

# WROTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING,  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7.30pm  
In the Wrotham Pavilion, High Street TN15 7AH

**Present:** P Gillin (Chairman), H Rayner D Beach, C Mills, S Vick & T Jacob

**In Attendance:** Lesley Cox (Clerk)

**1. Apologies for absence:**

Cllr's Coffin & Betts (T&MBC Meeting) & Denton

**2. Attendance Register**

The attendance register was signed, and declarations of interest duly noted.

All Meetings

Cllr's Gillin, Rayner, Betts, Beach & Denton members of Keep Borough's Green

Cllr Beach member of the St George's Bell Ringers

Cllr Gillin member of Wrotham Xmas Lights

Cllr's Rayner & Gillin members of Friends of St George's

Cllr Rayner member of St George's Church of England Wrotham

Cllr Rayner retired member of the Baltic Exchange Ltd

Cllr Rayner life member of the National Trust

Cllr's Rayner & Beach members of Kent Association of Change Ringers

Cllr Rayner assistant Village Magazine Deliverer

Cllr Rayner life member of the Royal National Lifeboat Institute

Cllr Vick member of Wrotham Fireworks

Cllr's Rayner, Gillin, Beach & Denton members of the Campaign for the Protection of Rural

England – WPC corporate member

Cllr Gillin committee member of Tonbridge & Malling branch of the Campaign for the

Protection of Rural England.

Cllr Coffin firework provider for Wrotham

Cllr Mills committee member of Wrotham Music Festival

Cllr Mills director of charity, Good Food Matters.

Cllr Rayner Conservative Party Member

Cllr Rayner Member of Tonbridge & Malling Conservative Party Executive & Management Committees

Provider of Electrical Services to Wrotham Parish Council – all meetings Cllr S Vick

**3. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 were proposed by Cllr Mills seconded by Cllr Jacob and agreed and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

**4. Reports from Community Police and or Community Warden**

No reports

**5. Public Question Time**

No public in attendance.

## **6. Winter Maintenance Provision – Update**

The ensure a more proactive approach to dealing with snow and icy conditions in the village and as an additional measure to the village gritter, WPC is looking at supplying local volunteers with hand gritting units.

The proposal by Cllr Gillin, seconded by Cllr Vick to purchase 1 Icemaster 50 Manual Gritter to evaluate the effectiveness of the unit was agreed unanimously. If effective additional units and salt bins will be purchased, locations to be assessed.

## **7. St George's Hall – Additional Anti-Climb Measures**

Young children are continuing to gain access to the roof of St George's Hall by climbing on the wall adjoining 1 School House Mews and then transversing the length of this wall and the wall adjoining Goring Place. The height difference on the side of the adjoining properties is significant and presents a serious risk of injury to the children concerned. WPC has previously used anti climb paint as a deterrent but unfortunately each application is only proving to be effect for a few months. After much debate it was agreed due to health and concerns of all members that a more robust deterrent had to be considered. The proposal by Cllr Gillin, seconded by Cllr Beach to fit anti-climb spikes along the entirety of both walls was agreed unanimously. Installation in conjunction with appropriate warning signs.

## **8. Reports if any from County Cllr and or Borough Cllr**

County Councillor Harry Rayner

To: Members of the Joint Transportation Advisory Board  
From: David Brazier, Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport, Kent County Council  
Subject: Involvement in Highway Aspects of Planning Applications

KCC receives many requests from local Members asking to be kept informed and involved in the highway's aspects of planning applications. Whilst KCC recognises Members intent is to understand the impacts and mitigations for planning applications to support their local communities, it is not possible for direct involvement for several reasons which are outlined in a report by David Brazier at the time. Full report can be found via the link below.

<https://moderngov.dover.gov.uk/documents/s51484/JTB%20Highway%20Improvements%20Advisory%20Note.pdf>

David Brazier no longer holds this position, but KCC highway officers are still adhering to his policy. Following the decision taken by officers not to object in respect of the MOTO application for a 24hr HGV stop on the A20, but to take the opinion of the applicant using the Kent Traffic Model and data obtained during COVID, that the additional HGV movements would not impact on the safe working of local roads without undertaking an independent analysis of the data is of concern. Cllr Rayner has ongoing meetings with the current Cabinet Member and officers on the implications of this policy should larger application be challenged by rule 6 parties at appeals.

Local quarries continue to be under scrutiny from both the Environment Agency and KCC:

BG Sandpits for continuing to deposit mud on the A25, another breach will stop extraction.

Wrotham Quarry for breach of working hours. The Quarry is using adjacent forestry land for overnight parking in order to overcome this condition. As the inappropriate use of this land comes under T&MBC, enforcement to stop this activity will be undertaken jointly by KCC and T&MBC.

H+H Celcon for depositing detritus on the road in the form of chips of material from aerated blocks.

A consultation on the closing of some libraries is likely to come forward in the summer of 2024 and any decision made to take effect after the KCC election in 2025.

It is possible that there will be no pre-arrangement in place with the new EU Entry/Exit System (EES) for the first 3 years raising concerns that the processing time for cars crossing the channel could take up to 20 mins. In this instance Operation Brock is likely to become a

permanent feature on the M20. KCC is in talks with the Department of Transport on the possibility of holding freight in locations outside of Kent, possibly bringing Dartford International back into operation.

## 9. Reports from various Committees

### Grounds

3 purple beech trees have been planted in locations within the cricket and burial grounds.

### Buildings

No report

### Highways

Radar SPD Camera has been delivered and needs to be programmed prior to installation on Old London Road.

UK Power Networks has not undertaken any work on the 10 remaining dangerous connections since before Christmas, citing outages due to bad weather.

WPC has been given a date from UK Power Networks of the 27<sup>th</sup> February for the paid connection in Bull Lane but is still awaiting a date for the paid connection to the light at the Lychgate.

### Crime & Disorder

The first edition of the Crime Diary II has been distributed to all organisations that make up the Community Safety Unit.

### Finance

No Report

### Planning

The application by MOTO for a 200HGV stop on the A20 will be before T&MBC Area 2 Planning Committee on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024.

### Skatepark

Barry Cox of KAS Welding has been provided with access keys to the skatepark and shipping container. However, his deputy is working his notice as he is emigrating and Barry is currently recruiting, and therefore unable to start immediately. WPC is continuing to replace and repair, but without welding as our contractors don't possess these skills.

### Climate Change Strategy

No Report

### KALC

The Green Party in Tonbridge want a Tonbridge Town Council, with the current set up all residents within the borough of Tonbridge and Malling contribute towards services for and improvements to Tonbridge. The formation of a Town Council would alleviate this.

### PPP

The next meeting of PPP scheduled for the 8<sup>th</sup> February will focus entirely on the new T&MBC Agile software system.

## 10. Correspondence Received

KALC	Parish Winter Support Scheme Previously emailed	Decision on participation. The proposal by Cllr Rayner, seconded by Cllr Gillin to
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		make an application for a grant of £1,000 on behalf of the 4-parish food bank was agreed unanimously. Clerk to progress
Arts Festival Committee	Donation request for 2024 Arts Festival Previously emailed £500.00 included within 2024-2025 Precept	A donation of £500.00 proposed by Cllr Gillin, seconded by Cllr Rayner was agreed unanimously, funds to be transferred in April 2024
KCC	Adult Social Care Charging Consultation <a href="http://www.kent.gov.uk/adultsocialcarecharging">www.kent.gov.uk/adultsocialcarecharging</a> Previously emailed.  H Rayner – Adult Social Care is eating KCC budget the proposal to reduce eligibility from 12 weeks to 6 weeks with reduce funding by half.  Parish Council survey about activities with Children, Young People and wider community Previously emailed	Public consultation deadline 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2024 To be added to website  For Information, survey completed on behalf of WPC by the Clerk
T&MBC	Schemes will 'open doors to employment' Previously emailed  Helping Tonbridge & Malling Get Digital Previously emailed	For Information To be added to website  For Information To be added to website
Sarah Sedgwick Clarion	Confirmation of Lands Tribunal Date for St George's Court hearing as 28 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2024. Withdrawal of objection from Rochester Diocesan Society Previously emailed	For Information
Clerks & Councils Direct	January 2024 Issue 151	For Information

## 11. Financial Matters

### i. Cheques for approval and signature

It was proposed by Cllr Rayner seconded by Cllr Beach, and resolved that the following accounts be passed for payment:

Payable To	Invoice Details	Amount	Cheque No
The Copy Shoppe	Crime Diary Leaflet Printing x 500	£150.00	BAC 16/01/24
P Barden	Litter Pick Open Spaces Maintenance – CPA Checks – Leaving – Diseased Tree Removal – Bench Assembly – General Clearance Burial Ground Maintenance – Hedging – General Clearance Total	135.00 202.50  195.00  £532.50	BAC 17/01/24
Kevin Holt	Ground Maintenance Works January 2024	£1,380.00	BAC
Highgate Planning & Development *	Moto 24hr HGV Park – Third Planning Objection following additional documentation received from applicant. Parish Alliance Members to contribute	£1,020.00	BAC
Peter Barden	Litter Pick Open Spaces Maintenance – CPA Inspection – Hedging – Leaf Clearance/General Clearance/Rubbish Burning	105.00 187.50	BAC

