes footpaths this year. The work is being carried out by a number of small contractors and highways has employed more inspectors and drainage engineers to help ensure works are done to a good standard and that drains can be better maintained.

On the same topic, KCC is looking for parishes to nominate a Parish Councillor to monitor and report pot-holes and blocked drains in the parish. They would be a single point of contact for highways. This is a new initiative and if the Parish Council would like to follow it up then please let me know.

I am aware a number of road schemes, including slowing traffic, horse signs etc, have not moved forward. I am arranging to meet with Cllr Horton to bottom these out and plan a way forward.

Finally, I have agreed a small grant from my Member fund for the Upchurch Colts.

Cllr Horton said Cllr Arnold is the contact for reporting pot holes. Cllr Horton is meeting KCCllr Whiting on 13 February.

171. Planning

There was nothing to report.

172. Allotments

Cllr Ripley reported the tenancy agreements are being sent back with payment. Cllr Ripley and Cllr Masson had met with potential tenants and now have two more plot holders.

Cllr Ripley said there is an area in the allotments which needs to be cleared to enable access to plots.

ACTION: Cllr Ripley to obtain quotations for the work to be agreed with the Clerk.

173. Paddock and Recreation Ground

Cllr Ripley said the new litter bin will be installed in the Paddock when the weather is better.
Cllr Horton said that following the point raised during last month's Public Time, he looked at the bush at the side of the car park to see if the gate could be used by pedestrians if the bush is cut back. Cllr Horton said that whilst the Council acknowledges the resident's suggestion the matter will not proceed.

Cllr Horton said a local contractor stepped in to cut the grass when the appointed contractor withdrew and has done a good job and has carried out extra cuts when requested. The company has given a good service.

Cllr Masson **PROPOSED** to accept the quotation of £5340 from Vincent James Landscapes for grounds maintenance; **SECONDED** by Cllr Horton: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

174. Burial Ground and Churchyard

Cllr Ripley said the information is being gathered to apply to consecrate the rose beds.

Cllr Horton **PROPOSED** to get as much ground consecrated as possible to future proof the Burial Ground; **SECONDED** by Cllr Marshall: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr Marshall reported that she is still working on the latest survey and will make another site visit. Progress is being made on the Burial Ground Policy and Burial fees.

Cllr Ripley thanked Cllr Marshall for her sterling work.

175. Church Clock

Cllr Horton reported a software upgrade was needed because of the change in the National Radio Signal and that he has carried out the updates, the computer will be started tomorrow.

Cllr Horton said a stone mason had been contacted for the centenary memorial plaque for the other side of the church door, but he was unable to give a quotation as he does not work in limestone. Another stone mason has been found who will be able to replicate the original plaque.

176. Highways and Street Lighting

i) To receive an update

Cllr Arnold said a specification has been drawn up for the street light tender and has been circulated. Dates need to be agreed.

Cllr Horton said permission has to be obtained to take out a loan.

Cllr Arnold said the project will still go out to tender and a start date is needed. The contract could be awarded in April.

Cllr Horton said it will be best to do the work in one go but if the Council cannot borrow the money it will have to be done in stages, there needs to be a price for delivery now and a price for staged delivery. If the work is to commence in August or September it will give the Council time to get quotations to be able to seek permission to apply for a loan. If this tenders can be received by the March meeting, the progress can be reported to residents at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Cllr Arnold said it would be difficult to get a price for the work to be carried out over five years.

ACTION 1: Cllr Arnold and the Clerk to send out tenders.

ACTION 2: Clerk to looking into Fraud and Whistleblowing.

Cllr Horton informed Members that he has offered Newington Parish Council the use of the Parish Council's Speed Watch equipment.

ii) To consider a Parish Highways Improvement Plan

Cllr Horton said there has been a change in the nature of traffic going through the village, many drivers cut through to the Lower Rainham Road especially when the A2 is blocked. There are problems in Canterbury Lane and Wallbridge Lane, the Parish Council has agreed to install roundels. Cllr Horton said he has paid for a traffic survey in Horsham Lane with his Swale Members Grant Fund and Kent Highways are currently looking for a site to install it. A plan is needed for Upchurch and KCCllr Whiting has suggested there could be a Parish Highways Improvement Plan and some parishes have had consultants carry this out for them.

