

**MINUTES**  
**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF**  
**COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL**  
Orchard Room, St Margaret's School  
on Monday 7<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2024  
commencing at 19.00PM  
In attendance

Cllr Andrew Papas [AP] Chair	Cllr Kelly Rigden [KR]
Cllr Jack Highwood [JH] Vice-chair	Cllr Steve Barham [SB]
Cllr Ben Ward [BW]	
Cllr Charlie Cooper [CC]	
Cllr Deborah Papas [DP]	

<b>24.10.01</b> <b>APOLOGIES</b>	Parish Clerk Michelle Rumble, Borough Councillor Claudine Russell, Borough Councillor Mick Summersgill, County Councillor Lottie Parfitt-Reid	
<b>24.10.02</b> <b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b>	None	
<b>24.10.03</b> <b>MINUTES</b>	<b>MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024 TO BE APPROVED.</b>	
	It was noted by [DP] that there was a date error on item 24.09.09, where the year should be 2025. There was also a mis quote on item 24.09.10 where it is recorded of restrictions going in and the erection of two signs. This is to be amended to “new larger signs to replace existing restriction signs” ( <i>no new restrictions</i> ). Full Council approved the minutes outside of these mis types, as representing an accurate recording of the said meeting. [AP] to sign the hard copy of the minutes as a true and accurate record after the meeting and when amendments have been made.	
<b>24.10.04</b>	<b>EXTERNAL REPORTS</b>  <b>BOROUGH COUNCILLORS</b> There were no Borough Councillors present. Reports submitted below.  <u>From Cllr Mick Summersgill</u>  After the slight (holiday) hiatus of August, this month has been a busy one for the main business of the Borough Council, with both Cabinet and Council meetings on Wednesdays 18 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup> , as well as the other Committees and sub-groups. The new Council’s forward Strategic Plan was published in outline form, and is still being discussed in detail with Officers, before then considering the results of the Residents’ Survey (see below) and finalising details for further confirmation. At Cabinet, motions to consider reducing the voting age to 16, and a Nature Recovery Declaration, were debated, along with updating the crime enforcement policies and also three corporate property acquisitions (two of these for potential Council	

housing, part of the 1000 new homes policy set by the previous Council). I missed the Council meeting on 25<sup>th</sup>, due to an illness, but three Motions were brought forward by Councillors on Kent Farmers/Growers, the Greensand Ridge designation and Israel/Palestine.

In addition, the Borough issued its biennial Residents Survey on 6<sup>th</sup> Sept, and this is currently doing the rounds of various organisations and Parishes, in order to get as much feedback as possible from communities, businesses and industry. Individuals are encouraged to fill the Residents Survey in (<https://letstalkmaidstone.uk/engagementhq.com/resident-budget-survey-2024>), and final date for return is 20<sup>th</sup> October; there is even a Prize Draw for everyone who responds... **please contribute!**

As well as being appointed vice-chair of the Planning Committee, I am getting further into my Cabinet role as Member with responsibility for Climate Transition & Nature Recovery. My twin focus this month has been on the six-monthly Update to the Council's Biodiversity & Climate Change Action Plan, which goes to Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> October and then, hopefully to Cabinet for approval; this is the long-term plan, started in 2020, to move the Council to a 'net zero' position by 2030. My other focus has been on the third annual Eco-Hub in town, in the Mall (lower level, next to ex-Wilco); this will run for two weeks from 26<sup>th</sup> October to 9<sup>th</sup> November, with Repair Cafes on those two dates and plenty of informative adult- & child-friendly events on midweek days throughout the fortnight.

In wider 'community' terms, it was good to see how much the flock of Shauns raised at Auction for the Heart of Kent Hospice (£265k), and there are further town events going on in the Autumn, including the second Literary Festival. Check for events: <https://www.visitmaidstone.com/whats-on>

I personally attended the annual Tree Wardens meeting in Loose, where KCC and the Tree Council talked about their schemes for tree planting, one of which is a research project in ParkWood that we visited, and I'll be at the (south Maidstone rural) Parishes Environment Group in Hunton on 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct.

Collier Street Parish Matters - Helped the PC to get new Public Safety posters for the play area renewed - *(to be erected)*

From Cllr Claudine Russell

Cllr Russell was not in attendance and no report had been received.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Cllr Lottie Parfitt-Reid was not in attendance, and no report was received prior to the meeting.

**24.10.4A  
PUBLIC FORUM**

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Meeting was adjourned at 19:07hrs to hear from member of the public.

A resident wished to raise the planning application for Claygate House stating that it is identical as the previous plans that were submitted and rejected in June 2024. He went on to say that the only difference in the applications is the post code being slightly different and that this has also been changed by the Post Office. He believes this is bad faith on the planners and wished to bring this to the attention of the Parish Council.

Meeting was reconvened at 19:22hrs.

**24.10.05**

**PLANNING**

**NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

This part of the meeting was chaired by [JH].

**APPLICATION: 24 / 502849 / FULL**

ADDRESS: 1-3 The Nortons Industrial Estate, Collier Street Tonbridge Kent TN12

PROPOSAL: Demolition of existing industrial unit and erection of a new warehouse building comprising three units (use class E, B2 and B8) with associated parking.

**IT WAS DECIDED BY ALL MEMBERS TO A NO COMMENT.**

**APPLICATION: 24 / 503901 / FULL**

ADDRESS: Claygate House, Spenny Lane, Collier Street Tonbridge Kent TN12

PROPOSAL: Demolition of existing coach house and erection of detached outbuilding to serve as annexed accommodation to the main dwelling (part retrospective).

