



**MINUTES OF THE
LOOSE PARISH COUNCIL
Monday 11 December 2023 at 7.30pm
in the Parish Pavilion, KGVPF**

Councillors taking part: Charlie Hollister (Vice Chairman) (CH), Peter Rigby (PR), Susan Luckhurst (SL), Tony Oliver (TO) and Elaine Lawford (EL), Velma Bennett (VB).

Also present: Nicky Bourne (Deputy Clerk) (NB) and Kim Owen (Clerk) (KO) who took the minutes.

There were three members of the Public present. The Vice Chairman explained the housekeeping rules.

1. To receive and record any apologies for absence.

Apologies have been received from Jim Andrew (JA) (Previous engagement), Vianne Gibbons (VG) (Work Commitment), Andrew Richards (AR) (No reason given) and Susan Grigg (SG) (Private event), Harry Greenfield (PC) (Work commitments).

2. To receive and agree any decision regarding any item to be taken as confidential.

None.

3. To receive any declarations of pecuniary interest on items in the agenda.

(In accordance with the NALC Model Code of Conduct for Parish Councils (pursuant to section 27 of the Localism Act 2011). In addition, any declaration of personal or prejudicial interest. *(As agreed by LPC 21 Jan 13)*

None.

4. To receive any signed dispensation requests for any item on this agenda.

(Councillors to approve/disapprove as appropriate and to agree the reason for the dispensation if approved. (see dispensation form). This follows the agreement made by the LPC at the meeting held on the 17 July 2017- (item 17))

None.

5. To agree and to sign as a correct record the minutes:

LPC minutes for meeting held on the 20 November (Pages 1900-1906)

The minutes of the meeting on 20 November 2023 were **AGREED** and signed by the Vice Chairman.

The following approved Minutes to be noted and adopted by the Parish Council

- Planning Committee Meeting 13 November 2023 (Pages 631-642)
- Pavilion and Community Hub Committee Meetings 26 June 2023 (Pages 363-368) and 11 September 2023 (pages 369-373)
- Environment Committee Meeting 24 July 2023 (Pages 408-412)

The Council **AGREED** to take agenda item 22 next.

6. To receive any reports from the Loose Ward Councillor Susan Grigg. (SG)

The Clerk advised that there was no report received but SG has sent details of the meeting with the Walnut Tree Public House and the noise issue raised by residents. The Clerk will forward the notes to Councillors.

7. To discuss the Linton crossroads proposals and make any necessary decisions



There is a Linton Crossroad improvement meeting being hosted by Linton Parish Council on 14 December 2023. JA is attending on behalf of Loose Parish Council. He asked if anyone has any comments he can take forward to the meeting. The Planning Committee have discussed the Greensands application and have objected to the proposed development due to the extra pressure that will be put on the Heath Road and the Linton Crossroads. The Clerk will advise JA.

8. To receive any reports from KCC Division Councillor Simon Webb. (SW)

Member report for Maidstone Rural West – Simon Webb - 4th December 2023

This will be the final report for 2023, as we look to welcome in 2024 with better news and wellbeing hopefully linked for the New Year.

As you will know the past few months at KCC has been simply laborious in focusing on budget cuts, a leadership challenge and new faces within the Cabinet. I am pleased to say that the new Cabinet Member for Highways, Mr Neil Baker, is a breath of fresh air as he has already met with me and has worked to sort out many simple repairs to pot-holes and other Highways issues. His strategic approach to Highways looks promising for the future.

My time has been taken up with numerous challenging issues for both Nettlestead Parish Council and individual residents, some of whom have children with additional needs, where the County are not appearing to be able to assist swiftly enough to meet those needs.

As a County Member I was very disappointed that both KCC and MBC Planners have sought fit to approve a planning change for the Syngenta Business Park on the borders of Yalding PC and Nettlestead PC. Little notice is being taken of the significant number of resident concerns on Station Road and Hempstead Lane, over the number of HGVs. They cause significant congestion to both narrow lanes with predominant concerns for any residents who try to walk from their homes along those roads. KCC say that there have been no serious injuries to change their mind on support for the new application. MBC because KCC didn't object agreed to this appalling planning consent.

Having been removed from KCC Cabinet Committees from June onwards, due to having published a newspaper article setting out my case to challenge the 200+ abusive emails I received from social media over my comments made during a SEND sub-committee meeting in March 2023, I asked to become a committee member of Audit and Governance, which I happily agreed to.

I have recently copied in many parish councils over the proposed expansion of Coxheath Primary School from 2FE (420 pupils) to 3FE (630 pupils) from September 2024; this effectively is seeking to add 30 pupils per year from September 2024. I see no statistical relevance for this large an increase, as data for the 3 latter years is not available as the children have not been born. I have lodged my challenge and I hope those parish councils have too. The greatest risk is to the smaller primary schools in the vicinity, whose viability could be at risk in the years to come.

Thank you for your kindness when I attend your Parish Council meetings, some committee meetings at MBC clash with parish meetings, so I apologise for not attending as regularly as you expect.

Have a relaxing and restful Christmas and New year break. Kind regards

Simon Cabinet Member



9. To discuss the changes to the Parish Boundary and make any necessary decisions. (VG)

The Clerk advised that a meeting was held on 28 November 2023 with members from North Loose Residents Association (NLRA) regarding the Parish Boundary changes and confirmed the following:

- A meeting with the Council's Solicitor will be arranged to discuss the best way to secure the future of the Woodlands in NLRA.
- Members benefit Scheme will go forward for all residents of the current Loose Parish and the NLRA residents joining the Parish has been agreed via Round Robin.
- A walkabout of NLRA area to work out budget etc for next year has been arranged for 13 December 2023. CH, Sean Carter, Paul Kinnill, KO and NB to attend
- Sean Carter has arranged for 3 possible new Councillors to join the Parish Council. They have been contacted by the office.

