

MINUTES
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF
COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL
Orchard Room, St Margaret's School
on Monday 3RD JUNE 2024
commencing at 19.00PM
In attendance

Cllr Jack Highwood [JH] Vice- chair	Cllr Charlie Cooper [CC]
Cllr Deborah Papas [DP]	Cllr Ben Ward [BW]
Parish Clerk Michelle Rumble [MR]	Borough Councilor – Cllr Russell
Borough Council – Cllr Summersgill	Borough Councilor – Cllr Couch

24.06.01 APOLOGIES	Cllr Andrew Papas, Cllr Rigden, Cllr Barham, County Councilor Lottie Parfitt-Reid	
24.06.02 DECLARATION OF INTEREST.	None	
24.06.03 MINUTES	MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13th MAY 2024 TO BE APPROVED.	
	Full Council approved the minutes of this meeting as representing an accurate recording of the said meeting. Cllr J Highwood signed the minutes as a true and accurate record.	
24.06.04	EXTERNAL REPORTS BOROUGH COUNCILLORS In attendance was Cllr Russell, Cllr Mike Summersgill and Cllr Couch. It was noted that due to the General Election there is no plan for cabinet going forward and they will not know until after the 11 th /12 th July. The only meetings taking place are the Planning meetings and the Overview and Scrutiny meetings for which Cllr Russell is the Chairman on this committee. All other meetings are on hold due to the General Election and will probably not start until after the Summer Break. <u>Comments for Parishes on Maidstone Borough Council activities in May 2024</u> After the election on 2 nd May, no overall party gained political control and so discussions took place over the first ten days to create a working Coalition; this was confirmed on 17 th May and comprises the Green & Independent Alliance (GIA – 10 Greens + 4 Independents) and the Liberal Democrats (12 councillors), making a majority (26) of the 49 Councillors elected. The other political Groups on the new 4-year Council are Conservative 13, Labour 6, Independents and Fant & Oakwood Group 4.	

The first meeting of Council elected Stuart Jeffery of the Greens as Council Leader, and Clive English of the Liberal Democrats as Deputy; it also confirmed that the Cabinet would comprise 8 Councillors, 4 from the GIA and 4 from the Lib Dems. The Mayor-making ceremony and Civic Parade followed that Council meeting on Saturday 18th May, and a service held in All Saints Church after the parade.

Soon after that Council meeting, a General Election was called for 4th July and this caused a bit of a hiatus in new Council activities, as various Committees were postponed or delayed while Council officers had to prepare for the next Election, and also election 'purdah' prevents some decisions being taken politically. Important Committees like the Planning, Licensing and Overview & Scrutiny ones continue, but the agreement of the new Cabinet's programme for the next four years has been delayed until mid-July, as Council senior officers are an integral part of agreeing that programme.

On a personal note, I have been selected to be vice-chair of MBC's Planning Committee, and have already attended my first meeting on 23rd May. One aspect of that role means that I have to be careful not to get too involved in Parish planning decisions, so I have had to step back from certain involvements where I am a Parish Councillor in Marden & Hunton. It does not prevent me discussing PlanAps, and I have already used my Councillor role to 'call in' one application in Yalding Parish, to go to Committee for a final decision should the Planners seek approval (that one was Refused later).

As to involvement with the five Parishes within Marden & Yalding Ward, I have over the past five weeks attended all their Annual meetings, and also other monthly meetings at three Parishes. I have had several Resident requests for assistance and advice, mostly within Yalding & Hunton parishes, but also many requests for assistance with Bin collection issues in all five – the resolution of this new 'Suez Crisis' seems to be some way off, and Councillors are still awaiting advice from the relevant Cabinet member as to what is actually happening, as matters do not seem to be improving at all.

On a personal Note, I attended the Marden Motor Show in May, which was a lovely relaxed event, and then ran in the Russet Runners 10k in Marden last Sunday, which was less personally relaxing but was a wonderfully managed community event by local running enthusiasts, attracting 300+ participants starting from the new sports ground. I also attended the opening by Hugh Dennis of the new wing of Maidstone Museum on 4th June, and would urge all to visit this free facility with children & grandchildren, to understand the ancient history of our part of Kent; kudos to our Cllr. Russell for bringing this (and musical events in town this Summer) to fruition during her past year in Cabinet.

