

**The Minutes of the Meeting of Upchurch Parish Council held  
remotely on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Cllr Tyrone Ripley (Chairman), Cllr John Arnold (Vice Chairman), Cllr Pam Denny, Cllr Alan Horton, Cllr Gerry Lewin and Cllr Neil Sheppard; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Also present were County Councillor Mike Whiting, Ward Member Richard Palmer and one member of the public.

Cllr Ripley welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**168. Apologies for absence**

Cllr Ripley reported that Peter Masson has resigned from the Council, Swale Borough Council has been informed and the Notice of Vacancy will be posted.

Apologies had been received from Cllr Janet Marshall (personal) and Cllr Gary Rosewell (unwell); apologies accepted.

**169. Declarations of interest**

None were declared.

**170. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

Cllr Arnold **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021 as a true record; **SECONDED** by Cllr Horton: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**. Cllr Ripley will sign the minutes as a true record of the meeting at the next physical Council meeting.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Public Time**

KCCllr Whiting reported that he had received complaints about the rutting either side of Canterbury Lane, unfortunately the tarmac is the width of the highway and people are driving on to Golf Club land. It is unlikely that KCC or Medway Council will do anything as they will not maintain private land.

There has been a crack down on flytipping and a tipper truck has been impounded. Swale Borough Council has been very active and has worked with the Environment Agency and Kent Police, this is multi agency working to combat flytipping.

There has been concern about construction vehicles parking outside Beckenham Park.

The libraries will open at the end of March and it is hoped that a third of libraries, including Sittingbourne, will open in the first tranche.

Cllr Lewin said that the new school opening in Otterham Quay Lane is good news for local children in Swale but Persimmon is already laying out the development of three hundred houses, the school was for Medway children.

KCCllr Whiting said the Greenwich Judgement means that one authority cannot exclude young people from a neighbouring authority.

*7.40pm Cllr Sheppard joined the meeting.*

Cllr Arnold said KCC Highways has refuted responsibility of the streetlight on the Forge Lane speed pillow

KCCllr Whiting said that he will follow up the matter and also he is chasing the issue in Crosier Court.

Cllr Ripley thanked KCCllr Whiting for attending and for his report.

SBCllr Palmer reported that it had been a quiet month.

The flytipping in Mill Lane was asbestos and the road was closed the road and the rubbish was cleared up quickly.

The message put out regarding bin collection was appalling, they were over promising and did not deliver. The contractor had issues with staff sickness and needing to self-isolate. The contractors are now back on track although they may be an issue with collection in Holywell Lane because of BT work.

The vaccine is being rolled out well and it is hoped that schools will open with no problems and the Government road map will continue to roll out.

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

*7.50pm KCCllr Whiting left the meeting.*

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **171. Correspondence**

Cllr Ripley reported that a resident had contacted Cllr Marshall about the Twinney Acre appeal which has taken a long time and asked whether the Parish Council could help. Many appeals have passed their determination dates.

Cllr Horton said that if an appeal is against a Swale decision, the Borough Council has no influence on the schedule of the appeal which is carried out independently. There is nothing that either Swale Borough Council or Upchurch Parish Council can do to expedite the appeal.

Cllr Ripley said a resident has emailed about blocked drains, this will be discussed later in the meeting.

#### **172. Planning**

i. To receive the minutes of the Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021 and receive an update on planning matters

Cllr Lewin **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021 as a true record; **SECONDED** by Cllr Denny: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

ii. Swale Local Plan Review (Reg 19)

Cllr Ripley said the consultation deadline has been extended to 30 April.

Cllr Lewin said there are three matters relating to Upchurch. There is nothing in the document which seeks to address the traffic issue west of the A249. To live in an area without public transport means there is a need for increased cars. There is an increase in traffic due to online ordering, the rural lanes are unsuitable for white vans. The infrastructure is not addressed and the parking standards do not deal with the density of cars in rural housing. Concern regarding parking standards and public parking in rural lanes needs to be raised. COVID-19 rates and transmissions were, in Swale, some of the highest in the country. This has now been analysed as being due in part to the density of housing and the high numbers of people in households. This was the cause of higher transmissions of this and potentially other viruses. These health factors should additionally be considered when increasing housing stock is being planned.

SBCllr Horton said that he and SBCllr Palmer will correct local inaccuracies.

*Item for next Planning Committee agenda.*

#### **173. General Purposes Committee**

Cllr Denny **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021 as a true record; **SECONDED** by Cllr Arnold: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**. Cllr Ripley will sign the minutes as a true record of the meeting at the next physical Council meeting.

#### **174. Allotments**

Cllr Ripley reported that 11 tenancies have been sent out. A query has been raised regarding the suggestion of changing the taps to push-taps as some plot holders may struggle to keep their plots watered. This will be considered at General Purposes Committee.

#### **175. Finance**

Chq no	Payee	Reason	Amount
3966	Mr T Honeyman	Litter picker	<b>£104.64</b>
3967	Upchurch Village Hall	Hall hire	<b>£52.00</b>
3968	Lyndsey & Co	Churchyard and Burial Ground tree work	<b>£880.00</b>
3969	EDF	Street lighting electricity	<b>£499.63</b>
3970	Mrs W Licence	Expenses and Salary adjustment	<b>£123.72</b>
3971	HMRC	PAYE & NI	<b>£142.61</b>
3972	CPRE	Membership	<b>£36.00</b>

Councillors considered the invoices and cheques raised and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to the signing of the cheques.

#### **176. Paddock and Recreation Ground**

Cllr Ripley reported that the signs have been ordered for the Paddock and Recreation Ground. Cllr Denny said there were no issues at the Paddock and Recreation Ground.

Cllr Sheppard said that he has noticed a couple of minor issues with the outdoor gym equipment.

Cllr Denny said these had been highlighted to the installer who is coming out to rectify the issues.

#### **177. Burial Ground and Churchyard**

Cllr Ripley said Canterbury Diocese has been contacted for recommendation for a Churchyard surveyor as Swale Borough Council is unable to help.

Cllr Marshall had sent a report that the compost bins need to be emptied and the sunken grave has now been filled in. Cllr Marshall has a list of bushes which would be suitable to replace the laurels.

*Item for General Purposes Committee.*

Cllr Denny said that there are a lots of dead Christmas wreaths and pieces of plastic and asked if they can be removed.

*ACTION: Clerk to check regulations.*

#### **178. Defibrillator**

Cllr Sheppard said the defibrillator cabinet outside Snaffles did flash red although this has not happened recently. The maintenance code has been used to reset the cabinet. The defibrillator works even if the box is flashing.

SBCllr Palmer said the manufacturer recommends contacting them if there is a problem. It might be prudent to check the electrics. He has never heard of a cabinet being serviced but it is prudent to check the cabinet to ensure people can open it.

Cllr Horton said that having raised a query concerning servicing the cabinet, he is happy that this is not necessary and Cllr Sheppard's regular checks are adequate.

#### **179. Highways and Street Lighting**

##### **i. To receive an update**

Cllr Ripley said works are being programmed for the blocked drains in Chaffes Lane and the drains by the Paddock, in Poot Lane and Twinney Lane are under investigation.

Cllr Ripley said that there has been an email from a resident regarding flooding.

*ACTION: Clerk to send details to KCllr Whiting*

Cllr Arnold said residents must report issues on the portal.

Cllr Lewin said the road needs to be swept to avoid blocking the drains when they have been cleansed.

*ACTION: Clerk to request a road sweep.*

#### ii. Chaffes Lane bollards

Cllr Ripley informed Members that Cllr Arnold and Cllr Sheppard are drawing up the specification for the tender.

### **180. Footpaths**

There was nothing to report.

### **181. Environment**

#### Barrier basket planting

Cllr Ripley informed Members that Shoregate Nursery had been approached for a quotation, but they have declined as they would be unable to water the plants. A local nursery has been asked for quotes for the baskets and a cascade planter hire.

### **182. Reports from representatives**

#### i) Village Hall Representative

Cllr Lewin said the Government roadmap has come out regarding the easing of lockdown and the Hall Committee is taking this on board.

#### ii) KALC

SBCllr Palmer said the next KALC Swale Area Committee meeting is on 9 March and Jill Peet, the Local Plan officer is the speaker.

#### iii) Police Liaison Officer

PCSO Crime reports:

31.12.20 - dispute at Horse Yard, Crosier Court

18.1.21 - Criminal damage at Upchurch Cricket Club

5.2.21 - Ladders stolen from a vehicle in Horsham Lane

17.2.21 - Dogs stolen from Mill Lane off Breach Lane. Police are still investigating

#### Anti-social behaviour

Snare found in Poot Lane which has been sent to Rural Task Force to investigate - update - the resident has already been spoken to by the Rural Task Force.

Suspicious males seen in the garden of a property in Poot Lane

Cllr Horton said that during the last twenty-four hours people have been in the village selling cleaning products. This is a scam and residents need to be vigilant.

### **183. Matters arising**

No other matters were raised.

### **184. Annual Parish Meeting**

Cllr Ripley said the Annual Parish Meeting must be held between 1 March- 1 June, currently from 6 May the legislation permitting remote meetings will cease.

Cllr Lewin said the Government road map prevents inside meetings until after 21 June. There is a gap between the legislation and the road map meaning that at the moment the Annual Parish Meeting, The Annual Parish Council Meeting and the Parish Council meetings cannot take place physically.

Cllr Horton said that if there is a conflict in laws, the Government road map is about public safety and the Council would not be acting responsibly to hold a public meeting.

Cllr Lewin said that the Annual meetings should wait until 21 June at the earliest and people would retain their current offices until that meeting.

Cllr Horton said that if it were agreed not to have a July meeting, there is no meeting in August and **PROPOSED** that the Council should start meeting in the hall from September. **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**185. Date of next meeting: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Chairman  
Date: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021