**IT WAS DECIDED BY ALL MEMBERS TO OBJECT TO THE APPLICATION AND REQUEST TO GO TO COMMITTEE SHOULD THE APPLICATION BE CONSIDERED TO BE GRANTED.**

**APPLICATION: 24 / 504008 / COUNTY**

ADDRESS: St Margaret's School, Collier Street Tonbridge Kent TN12

PROPOSAL: Proposed replacement of existing metal windows with aluminium heritage frame windows.

**IT WAS DECIDED BY ALL MEMBERS TO SUPPORT THIS APPLICATION.**

**24.10.06**

**PLANNING**

**DECISIONS BY MBC**

**APPLICATION: 24/503143/FULL**

ADDRESS: Cherry Gardens, Collier Street, Tonbridge, Kent, TN12

PROPOSAL: Erection of an agricultural storage barn with solar roof panels on roof, and improvements to existing driveway.

**APPLICATION REFUSED.**

**24.10.07**

**PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE**

KALC – Mastering Planning Applications

**NO FURTHER DISCUSSIONS.**

**24.10.08**

**VILLAGE HALL**

[BW] stated that there was one submitted quote for repair costs for some works in the hall and he and / or the other trustees will obtain two more for Parish Council consideration of CIL monies being presented to assist with these works.

**24.10.09**

**HIGHWAYS – HIP and GENERAL**

[DP] stated that we are still await sign erection mentioned in last meeting, which should be soon. Nothing further to report

**24.10.10**

**CIL MONIES**

[DP] updated that the spend since last update was on signs for the car park / field (no dogs) and padlocks for the new barrier, and gate as well as the existing bollard. Future spend on CCTV being looked at as well as a consideration of a donation to the Village Hall to assist them with repair works.

**24.10.11**

**FINANCE**

**24.10.11.01 BANK RECONCILIATION (SEPTEMBER)**

**24.10.11.02 BANK STATEMENTS (SEPTEMBER)**

**24.10.11.03 TRIAL BALANCE**

**24.10.11.04 BUDGET REPORT YTD**

**24.10.11.05 PAYMENTS FOR OCTOBER**

**DUE TO TIMINGS FOR THIS MONTH, IT WAS AGREED THAT THESE WOULD BE RESOLVED OUTSIDE THE MEETING AFTER COUCILLORS HAD MORE TIME TO REVIEW THEM. THEY WILL BE SIGNED BY THE CHAIR AND RFO AT THE NEXT MEETING.**

**24.10.12**

**RECREATION FIELD & CAR PARK**

[DP] stated that she has fed back to the suppliers of the barrier regarding the gate fitting and general finishing of the ground where the barrier had been fitted was not up to standard and is awaiting a reply. However, in the main we all agreed are very pleased with the new addition. New padlocks have been added and three members of council have the keys to these.

[DP] went on to say that new aluminium signs were special ordered by [DP] and had been put up at the weekend by [BW] and [AP]. The signs show “no dogs” and wording those states “In Car Park, Field and Footpath”. There were four that were put up as well as a 5-mph sign at the entrance.

[DP] discussed the fact that there had been four dogs on the field, whilst Marden Minors were on the playing. [AP] requested that The Clerk would write again to the organiser for the events to reiterate the rules and conditions of using the field, which include any spectators.

[AP] discussed that there have been a few drivers that are coming into the car park and driving along the gravel to the far end. This is churning up the gravel and in two places, the ground could be seen. [AP] and [DP] smoothed this over at the weekend as best possible, [AP] asked [KR] if she would speak with the headmaster to get a message out to all the parents / guardians that use the car park to only drive on the tarmac until they get to the gravel area and park.

[BW] suggested that we could paint L markers as corners to show where the spaces are as sometimes the car park gets full and some spaces are taken up unfairly. This will be looked at in due course.

[AP] asked [KR] to organise a “Cleaning Party” with the school daily users of the car park to once a month do a litter pick and sweep.

[AP] discussed the inspection of the play equipment which [BW] and [DP] also did at the weekend and concluded that the repairs quoted for in the recent inspection, were not needed. However, some small

general repairs to the matting could easily be rectified. [CC] and [BW] stated they would be happy to oversee this over the coming months and before the Spring kicks in.

It was also discussed that we should give the area a good clean once a year and this would be added to the budget next April.

**IT WAS RESOLVED BY ALL MEMBERS TO NOT PROCEED WITH THE FULL WORKS QUOTED FOR TO DATE FOR THE FLOORING IN THE PLAY AREA.**

**24.10.13**

**FLOODING UPDATE**

[JH] gave an update stating that there had been site visits from IDB and residents on the problem points the village has now; to see if we can move water to different directions. There will be a survey to see if it is possible to change the direction of water flow by Bentletts.

[JH] went on to say that whilst we had sustained a lot of rain recently (200% increase in September), the ground has managed to absorb this from being so dry. However, we should be mindful going forward, that more rain may and more likely to cause issues, especially if it is on the same level as in September.

[JH] also stressed that we should observe if any solar panel installations are going in on land by Pattenden Lane as large number of panels can stop water hitting the ground and can roll into different areas, potentially increasing flood risk.

**24.10.14**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

KALC Training Bulletin – September 2024

KALC Minutes last meeting

Email from Martin Jaynes on Civility in Public Life for Councillors

**NO FURTHER DISCUSSIONS.**

**24.10.15**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

[AP] confirmed that the next full Council meeting will be, in The Orchard Room, St Margaret's School on MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:19hrs

**Prepared by | Cllr Deborah Papas | Collier Street Parish Council**