

**Full Council Meeting
Birchington Parish Council
Birchington Library, Birchington CT7 9EG
17th September 2019 at 19:00hrs**

Present: Chairman Cllr Neville Hudson (NH)
Vice Chairman Cllr Marcel Pooke (MP)
Cllr Phil Fellows (PF)
Cllr Max Houghton (MH)
Cllr Geraldine Watson (GW)
Cllr Linda Wright (LW)
Cllr Robert Wright (RW)
Cllr Sandra McCreddie (SM)

Clerk to BPC Caroline Vincent Minute Taker (CV)
KCC Councillor Emma Dawson
Peter Willows Community Warden

Members of the public 3

Apologies: Cllr George Kup

Councillor N Hudson advised all present that item 7 on the agenda had been withdrawn due to a revised addition of amendments to add and will be discussed at a later date.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES FC2019/21

The minutes of the Full Council/Extraordinary meeting, held on the 18th June 2019 and the 1st August 2019, were presented for approval. Councillor moved approval and Councillor seconded, all agreed. The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting and the Chairman signed the minutes.

The Chairman welcomed our newest member Councillor Sandra McCreddie who was co-opted on the 1st August.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FC 2019/22

The Council is making provision for the 75th. Anniversary of V E Day next year, early proposals for the weekend with activities including a children's party on Friday in the village and on Saturday an event in Minnis Bay. Preliminary arrangements are in hand, budgets and bookings will have to be in place early to ensure that we are able to secure appropriate entertainment. Councillor Watson, Chair of G P and her Committee is working with the Village Events group in arranging the weekend. Members will note that the Parish notice boards have been repainted and new signs will be added shortly, thanks are To Denise and the volunteers who have carried out the improvements. Thanks, are also due to Birchington in Bloom for team who are looking after our flower beds. Following the appointment of an assistant to the Parish Clerk who has responsibility for Parish publicity. I am pleased to

report that Denise has agreed to take on the role of Editor of the Parish Magazine.

Our thanks are due to Ray Hollands for his sterling work, spending many hours of his time during his editorship.

We still have 2 vacancies for Parish Councillors the Statutory notices are being placed with details of applications for co-option.

We have been given consent by KCC to apply for licences to carry out planting to some of the land under their ownership, our thanks to our KCC Councillors for the work in making this possible.

Members will be pleased to hear that following a meeting at TDC on Monday we have agreed the Heads of terms in agreement for the Community Asset Transfers which we have been waiting for so long The Freehold Transfer of Dog Acre, Rossetti Gardens and the Memorial Recreation Ground is now being processed by solicitors

In preparation for the transfer of all three sites. Council will now start to plan for the future of the recreation ground prior to consultation with our community. Council are asked to agree this report including the recommendations contained therein.

Resolved: Members agreed to applying for the relevant cultivation licences to take over the islands near Christies and others relevant to Birchington in Bloom.

Councillor Houghton reminded the Chairman about VJ Day which is the week after VE Day, and could a flag be raised to commemorate this. The Chairman replied that BPC would commemorate VJ Day.

APPOINT INTERNAL AUDITOR – FC2019/23

Members shown the internal auditor report as prepared by Lionel Robbins and requested their approval to appoint Lionel for next year.

Resolved: All members agreed to appoint Lionel Robbins for the 2019/20 internal audit.

EXTERNAL AUDITOR REPORT – FC2019/24

Members were given a copy of the external auditor report for their comments, the only issue this year was an incorrect previous year figure on the assets list, this was an error on a spreadsheet formula.

Resolved: Members accepted the External Auditor report.

POLICIES – FC2019/25

This item was withdrawn.

CLERK CORRESPONDENCE – FC2019/26

The Clerk sought agreement to join the Tree Charter and explained this would show our commitment towards trees and to show the importance of protecting our trees for the future. The clerk explained there is a Tree Charter day on the last Saturday in November to promote the importance of trees, others have planted a tree or have arranged a woodland walk in celebration of this day.

Resolved: All members agreed to join the Tree Charter.

The new Website Accessibility Regulations were brought to the attention of members and the clerk explained this had to be in place by September 2020 to make our website accessible to all. The clerk passed round the information.

The HIP (Highway Improvement Plan) was also made available to members and Councillor Emma Dawson explained that she would try to find details of exactly how this scheme worked in simpler terms for us.

Councillor N Hudson spoke to members about the need to all have a work tablet to comply with GDPR and asked members to agree to purchasing 10 at around £100 each.