177. Footpaths

There was nothing to report.

178. Environment

i) Village Spring Clean

Cllr Ripley said this was cancelled last year due to inclement weather and the national spring clean is running from 22 March 2019 to 23 April 2019. The initiative has been successful in previous years.

Cllr Horton said all the paperwork has been completed and just needs the dates. Cllr Horton said he will liaise with Vikki Sedgwick at Swale Borough Council and will request MP Gordon Henderson's Litter Angels.

ACTION: Cllr Ripley and Cllr Horton to progress.

ii) Upchurch in Bloom

Cllr Ripley said an application has been made for a grant from the Swale Environment Fund, closing date 28 February towards the cost of a planter.

iii) To consider quotation for planter

It was agreed to consider this when the decision of the application to the Swale Environment Fund is known.

iv) Any other matter

Cllr Ripley **PROPOSED** to purchase spray paint for the Community Warden's anti-dog fouling campaign; **SECONDED** by Cllr Horton: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**

179. Finance

Chq no	Payee	Reason	Amount
3755	Mr C Hansford	Village Caretaker	£82.22
3756	Upchurch Village Hall	Hall and Committee Room hire	£41.00
3757	Mrs W Licence	Expenses January	£98.02
3758	HMRC	PAYE	£128.80
3759	Streetlights	Lighting repairs	224.10
3760	Mr T Ripley	Flowers	£20.00

Cllr Horton **PROPOSED** the signing of the cheques; **SECONDED** by Cllr Ripley: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

180. Defibrillator

There was nothing to report.

181. Administration

Cllr Ripley said email addresses cannot be added to the current website, there has been a quote from another company for £190 plus VAT per annum for 10 email addresses.

Cllr Horton said that if there are to be specific Councillor email addresses it needs to be a .gov.uk email and the website should also be .gov.uk as well.

Cllr Horton **PROPOSED** the Council should have a .gov.uk website and Councillor email addresses; **SECONDED** by Cllr Marshall: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

182. Reports from representatives

i) KALC

Cllr Horton said the next Swale Area Committee meeting is on 11 March.

ii) Police Liaison Officer

Cllr Marshall reported that she had met with PCSO Cork and PCSO Atherton, the parking problems at the school was discussed. It was suggested a walking bus might alleviate the problem.

Cllr Horton said walking buses are not popular with parents. Cllr Horton said Swale Enforcement Officers visit approximately ninety schools per month and issue fixed penalty notices, the officers' presence is a deterrent. Cllr Lewin, KCCllr Whiting and SBCllr Wright have given parents leaflets highlighting the problem. The issue is about people taking responsibility for their actions.

Cllr Marshall said it was also discussed that the school could be encouraging children to walk. Cllr Horton said that some schools set up exclusion zones. It might be appropriate to have a meeting with the school.

183. Matters arising

Cllr Ripley thanked Cllr Denny and Cllr Masson for attending the Village Hall public meeting on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllr Masson said the Village Hall Committee has a three-year plan to improve the Village Hall, there is urgent work, things that would be nice to do and things that would be nice to have. They are applying for different grants and have a plan. The proposals are very sensible.

Cllr Ripley read Cllr Denny's report:

I went to the meeting on Tuesday evening and basically, they presented a three-year plan, in great detail and very well delivered, with the first and second years focusing on ceiling floor and complete new electrics. Changes to the entrance and storage space. Toilets to be updated. The amount to cover the initial work is approximately £150,000 to £230,000. Obviously this is from fund raising and other grants.

Cllr Masson said the ceiling is asbestos and the furniture needs to be dropped to allow for a false ceiling.

184. Future meetings

Annual Parish Meeting- Thursday 18 April.

Annual Parish Council Meeting- Thursday 16 May

August- No Full Council, only General Purpose Committee and Planning Committee

5 December- hall unavailable so meeting will be at the Scout Hut.

185. Date of next meeting Thursday 7th March 2019 at 7.30pm in Upchurch Village Hall

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman

Dated this 7th day of March 2019