10. To receive an update on the Shed in Brooks Field and the proposed electrical supply. (KO)

The clerk advised that she has contacted UK Power networks (UKPN) about the electric supply and they have advised that as she is not named on the application by Loose Amenities they cannot discuss the applications with her but we will need to make an application on behalf of the Council. Once the application is submitted UKPN will set up a site meeting and then design the works and then price the job. The Council **AGREED** that the Clerk should complete the document and include NB, VG, JA and John Brighton on the document.

With regards to the shed the Clerk has sent the Heads of Lease to the Council's Solicitors for consideration.

11. Update on Southern Water Lower Loose Valley Pumping Station. (NB)

The Clerk advised that the new generator has been installed. Commissioning works will now take place, and it is expected to bring it into service on 21 December 2023.

12. To receive any reports/information from Community Warden Team

No report received. NB has applied for a further grant to help residents, The Winter Community Support Grant. Deadline is 17 December 2023 and the outcome will be known within 28 days of the closing date.

13. To receive any reports/information from Police and from E-watch.

NB advised that the new PC, Harry Greenfield, was hoping to attend the meeting this evening to introduce himself but is currently in the custody suite dealing with an issue.

E-watch

Between 00:01 on Sunday 1 of October and 12:22 on Tuesday 28 of November in Well Street.

Somebody stole a blue Iveco Ford motorbike, W957***, from a commercial property.

Crime Report No. 46/210780/23 - Posted 29/11/2023

14. To receive any questions/comments from the public or organisations.

(To include any letters/e-mails received by the Clerk from members of the public)

- a. KALC have advised that there is a limited number of funded defibrillators are available, for all eligible UK-based community groups including Parish Councils. Each organisation can only apply for one award package. Applications for a free BHF-funded defibrillator are now open. Applications will close on 25th March 2024. The Council **AGREED** to apply for additional defibrillator for the outside of the Pavilion. NB to action.
- b. The deputy Clerk advised that a resident had sent in information on online Briefings from Making Space for Nature. The aim of the scheme is to work with as many people in Kent as



possible, from all backgrounds and sectors, to decide what our shared priorities are for nature recovery and environmental improvements across the county. By working together, it is hoped to build a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Kent and Medway that produces a flourishing landscape of wildlife-rich places. There are several workshops organised including one for Town and Parish Councils. After discussion it was **AGREED** to find out more information and attend the briefing for Parishes. NB to Action.

15. Finance & Funding.

a. To ratify payments made on Appx A for 11 December 2023

The Appendix A was ratified by the Council. Authorised by CH & VG.

b. To receive update on the Interim Audit if report has been received

The interim internal Audit was carried out on 20 November 2023 and the auditor's report has not yet been received.

16. To review the Enquiry, Concern and Complaints Spreadsheet. (KO)

Since the last meeting the office has dealt with the following issues:

- Request to clear the viaduct footpath
- Landslip on old Loose Hill under Rosemount opposite High Banks junction.
- Overgrown tree on Loose Road by Walnut Tree Avenue
- Block drain at Well Street and High Bank junction
- Viaduct Barriers in need of some attention as broken
- Walnut Tree Avenue residents advised that one of Pavilion Flood light is on overnight
- Works at pumping station

17. To receive an update on staffing issues and make any necessary decision. (VG)

The Clerk advised that the interviews for an Assistant clerk were held on 5 December 2023. There were two strong candidates. After discussion it was **AGREED**, in view of the increase in the size of the parish with effect from May 2024 both candidates would be offered the post of Assistant Clerk (16 hours per week). Clerk to Action

18. To review Policies and Procedures. (KO)

The policies have been circulated to Councillors for review prior to the meeting.

a. Social Media Policy

The Council **AGREED** the policy with no amendments.

b. Freedom of information Policy

The Council **AGREED** the policy with a change of address for the Office.

Clerk to Action.

19. Promotion of Loose Parish Council & Articles. (KO)

The Social media data for November 2023 has been circulated to Councillors and noted.

20. To receive and discuss any items of concern escalated by Councillor, Committees or the Office.

None.

21. To ratify any ROUND ROBINS used since 20 November 2023 (KO)

The following Round Robins were ratified by the Council

- 28 November 2023 – Waive Loose Ends Pavilion Hire going forward. AGREED (VG, CH, JA, PR, SL, VB, EL & AR)



- 28 November 2023 – To continue NLRA Discount Scheme and purchase 3500 cards at £100 for delivery to all Loose Parish Council residents. AGREED (VG, CH, JA, PR, SL, VB, EL & AR)
- 28 November 2023 – To take the issue of a trust for the protection of NLRA woodland to solicitors for advice and pay any necessary fees. (AGREED) (VG, CH, JA, PR, SL, VB, EL & AR)

22. To discuss the D Day 80 – 6 June 2024 and make any necessary decisions (VB)

VB advised that she is looking into options for the celebrations and after discussion it was **AGREED** that the office will contact local community groups to see what they are doing for the event and the Fete will have a D Day theme as it will be held in June 2024.

23. Information Only.

PR advised that he attended the Loose Parochial Charities meeting and advised that the church confirmed that the Council's annual donation of £150.00 is sufficient for the Charity.

The office advised that android tablets have been purchased and will be distributed to Councillors shortly.

24. Next meeting of LPC –15 January 2024.

The Meeting ended at 9.15pm

Dated.....

Signature