



WHITFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Whitfield Parish Council held on 12th November 2019 at 7.30pm in the Sports Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Whitfield, Dover.

Present

Councillor J. Goodsell (Chair)
Councillor W. Bowman
Councillor C. Coleman
Councillor C. Moore
Councillor S. Rashid
Councillor J. Cummings
Councillor K. Colyer
Councillor J. Gould
Councillor K. Gowland

Apologies: Dover District Councillor J. Back.

Reason for Absence: Accepted by the Council

In Attendance: Mrs J. Matcham (Parish Clerk), Mrs L. Rashid (Deputy Clerk), Kent County Councillor G. Lymer and 3 members of the public.

150. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of interest.

151. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Council considered the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 8th October 2019.

Councillor K. Gowland pointed out, that despite his absence at the last Meeting, he had expressed a willingness to represent Whitfield Parish Council at the upcoming KCC Highways, Transportation and Waste Parish Seminar on 14th November 2019 (Minute No. 136). This is duly accepted and Councillor K. Gowland shall represent Whitfield PC at this event.

RESOLVED: That, with reference to the above amendment, the Minutes of the Meeting of 8th October 2019 be accepted and signed by the Chair.

152. FINANCE

The Council considered the Finance report to 31st October 2019.

The Council considered the most recent bank reconciliation for the Parish bank accounts.

RESOLVED: 1) That the Finance Report to October end 2019 be accepted and signed by the Chair.

2) That the latest bank reconciliation be accepted and signed by the Chair.

153. COMMITTEES

The Council noted the Minutes of the Meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee, which took place on 22nd October 2019.

154. MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk updated the Council on the following matters:

- That the MUGA resurfacing, fencing works and re-lining are now complete.
- That the Garage Extension is now complete and ready for use.
- That the installation of the memorial bench for the late DDC Councillor Meredith is now complete.
- That the replacement of the defibrillator batteries is now complete.
- That the first tranche of tree planting took place on Saturday, with a number of volunteers from the community coming forward to help – Many thanks to those that took part.
- That the replacement parts to repair the Fitness Bike were received and works are complete.
- That the works for the replacement of the safety surfaces on the Recreation Ground is awaiting a start date.
- An update regarding the Mole Control on the Recreation Ground has been received.
- That the service of the office Photocopier has been requested and a convenient date is awaited.
- That the Clerk is continuing to take the necessary steps to update the Council's IT equipment for Making Tax Digital.
- That the continued arrangement for Beeches to use the Recreation Ground car-park as an evacuation muster point is renewed.
- That the PPL / PRS Music License for the Sport's Pavilion has been renewed.
- That the usual litter pick for December will not take place. Litter pick will resume from January.
- That there has been a reduction in the regular use of the Sports Pavilion.
- That repairs to the 'new' gym equipment has taken place following an incident of vandalism.
- That the Clerk continues to make enquiries for swing 'bars' to stop the intentional twisting of the chains.
- That the Clerk continues to liaise with Councillors, staff and suppliers for ID cards.

155. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk has received the following correspondence in the preceding period:

- Information that a new Code of Conduct is expected next year.
- A letter of thanks from Vista Twisters for the Parish Council's recent donation.
- An email of introduction from the new Whitfield PCSO.
- An enquiry regarding street light repair at Old Park.
- A letter from St Peter's making enquiries as to the population of Whitfield.
- Inclusions / removals for the Parish Newsletter.
- Concerns regarding construction parking at the Wheighside House development.
- Concerns regarding mud on the road at Field View Road.
- Concerns regarding HGV parking on pathways at White Cliffs Business Park.
- Confirmation that the KALC Community Awards Scheme 2020 will be running until 31st January.
- That a period of Purdah is now effective, in advance of the General Election.

156. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public raised concerns about street lighting becoming obstructed by tree branches in the area of Forge Path.

A member of the public raised concern as to the significantly increased traffic around the Whitfield roundabout and access from Sandwich Road / Archers Court Road.

157. DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Kent County Councillor G. Lymer was in attendance and gave the following update report:

- Following the resignation of KCC Leader Paul Carter, a new Leader has been elected, Roger Gough will be taking up the post.
- That KCC has made an investment of £1.28 million to support the ongoing refurbishment of the Turner Gallery. A further £435,000 in grant funding has been pledged by the Arts Council.
- That an incorrect press item concerning Aycliffe School was reported last week.

- Operation Brock was implemented from Monday 28th October in preparation for Brexit however it was subsequently withdrawn.
- That Natalie Elphicke will be standing as the Conservative Candidate for Dover and Deal.