I am shortly off on a fortnight's break, by train and boat, around the Upper Danube, and back on 20th June; it looks like, as a Flood Warden, I'll be seeing repercussions first hand in Bavaria this weekend!

Mike Summersgill – 5th June 2024. MBC Email:
michaelsummersgill@maidstone.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cllr Lottie Parfitt-Reid was not in attendance, but a report was received after the meeting.

KCC Report May

Council AGM 23rd March 2024

Bryan Sweetland and Alan Ridgers were elected to take up the post as Chairman and Vice Chairman at the meeting of the County Council on Thursday 23rd May. They will make a very strong team in the last year of the Council term, and it could already be seen then that Bryan will continue the excellent steering of meetings that we saw under Gary Cooke. Gary had a fantastic year undoubtedly with the highlight being the Freedom of Kent being awarded to HMS Kent.

General Election Impact

The Prime Minister’s decision to call the General Election for 4 July has resulted in deferral of some important decisions. A decision by the Secretary of State for Transport on the Lower Thames Crossing Development Consent Order (DCO) was scheduled for 20 June. The new deadline for a decision is 4 October although it is possible that it could be taken before then.

Finances

We are due to deliver our 2023/24 accounts by the end of the month. While we are still expecting to record an overspend, it is very likely to be smaller than was previously indicated, in the region of £10. An advantage of the early calling of the election is that whoever forms the next government will not be doing so in the middle of the spending round as would have been the case with an October or November election. Timing will still be tight, but there is somewhat more scope for a proper assessment of local government’s needs among many others.

That said, none of us is expecting a major change in our financial position post-election. Current opposition spokesmen have used the phrase “the envelope is the envelope” and so we expect local government to remain, plus or minus a little in its current financial position. The longer I serve as the County Member the more convinced I am that reform is needed and needed soon.

EES

Whilst this is something that is taking place in the East of the county it could have major impacts on our road networks, especially Langly, which is close to the Motorways.

A planned meeting of Kent Leaders on 12 June in Dover has been

postponed – another casualty of the election – the issue of the Entry Exit System (EES) that was due to be discussed is certainly not going away. In recent months, the leader has visited both Eurotunnel and the Port of Dover to see the preparations that are taking place. We also sought to learn lessons from what happened - generally relatively favorably - over Easter. The point that has been sought to emphasise is that, without being complacent, we can recognise the significant work that has gone on, particularly in those points of exit, since the early months of the year and in some cases earlier than that.

Nonetheless, there remain very significant risks, as last weekend's disruption in Dover reminded us. As I have set out before, we have a number of key asks:

- We need data shared from the government so that we all have a consistent picture as to what a reasonable worst case may be.

UASC

On unaccompanied minors (or Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children: UASC), there was a very good BBC report some weeks ago on the BBC setting out the position as we currently confront it. You can find it [here](#).

As the report states, we have seen a 59% rise in referrals so far this year and this rapid pace of arrivals is still outpacing dispersal through the National Transfer Scheme (NTS). As of the end of last week, there had been 842 arrivals so far this year and 663 dispersed through the NTS. This is a big step up for the NTS on its historic rate, and we have seen that, in a moment of crisis, the rate of dispersal can be stepped up. However, we need a more consistent and structured approach to deliver consistently through time and ensure that we avoid unfair burdens on this county. We still await the final judgment from our legal proceedings that have been pending now for a couple of months. As can be imagined this is putting huge pressure on our children's services, both in terms of finances and resources.

Potholes

At the time of the County Council meeting, Neil Baker Cabinet member for highways reported that, under the pothole blitz, £4.6 million in spend had been committed, 2,992 potholes fixed since March (with another 2,000 fixed under our road and footway maintenance budget) and over 86,000 square metres of patching work completed. Our pothole blitz page gives a very good guide to what is being done, and a guide to roads which are being prioritised for works ([click here](#)).

Highways Projects:

I am continuing to push along with Staplehurst Parish Council for the use of section 106 monies to deliver the highways upgrade to the Cranbrook Road area. This project has taken considerably longer than I had hoped but the important thing is that it's still moving forward.

Warmlake crossroads has not been identified as a crash cluster site

after all, so the scope for improvements are minimal. I am still not convinced from all anecdotal evidence and my own eyes that this site is not problematic however our options now are to keep ensuring all accidents and incidents are reported and to keep this site on Highways radar.

ASC

We are due a CQC inspection of our adult social care services under the new inspection framework by October. We do not yet have a precise date but will get 8 weeks' notice and extensive preparation is taking place.

At the March County Council, we welcomed the decision by the government to extend the Household Support Fund (HSF) for another six months. The previous round (HSF4) was a success, with very positive feedback from the Department for Work and Pensions. In that round we supported 989 residents with debt advice, 356 under the Warm Homes scheme and 18,921 under the voucher scheme. We have since developed our plans for HSF5, with a particular focus on warm homes.

Family Hubs

KCC made the decision to implement the Family Hubs model in Kent and this was formalised by the Council through a Key Decision in November 2023. The Family Hubs model brings huge potential for integrated and enhanced service delivery for the most vulnerable families, as well as change and loss in some provision.

As part of this development, Maidstone Children Centre's and Youth Hub have now become Family Hubs, prioritising services for children up to 19 years (or up to 25 for those children with SEND) and their families. It does however come at the loss of the Marden Children's centre a decision which comes as a personal disappointment as it is something I have fought consistently against in both my county and previous cabinet post at MBC

There is also going to be a loss of Youth services in Staplehurst, however I am currently in the process of looking at alternative ways of delivering this service and have pencilled in a meeting on the 14th of June with the family hub district manager.

We are currently in a phase of transitioning from what KCC used to deliver in Children's and Youth Centres to what the Family Hub multi-agency network will deliver in future. During this transition period we have a temporary delivery schedule.

Future schedules will illustrate an increasing network offer and, together with a digital offer and county-wide communications, will be easier for communities to understand what they can access, where, and how. There is currently recruitment going on for a Community

	<p>Development Worker for each district, who will work with partners and organisations to look at how we can enhance the offer further.</p> <p>The volunteering process I believe is being revamped at County level, there are opportunities under the Family Hub model to become a Family Coach – I have details of this for anyone interested.</p> <p>Community Warden</p> <p>As Of writing I have had confirmation from the relevant cabinet member that no details have yet be finalised on who our warden will be and the exact area.</p> <p>Community Grant</p> <p>I currently have £8317 of CMG left. Due the county term coming to an end this needs to be allocated/applied for by 15th November. I imagine that the GE will mean there is a hiatus until 4th July however Id encourages the Parishes to get their thinking caps on as Id rather not leave applications to the last minute. Ideally, I'd like to do one project per parish to finish off my term, but it may be sensible to think of two in case I have a surplus.</p> <p>Lottie</p>	
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24.06.05 PLANNING MATTERS		
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24.06.05 PLANNING MATTERS	This part of the meeting was Chaired by the Chairman. NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS	
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Application: 24/502054/SUB		
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<p>Address: Saxonden Collier Street Tonbridge Kent TN12 9RT Proposal: Submission of details pursuant to condition 3 (a) (external surfaces details) of application 23/505235/LBC (partial discharge). PLANNING OFFICER: Louise Welsford IT WAS RESOLVED TO ALL MEMBERS TO A NO COMMENT</p>	full
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24.06.05 PLANNING DECISIONS		
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<p>ADDRESS: The Packhouse Den Lane Collier Street Tonbridge Ken PROPOSAL: Prior notification for the change of use of a building and any land within its curtilage from agricultural to 3no. dwellinghouses and associated operation development. For its prior approval to: - Transport and Highways impacts of the development. - Noise impacts of the development. - Contamination risks on the site. - Flooding risks on the site. - Whether the location or siting of the building makes it otherwise impractical or undesirable for the use of the building to change from agricultural use to C3 (dwellinghouses). - Design and external appearance impact on the building. - Provision of adequate natural light in all habitable rooms of the dwellinghouses. APPLICATION REFUSED</p> <p>APPLICATIONREFERENCE: 24/501192/LAWPRO ADDRESS/ SECOND SCHEDULE: 5 The Nortons Industrial Estate Collier Street Tonbridge Kent TN12 9RR PROPOSAL/ FIRST SCHEDULE: Lawful Development Certificate for proposed change of use to include a spray room, to be used in conjunction with joinery workshop. APPLICATION REFUSED</p>

24.06.05

PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

There was no planning correspondence received since the last meeting

24.06.06

PUBLIC FORUM

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no members of the public present who wished to speak.

