**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF EAST MALLING AND LARKFIELD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 4TH SEPTEMBER 2024 AT CHURCH FARM AT 7.30P.M.**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. D. Thornewell (Chairman), Mrs. M. Moore (Vice-Chairman), T. Bishop, Mrs. L. Cook, R. Haffenden, R. Mitchell, Mrs. A. Oakley, Sharon Root, R. Roud, Mrs. J. Sharpe, Mrs. C. Shire and Mrs. M. Tatton

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllrs. Mrs. C. Bell, Mrs. R. Belton, Mrs. C. Woodger and Mrs. Trudy Dean

**APPROVAL AND SIGNING OF MINUTES AND APPENDICES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 7th AUGUST 2024**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes and Appendices of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 7th August 2024 be **APPROVED AND SIGNED** by the Chairman.

**MATTERS ARISING**

There were no Matters Arising.

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

1. **Ratification of Planning Comments Submitted Since 7th August 2024**

The List of Planning Comments submitted to the Borough Council had been **CIRCULATED** and the action taken was **RATIFIED.**

Discussion took place regarding the application for development off Clare Lane and it was **AGREED** to submit the following additional comments:-

1. It was agreed at the recent Full Council Meeting members asked that we point out that in respect of street lighting there are no streetlights in Busbridge Close, each house has it’s own lighting.
2. Where the track leaves Mill Street (MR118), the bank on the right hand side belongs to No.169 Mill Street but there seems to be misapprehension regarding telecommunications equipment being placed on the bank. It is alleged that the Borough Council have intimated this is in order.
3. **List of Decision Notices Received since 7th August 2024**

The List of Decision Notices had been **CIRCULATED** and was **NOTED.**

**RATIFICATION OF PAYMENTS SINCE LAST MEETING**

The Lists of Payments made since the last Meeting had been **CIRCULATED** together with the list of Direct Debit payments. The action taken was **RATIFIED.**

**REPORTS ON STANDING COMMITTEES HELD DURING AUGUST**

1. **Planning and Development Committee** – 21ST August 2024

Cllr. Thornewell presented these Minutes and mentioned the virtual meeting which took place regarding the Highways Improvement Plan with where he and the Clerk were present along with Demi Richards from KCC and Leybourne Park Residents. A report will be made at the September meeting of this Committee.

Cllr. Mrs. Tatton reported that she received a telephone call from KCC and the replacement of the East Malling sign in New Road is now being dealt with by them.

As the Area 2 Planning Committee will clash with our September Planning and Development Committee Meeting it was agreed that it be moved to Thursday, 19th September 2024. The application in respect of Ivy Farm is due to be considered at Area 2.

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

The Chairman’s Report had been **CIRCULATED** **AND NOTED,** as follows:-

**Summer Litter Pick in Larkfield**

This will be held on Saturday, 7th September 2024 meeting at the Parish Office at 10.30am. All welcome. Litter pickers and bags provided.

**Parish Walk – Sunday 13th October 2024**

This circular walk will start at 2.15pm from Church Farm, New Hythe Lane, Larkfield. Car parking available. All welcome. I intend to do an urban walk via green spaces to visit Local Nature Area at Ditton Quarry and back.

**Repair Café Dates**

This is being held at East Malling Village Hall on Saturday, 21st September 2024 and again on Saturday 129th October at 10.30am.

**Ditton Heritage Centre**

A reminder that Ditton Heritage Centre, a former part of the Victorian School opposite Ditton Church and Village Green in New Road is open from 10.00am to 3.00p.m.

**Possible Seat on the Green at junction of Gighill Road/Lunsford Lane**

KCC have now replied and we need a licence to place a seat on this highway land. The Clerk is making the application and the result will be reported to the Amenities and Open Spaces Committee. This could be an item to include in next year’s budget. I have offered to meet the officer dealing with this on site.

**Trees at Forty Acres**

There have been further problems of trees being felled in the copse adjoining the A20 opposite Rectory Lane but following complaints by residents and Councillors, work stopped. We clearly need to keep an eagle eye on this site!

**New Electricity Box at Larkfield Holy Trinity Church**

The work to install this which resulted in temporary traffic lights in New Hythe Lane has now been completed.

**East Malling Sign**

The East Malling sign in New Road has gone missing just leaving the two posts! Both ourselves and residents have reported this to KCC.

**Footpath from Carnation Crescent to Bondfield Road**

The Borough Council have been asked to clear up the scattering of litter along this path following a resident’s complaint to us.

The Chairman added that Tristan Osborne MP for Chatham and Aylesford had sent a letter to the Borough Council expressing his concern at the proposed car parking charges in both Aylesford and Martin Square, Larkfield.

The Chairman commented that Tristan Osborne MP is to be holding a surgery on 4th October 2024 in Church Farm Hall.

The Chairman added that Holy Trinity Church, Larkfield and St. James the Great Church, East Malling now have a new Vicar, a lady.

**REPORT BY BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Cllr. Thornewell mentioned the Cabinet meeting. ANPR cameras are going to be trialled in the car parks at Borough Green and Haysden Country Park.

Concern has been expressed that ANPR cameras will not pick up whether cars are displaying a Blue Badge therefore normal fees will also be charged for disabled drivers.

Cllr. Mrs. Tatton expressed concern that a number of stall holders have pulled out from attending the West Malling Farmers Market because of the 4 hour limit now imposed.

Cllr. Mrs. Oakley said she has asked that the car parking charges be reviewed after eight months in operation not twelve months.

Cllr. Mrs. Oakley reported on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of which she is Chairman and mentioned an item to be discussed regarding Consultancy Fees, if the fee is under £100,000 it is decided by Officers not Members.

Cllr. Bishop reported that Martin Guyton has now retired and Emma Wood has now become Chief Executive of the Leisure Trust.

Cllr. reported that the Leisure Trust have the following members:-

5,199 – Health

1,598 – Sauna and Spa

3,470 – Swim Schools

T

here are 422 members of Staff.

Cllr. Trudy Dean had provided a Report, belated, which is attached to these Minutes.

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no Members of the Public Present.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, 2nd October 2024

**CLOSURE**

The Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 8.20p.m.

Chairman

2nd October 2024