

# Alkham Parish Council

## Minutes the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7pm in Alkham Village Hall

Present: Cllrs N Burrows (Chairman); M Hibbert; A Barrier

In Attendance: Irene Bowie (Parish Clerk) and 12 Members of the Public

### PRIOR TO THE START OF THE MAIN MEETING:

*Representations from the general public will be taken for a period up to fifteen minutes before the opening of the formal meeting. Individuals may speak for up to three minutes at the discretion of the Chairman. The minute book will be closed.*

Matter raised included:

Events for the Coronation

Hiring of the Village Hall

Contributions to the DDC Local Plan Consultation

To receive reports from (if present): *Kent County Councillor David Beaney; Dover District Councillor Martin Hibbert; and the PCSO.*

It was reported that the new PCSO would be happy to attend coffee mornings in the Village Hall and would try and attend some of the PC meetings.

### 1. Apologies and absences:

- 1.1 Apologies for absence received and confirmed by the Council Members who cannot attend a meeting shall tender their apologies to the Parish Clerk prior to the meetings, under Section 75(1) of the Local Government Act 1862, the members present must decide whether the reason(s) for a member's absence shall be accepted. Apologies were received from Cllr Marczin-Bundy
- 1.2 Declaration of Changes to the Register of Interests. There were none
- 1.3 To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda. In accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2010 in respect of members and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1862 in respect of officers. There were none
- 1.4 Requests for Dispensations. There were none
- 1.5 Declarations of Lobbying. There were none

### 2. Consideration of items to be taken in private (Exclusion of Public and Press): In accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1850, the public and press be excluded from the meeting by the reason of its confidential nature.

### 3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September and 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022 were taken as read and confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 4. Matters arising from the minutes: (not included in other agenda items). There were none

### 5. Finance:

- 5.1 To receive and authorise payments listed on the schedule (provided at the meeting)  
It was RESOLVED to approve the payments on the schedule.
- 5.2 Late Payment Request/s to be discussed for approval and payment. It was RESOLVED to purchase at a cost of £70 a case for the Scout 2 Speed Recorder. It was RESOLVED that the Scout 2 Speed Recorder and case would remain the property of the parish council and would be added to the asset register.
- 5.3 To note Receipts of Income (to be provided at the meeting). There were none to report
- 5.4 To confirm bank reconciliation (to be provided at the meeting). Provided at the November 2022 Meeting
- 5.5 To Agree the Budget and Precept for 2023/23
  - 5.5.1 To review the 2022/23 spend vs budget forecast. It was noted that due to the increased costs of maintenance, administration, the purchase of a new bench and speed watch equipment the budget would be over spent by the year end.
  - 5.5.2 To agree the budget for 2023/24. It was RESOLVED that the budget was set as £27,870
  - 5.5.3 To agree the precept for 2023/24  
It was RESOLVED that the precept would be set at £15,430 representing a Band D of £49.92 per annum and an increase of £4.54 per Band D property per annum.

### 6. Planning:

- 6.1 To table planning applications received for consideration:
  - 6.1.1 TC/22/00150 Malmins Manor Slip Lane Alkham Kent CT15 7DB  
T1 Eucalyptus - fell to ground level. The tree is overhanging and old cottage and is situated next

to a flint wall. The tree has outgrown its situation and the applicant wishes to remove the tree to eliminate the possibility of damage to the property. **APC No Objection**

6.1.2 22/01658 Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Hogbrook Hill Lane Alkham CT15 7BU  
Creation of a menage with post and rail fencing. **APC No Objection**

6.2 To receive late planning applications and other late planning matters: There were none

6.3 To table planning applications dealt with since last meeting:

6.3.1 22/01353 Drellingore Barns Stombers Lane Drellingore CT18 7ER

Change of use and conversion of 2no. farm buildings to dwelling, erection of an annex for ancillary use/holiday let, alterations to granary building, erection of car barn, outbuilding, associated car parking, boundary wall, formation of new gated vehicular access, landscaping, biodiversity enhancements and installation of cesspool (existing buildings to be demolished) |

**APC Objection**

6.4 To table decisions by the Dover District Council since the last meeting

## 7. To receive Reports:

7.1 Byways

Cllr Barrier

7.1.1 KCC PROW Alkham Byways Clearance Volunteer Day 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023. It was reported that KCC Had contacted the parish council to assist in the booking of the Village Hall for the Volunteer Day. KCC had been informed by the VHMC that they had to pay cash in advance. This was not possible. It was RESOLVED that the parish council would pay the invoice on behalf of KCC and reclaim it.

7.1.2 Cllr Barrier reported that fallen trees were blocking the PROW near Short Lane. Concerns were Raised regarding the condition of Pimlico PROW. It was AGREED that Cllr Barrier would contact KCC PROW regarding this

7.2 Parish Plan- Update

Cllr Burrows

The amendments made by the parish council to the draft Community Plan were accepted by the Community Plan Group. It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council would accept the amended plan. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk would identify an editor to check layout, spelling and grammar.

7.3 Drainage and Flood Warden Report

Cllr Hibbert reported that: the latest work updates for submitted Alkham drainage fault reports to Kent Highways drainage department were as follows:

- 666264 – Martin Vale, Hogbrook Lane - enquiry under investigation.
- 642292- Village Sump, job completed.
- 652656 – Alkham Ditch, Valley Cottages. Request to clear out whole length of ditch. This section falls within the responsibility of KCC under an agreed contract. Work programmed.

The Village Green swale. To discuss for annual clearing funding from APC.

Village Green Ditch – compaction of leaves in ditch causing downstream blockages in Short Lane culverts and local flooding risk. Discuss need for petrol blower to regularly remove debris from ditch in autumn period to mitigate this risk. Work to be undertaken by volunteer riparian owners. Blower to be held by KCC Flood Warden. It was AGREED that a leaf blower would not be purchased at this time.

## 8. Highways:

8.1 Highways Improvement Plan (HIP)

Cllr Hibbert gave an update on the meeting held with KCC Highways and reported on the items that were agreed to. It was RESOLVED to accept the HIP and that the Clerk would post on the website.

8.2 To receive the Alkham Speed watch reports.

8.3 To receive the parish portal report The report was received and noted

8.4 To receive any other Highways matters

8.4.1 KCC Community Transport Grant - deadline extension . Noted

## 9. Play area and Village Green:

9.1 To receive the Monthly Playground Inspection Report. The report was received and it was AGREED to make any necessary repairs.

9.2 Provision of a commemorative bench. Clerk to follow up and obtain quotes for a plaque to celebrate the Jubilee to be added to the bench.

9.3 To consider any other matters pertaining to the play area and/or the Village Green. It was AGREED to discuss and identify areas for re-wilding at the next meeting.

10. **Community Support: Cost -of -Living-Crisis.** It was noted that events organised by DDC and KCC had been added to the parish council website.

## 11. Correspondence:

11.1 To table items of late correspondence : KALC Community Award 2023

11.2 Items circulated for information: For further information contact the Clerk

11.2.1 DDC Town and Parish Event - Thursday 16 February 2023

- 11.2.2 Sport England Active Places - ALKHAM VILLAGE GREEN
- 11.2.3 Kent's Plan Bee summit 2022 – Land management for pollinators - video and slide pack
- 11.2.4 District housing needs survey 2023

**12. Agenda Items for the Next Meeting 6th March 2023**

There being no further business to be discussed the meeting was closed at 9.20 pm

Signed

Chairman

Date: