

Alkham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 22nd January 2024 at 7 pm in Alkham Village Hall

Present: Alkham Parish Councillors: D Barnard Chairman, P Tapsell (Vice Chairman) S Edwards, G Kaile,
T Johns, M Libaert, C Webber.
In Attendance: Irene Bowie (Parish Clerk) and Members of the Public
DDC Cllr M Hibbert.

1. Apologies.

- 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 1972, the members present must decide whether the reason(s) for a member's absence shall be accepted. Apologies were received from KCC Councillor Beaney.
- 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 2011 in respect of members and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of officers. There were none.
- 1.4 Requests for Dispensations. There were none.
- 1.5 Declarations of Lobbying. There were none.

2. Public comments and observations. (Maximum 15 minutes)

The meeting will be adjourned to allow members of the public to speak. Individuals may speak for up to three minutes, at the discretion of the Chairman, on agenda items only. The minute book will be closed.

Matters raised:

- Plans for the Play Area

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th January 2024 are to be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Reports from external parties (if present).

Kent County Councillor David Beaney and Dover District Councillor Martin Hibbert.
Councillor Hibbert agreed to send a report outlining DDC activities and News.

5. Planning:

5.1 To table planning applications received for consideration:

- 5.1.1 24/00009 Sunrise Meggett Lane Alkham CT15 7EN
Certificate of Lawfulness (existing) for the continued use of barn for domestic use
RESOLVED: Objection

5.2 To Table and Validate Planning Applications dealt with since the last meeting: There were none.

5.3 To table decisions by Dover District Council (DDC) since the last meeting:

- 5.3.1 **23/01362 Erection of a single-storey side/rear extension, external alterations and access ramp to front (existing conservatory demolished)**
Decision Grant Planning Permission

5.4 To Table late planning matters. There were none.

6. Finance:

- 6.1 To receive and authorise payments listed on the schedule (to be provided at the meeting)
There were none.
- 6.2 Late Payment Request/s to be discussed for approval and payment.
There were none.

7. To Agree the budget and precept demand for 2024/25:

- 7.1 To review the 2023/24 spend vs budget forecast
It was noted that due to unforeseen repairs and replacements for the play area and a Tree Survey, a budget overspend of £4,972 was forecasted.

7.2 To receive recommendations from the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)
The RFO recommended a balanced budget of £27,808 and a precept of £16,755.

7.3 To consider the budget for 2024/25

RESOLVED:

The budget for 2024/25 would be set as £27,808

7.4 To consider the precept for 2024/25

RESOLVED:

The Precept for 2024/25 would be set at £ 16,755, representing a Band D of £54.92 per annum and an increase of £5 per Band D property per annum.

8. To receive Reports and agree actions if appropriate.

8.1 Chairman's Report The Chairman reminded everyone about the Drop surgery on 3rd February 20: 10 am until 12 pm.

8.2 KALC Area Meeting Alkham Parish Council Representative. There had not been a meeting.

8.3 Clerks Report (on matters not included in other agenda items)

8.4 Councillors Report (on matters not included in other agenda items)

8.6 Flood and Drainage Warden

8.7 Footpath Warden Councillor Tapsell reported that he was arranging a meeting with KCC PROW. Officer.

8.8 Village Hall Management Committee.

Councillor Webber reported:

The Village Hall committee met on 16th January. Money remains tight. Shirley Prince is still cleaning. Catie Webber is now doing bookings. Website to be updated. Thanks to the Koos for sorting and tidying. Resolved to refurbish hall kitchen and paint inside some parts to spruce up where it's tired. Considering a fence on the west side of the car park. Resolved to part replant garden beds as some mature shrubs are dying. Resolved to move projector/audio wire that interferes with window curtain.

9. To receive reports and agree actions, if appropriate, from the working groups.

9.1 Highways Working Group. Speedwatch is on hold until the weather improves. It was reported that KCC Highways had conducted a site visit as safety camera signs cannot be installed as proposed.

9.2 Communications and Community Involvement Working Group. It was reported that Councillor Kaile has access to the Parish Council website and can post and edit. It was **AGREED** that Councillor Kaile would liaise with the Clerk regarding any changes to the website.

9.3 Parish Plan Evolution and Delivery Working Group No report

9.4 Green Spaces and Environment Working Group

Councillor Webber reported:

Attended two online briefings for Making Space For Nature-one as APC and one as AVS (the AVS chair was unavailable). They were quite different, which was very interesting. Attending the February 1st whole-day workshop in Ashford. Again, I'm attending as APC and taking an AVS person as well. AVS has useful local historical knowledge and makes a good potential fundraising and project partner. Continued play equipment quotation work. Made and displayed poster re surgery. Hoping to make GSE workgroup materials to present/answer questions at surgery. Will make refreshments for surgery.

10. To consider and agree the Volunteer Policy. Agreed at the November 2023 meeting and included in error.

11. To confirm meeting dates for the Annual Meeting of the Parish.

RESOLVED: The Annual Meeting of the Parish will be held on the 13th of May 2024, prior to the Annual Statutory Meeting of the Parish Council.

12. Consideration of items to be taken in private (Exclusion of Public and Press):

There are only a few reasons as to why, legally, the public and press can be excluded from a meeting. The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Sec 1 (2) states, "A body may, by resolution, exclude the public from a meeting (whether during the whole or part of the proceedings) whenever publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons stated in the resolution and arising from the nature of that

business or of the proceedings; and where such a resolution is passed, this Act shall not require the meeting to be open to the public during proceedings to which the resolution applies." It is generally considered acceptable to exclude the press and public if the agenda item relates to the consideration of tenders, leases, purchases of assets, for matters relating to staffing covered by the Data Protection Act and to consider complaints against the council or a code of conduct complaint.

12.1 Enforcement Matters. There were none.

12.2 Council Land Ownership. There were no updates

12.3 To consider any quotations/tenders. There were none.

Parish Council Meetings 2024

4th March, 13th May (Annual Statutory Meeting of the Parish Council), 1st July, 2nd September, 4th November. 13th May Annual Meeting of the Parish.

There being no further business to be transacted the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:45 pm

Signed on behalf of the Parish Council

Signature:

Date:

Chairman (Print Name):