Dover District Councillor N. Collor was not in attendance and no update report was received.

Dover District Councillor J. Back was not in attendance. However, he has provided the following update report:

- The new attenuation tank being installed by Southern Water on phase 1a has started and should be finished by next summer. Following a meeting with KCC and Southern Water it is agreed that the inspection gantry shall be lowered by one metre and the bund shall also be lowered. Abbey Homes have indicated that they will plant trees on top of the bund to further hide the gantry and make the site look more countrified.
- The construction of the new Primary School is advancing.
- Discussions are continuing around the Bus Rapid Transport route through Richmond Park and over the A2.
- New LED lights for Whitfield are imminent.
- Full planning application in respect of the 28 houses on land at Archers Court Road has not yet been submitted.

158. REPORTS TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Council noted Councillor K. Gowland's report following the KALC Dover Area Committee Meeting, which took place on 30th October 2019.

Councillor K. Gowland gave a brief verbal report following the recent School Travel Committee Meeting. The minutes will be circulated to Councillor's on receipt.

Councillor J. Gould gave a short report following the first meeting of residents of Richmond Park.

There were no other reports for the Parish Council to note / consider.

159. HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

The Clerk advised the Meeting of upcoming traffic works on Archers Court Road (20th to 26th November) and Menzies Road (26th to 28th November).

The Council noted the concerns regarding traffic increase on the Whitfield roundabout. The Chair outlined the last known plans by Highways England to manage the issue long term.

Councillor K. Colyer raised concerns regarding Lenacre Lane being used as a 'cut-through' to avoid the Whitfield roundabout, with increasing numbers of HGV's trying to navigate the narrow and unsuitable route.

There were no other Highways and Transportation issues for discussion that have not been discussed at previous points of the Meeting.

160. CURRENT CONSULTATIONS

The Council considered its response to Kent County Council's Budget Consultation 2020-21. It was agreed that Councillor C. Moore shall submit an appropriate Parish Council response.

The Council considered the East Kent Joint Independent Remuneration Panel's request for comments in reference to the four yearly review. It was agreed that Councillor C. Moore shall submit an appropriate Parish Council response.

161. EVENTS AND TRAINING

The Parish Council noted Whitfield Fire Stations CPR / Defibrillator awareness sessions, taking place on Tuesday 19th November 2019 between 3.30pm and 6.30pm.

The Parish Council noted KALC's Dynamic Councillor Event, taking place on Saturday 23rd November 2019 at Lenham Community Centre.

The Parish Council considered sending a representative to KALC's Annual General Meeting, taking place on Saturday 30th November 2019, at Ditton Community Centre. Councillor K. Gowland shall attend the AGM, representing Whitfield Parish Council.

The Chair advised the Meeting that he had been invited to attend a 'Steel Signing' Event in respect of the new Whitfield Aspen School, which is now under construction, on Tuesday 19th November 2019. The Chair is unable to attend. Vice Chair Councillor W. Bowman shall attend accompanied by Councillors S. Rashid and J. Gould.

162. VILLAGE EVENTS

The Council considered the allowable budget to meet the costs involved in the Annual Children's Christmas Party, taking place on 20th December 2019.

RESOLVED: That a budget of £200.00 be allowed to meet the associated costs of the Christmas Party.

163. DEVELOPMENT IN WHITFIELD

The Council considered the communication received from Langdon Parish Council regarding DDC's Local Plan and possible Neighbourhood Development Plan collaboration. The Clerk is requested to compose a response to the effect that the development(s) predominantly affecting Whitfield are already included in the current Local Plan.

Other relevant matters regarding development in Whitfield have already been covered at previous points in the Meeting.

164. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair expressed thanks to Councillor C. Coleman for her continued efforts with tree / bulb planting on the Recreation Ground. Councillor C. Coleman and the Parish Council expressed their gratitude to the volunteers from the community who came forward and assisted with tranche one of the tree planting on Saturday 9th November 2019.

The Clerk advised Councillors that EIS (KCC) who are the host of the Parish Council website will withdraw the service from mid 2020. A new website will need to be sought. This item will be placed on the Finance Committee Meeting Agenda for further consideration.

Councillor C. Moore requested that an Events Sub Group Meeting be arranged for January.

Congratulations and Good Wishes were expressed to Councillor W. Bowman and her husband Peter on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Councillor C. Coleman enquired as to who was responsible for the Welcome to Whitfield sign located part way up Whitfield Hill (from River) as it was damaged. The general response was that it would be KCC Highways.

The meeting closed at 21.00

**COUNCILLOR J. GOODSSELL
CHAIR**