24.06.07

CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTION POINTS

No Correspondence noted

24.06.08

CIL MONIES

This was still ongoing from the last meeting and Cllr Ben Ward was in the process of getting some quotes for the connection to the car park. There is a cost for them to come out and carry out a site survey, Does the Parish Council need planning permission for this, it might be a good idea to get pre application advice which would be for a Kiosk in the recreation ground car park.

There may be the possibility of Grants for Vehicle charging points – this needs to be looked into.

Cllr Jack Highwood asked Cllr Ward to send through what he is s going to get some quotes for the electricity to be put at the Car Park. Cllr Highwood asked Cllr Ward to draw up a list of what he was doing and send it through to all Councillors to keep them in the loop.

24.06.09

VILLAGE HALL

There was no update at this time.

24.06.10

HIGHWAYS

HIP

Cllr D Papas updated the members that KCC have approved 2 new Children in road signs one north of the Village and one South of the Village.

Cllr Papas has also asked that Roundels are re-painted in the Village. The Hedge near the Priority sign has also been reported as it needs cutting back the priority sign is not visible. A new speed sign has also been done in Haviker Street.

For Highways, please add that KCC Highways also approved two signs much larger for either end of Longends Lane. Dates for works to be confirmed (for both sets of signs).

Would you also add that the approved signs were from our Highways Improvement Plan.

Streetlighting

The Clerk has now entered the Parish Council into a new 12mth contract, the Clerk did try and seek new quotes but there just wasn't the companies available to offer quotes. The Clerk will try again when it is due next year.

24.06.11

FINANCE

Copy documents sent electronically to all members in advance of the meeting.

24.06.11.01. BANK RECONCILIATIONS – MAY 2024

It was Proposed by Cllr D PAPANAS, seconded by Cllr Cooper and **RESOLVED** by all members present to To accept the Bank Reconciliation and the vice-chairman and RFO both signed the paperwork.

24.06.11.02. RECONCILIATION STATEMENTS – MAY 2024

It was Proposed by Cllr D PAPAS, seconded by Cllr Cooper and **RESOLVED** by all members present. to accept the Bank Statements for both Accounts and the vice-chairman and RFO both signed the paperwork.

24.06.11.03. BUDGET REPORT YTD – MAY 2024

It was Proposed by Cllr D PAPAS, seconded by Cllr Cooper and **RESOLVED** by all members present to To accept the Budget Report.

24.06.11.04. TRIAL BALANCE REPORT – MAY 2024

It was Proposed by Cllr D PAPAS, seconded by Cllr Cooper and **RESOLVED** by all members present to. Accept the Trial Balance Report.

Copy documents sent electronically to all members in advance of the meeting. Cllr D Papas asked if the Clerk could circulate all the papers a week before the meeting giving them enough time to look. Through the papers.

**24.06.11.05
PAYMENTS FOR AUTHORISATION**

It was Proposed by Cllr D Papas, seconded by Cllr Cooper and **RESOLVED** by all members present to Approve the Payments below.

It was also noted that the Clerk will seek a new Insurance Quote for next year when it is due.

		CSPC PAYMENTS - JUNE 2024		
DATE		PAYEE	AMOUNT	NARRATIVE
03.06.2024	BACS	MICHELLE RUMBLE	£654.33	CLERKS SALARY
03.06.2024	BACS	MICHELLE RUMBLE	£111.48	CLERKS EXPENSES
03.06.2024	BACS	RIALTAS	£682.80	EOY SUPPORT
03.06.2024	BACS	CLEAR COUNCILS	£811.77	INSURANCE 2024/2025
03.06.2024	DD	HSBC	£8.00	BANK CHARGES
03.06.2024	DD	IONOS	£21.60	EMAILS
03.06.2024	BACS	CAPEL GROUND CARE	£48.00	OUTDOOR PLAY EQUIPMENT INSPECTION
		TOTAL	£2,337.98	

**24.06.12
RECREATION FIELD**

The Clerk reported that the Field had just been cut. There was no other reports at this time.

**24.06.13
FLOODING UPDATE**

Cllr Summersgill reported that the Environment Agency will be carrying out new Flood Maps

**24.06.14
DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Parish confirmed that the next full Council meeting will be, in The Orchard Room, St Margaret's School on MONDAY 1ST JULY.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19.44PM

Prepared by | MICHELLE RUMBLE | Clerk to Collier Street Parish Council

PG 8 SIGNATURE..... DATE.....