	Burial Ground Maintenance Leaf Clearance/General Clearance Pavilion – Guttering Repair Total	112.50 30.00 £435.00	
Freshair Fitness *	Adult Gym Equipment Spare Part	£22.61	BAC
Lesley Cox	Salary January 2024 deductions include pension contribution.. Telephone Total	2502.70 20.00 £2,522.70	BAC
HM Revenue & Custom	PAYE / NI January 2024.	£1,016.61	BAC
KCC Pension Fund	Pension Contribution January 2024.	£1,232.74	BAC
Borough Green PC **	Skate Park Litter Pick / Checks January 2024	£155.00	BAC
Astra Security Systems *	1 GB Monthly Data per Router Old London Road / High Street	£60.00	BAC
NKCS *	Contract Cleaning December 2023 St George's Hall to contribute	£773.28	BAC
Viking *	Hand Wash/Toilet Rolls/Black Sacks	£142.93	BAC
Sustrans *	Donation agreed 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2023 Delayed payment as discussed	£100.00	BAC
H Rayner	Key Cutting x 7	£31.50	BAC
Commercial Services *	Grounds Maintenance Contract 2 October, November, December 2023	£559.43	BAC
Elan City Ltd *	Speed Radar Equipment – Old London Rd	£2,386.79	BAC
Metro Bank Account Transfer	Burial Ground – Rodent Killer * Storage Depot Heavy Duty Padlock / Open Spaces Materials * Open Spaces Heavy Duty Inverter / Battery Terminals * Memorial Bench & Fittings * Family to contribute see below Open Spaces Battery * Fasthost * - Generic Emails Open Spaces Materials * St George's Hall – Piezo Electric Gas Hob Lighter x 3 Pavilion – Gutter Materials * (12.99) item to be returned Crime & Disorder Phone – Top Up Monthly Account Fees Monthly Transfer Total	12.48 70.87 187.98 417.05  96.26 12.00 38.73 27.77 65.54 20.00 7.80 £956.48	BAC

\* denotes items including VAT

\*\* denotes 22.3% to be reimbursed

\*\*\* denotes 73.3% to be reimbursed

Payments made by Direct Debit / Standing Order Since Previous Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024

EDF Energy	Multi-Court Electricity	£33.60	11/01/24
Water Plus	Pavilion Metered Water	£47.87	17/01/24
Water Plus	Allotment Metered Water	£10.02	
Water Plus	Burial Ground Metered Water	£4.94	
BT Group	Parish Email	£7.50	22/01/24
Engie	Pavilion Gas	£257.57	25/01/24

ii. Bank Reconciliation for sign off

Statements for 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024, not yet available online.

**BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES as at 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

<b>ACCOUNT</b>	<b>BALANCE</b>
Current	£50.00
Business Reserve	£3,463.99
Business Savings	£48,142.51
Community Skate Park	£1.02
CCLA Parish Fund	£42,523.37
CCLA Community Fund	£76,620.41
Metro Account	£744.30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£171,545.60</b>

## 12. Date of next Parish Council Meeting

The date for the next meeting was proposed for the 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024 to be held in the Wrotham Pavilion at 7.30pm. The date for the interim planning meeting to be advised.

## 13. Planning Committee to Consider

### 1. Applications received

<b>Application Number</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Parish Council Recommendation</b>
TM/23/03401/FL	Kildonan St Mary's Road	Single-storey side extension	No Objections
TM/23/03500/LB	Wrotham Place High Street	Retrospective application for installed 4 no. EV car charging points.	No Objections

### i. Notifications of Decisions

<b>Application Number</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Decision</b>
TM/23/03130/FL	Kildonan, St Mary's Road	Demolish rear conservatory and build single-storey side extension	Application Withdrawn 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2024
TM/23/03226	Green Leas, Pilgrims Way	Details of Condition 7 (Means of Storage and Disposal of Manure and other waste) submitted pursuant to planning permission TM/23/01824/FL (Construction of a new stable building, hardstanding and paddocks, including the change of use for part of the residential garden to include private equestrian use)	Approved 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2024
TM/23/03214/	Orange Tq 6135058000, Borough Green Road	Prior Telecommunications Application: The installation of a new 25m High Swann 5SH Tower. The development will include a base station, 2.4m high fencing compound, 6no. operator cabinets, 4no. dishes, 12no. antennas 1no. meter cabinet and ancillary development thereto. The installation of a new 25m High Swann 5SH Tower. The development will include	Prior Approval Required and Refused 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2024

		a base station, 2.4m high fencing compound, 6no. operator cabinets, 4no. dishes, 12no. antennas 1no. meter cabinet and ancillary development thereto.	
TM/23/02054/FL	1 Pilgrims Way	Revised Design of new single dwelling. The changes are as follows: New Side Dormer to No 1a, new Rear Extensions to No 1a & 1b, to include boot room. New Rear Dormer to new attic/conversion to No 1b. Revised Parking Arrangement with shared parking spaces 1 per dwelling. Previous approved application (TM/19/02493/FL)	Application Withdrawn 25th January 2024
TM/23/00779/FL	Potters Mead	Erection of a single 5 bedroom dwelling with attached garage and associated works	Refused 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2024

2. Correspondence Received

T&MBC Weekly Planning Lists

KCC Pre-Submission Draft of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-2039 - Regulation 19 Public Consultation January 2024 – comments by 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

.....Chairman

.....Date