Resolved: All members agreed to purchase tablets for all Councillors.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – FC2019/27

A resident raised concerns over the overhanging trees in Alpha Road and having to duck underneath them to walk on the pavement. The poor visibility at the junction of Alpha Road and Eppele Road needs reporting due to the overgrown hedging.

The large conifer at Coleman Stairs was also raised, this is a privately-owned tree but there were concerns from a safety aspect.

Resolved: All the above concerns would be reported.

Members were informed of spelling mistakes on the plaques at Dog Acre of which will be investigated.

COMMUNITY WARDEN/P.C.S.O. REPORT FC2019/28

Any rough sleepers in the area are engaged with and liaison made with the Thanet Council 'RISE' to see what assistance can be provided.

Community Payback has been doing some work the primary school. They painted many outside wood items such as benches to the benefit of children and staff.

Welfare checks for adult social services are carried out around the village by the warden including other parts of Thanet when referrals are received.

The Thanet Good Neighbours Service requires more volunteers to befriend elderly members in the Birchington area. Please call them on 01843609335 to volunteer as I do know of resident's who could do with this kind of support even for a chat and cup of tea!

Your local KCC Community Warden contact is: Peter Willows
07969583919

Your local Kent Police contact is: PCSO Deborah Forsyth call 101

Councillor G Watson asked Peter Willows if the Thanet Good Neighbours Service would like space at the Christmas event for the Volunteer Community Hub.

Members had a discussion on the role of the PCSO and the areas covered.

REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS FC2019/29

Councillor Linda Wright has been dealing with casework involving a referral and attended a TDC briefing meeting recently to meet TDC officers. Councillor Wright spoke about Rise and the need for District Councillors to refer those in need to the food bank, Rise will look into this and see if the policy can be updated. A Neighbourhood dispute had also been successfully resolved and passed over to the Neighbourhood Team at TDC.

Councillor Phil Fellows spoke about emails complaining of overflowing bins over the summer. The service and funding have decreased and only skeleton staff to cover the whole of the Thanet area, it is hoped now the summer is over this will settle down. Councillor P Fellows reported complaints of missed bin collections in Holton Close, this is due to residents parking cars on the corner and they have been spoken to. Councillor Fellows has been liaising with Councillor Emma Dawson of KCC over the areas of overgrown weeds. Albion Road carp park will have an electric charging point installed. The paying for parking in areas of

Thanet has been brought back again but this does not include Minnis Bay this time. Councillor Fellows finally spoke about fly tipping in the car parks which is believed to be trade waste, the Community Warden was asked to check the CCTV.

REPORTS FROM KCC COUNCILLORS FC2019/30

Councillor Emma Dawson spoke about the Brexit preparedness and how various businesses and getting prepared should there be any implications after the 31st October with Brexit. Councillor Dawson said how important it is to have an emergency plan in place and to be prepared at local level, particularly in case of food and medical shortages. There is a business growth fund available to businesses that are affected during Brexit.

Since the introduction of the new trade waste scheme in June there has not been a significant increase of fly tipping so nothing can be done at this stage.

The bus shelter at Minnis Bay had been taken away which is not acceptable for the elderly particularly during the winter months waiting for a bus, Councillor Dawson is investigating this.

Birchington Parish Council have been given information on taking over the islands near Christies wine bar in Birchington to make them look nice.

Councillor Dawson asked if there are any issues in Birchington to please direct them to her and not to post on Facebook and to direct Birchington in Bloom to her as well.

Councillor N Hudson thanked Councillor Dawson.

Members discussed the fact that we do have an Emergency Plan in place and there is also a Brexit Specialist officer at Thanet Council to contact should any issues arise. Members also asked the clerk to contact the Birchington Medical Centre to see if they have a plan in place for Brexit.

COMMITTEE REPORTS FC2019/31

Councillor L Wright urged all members to please read and comment on the Tree policy once the clerk has made amendments from TDC and re-circulated.

Councillor L Wright also reported that Penny Button a TDC officer gave permission for the trees to be maintained on Dog Acre for the purposes of preventing the constant issues to the CCTV.

CHEQUES/TRANSACTIONS FC2019/31 – to be signed by 2 members

The payment lists, and bank reconciliations were signed by 2 members.

Councillor N Hudson spoke to members regarding Community Payback funding which is being applied for by Community Warden Tony Gander. The funding is to cover Community Payback projects for various villages and for the funding to take place a bank account is required, and this cannot be provided by the wardens, members were asked for agreement that BPC is used for this purpose to assist with the funding.

Resolved: All members agreed to use the BPC bank account to assist with the Community Payback funding.

Close of meeting at 19:45 pm.

Date of next meeting Tuesday 19th November