**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF EAST MALLING AND LARKFIELD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 5TH JULY 2023 AT 7.30P.M. AT CHURCH FARM**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. D. Thornewell (Chairman), T. Bishop, Mrs. L. Cook, R. Haffenden, Sharon Honess, P. Leale, S. Millson, R. Mitchell, Mrs. J. Sharpe, Mrs. C Shire and Mrs. M. Tatton

Daniel Markham Ditton Parish Councillor

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllrs. J. Luque, Mrs. M. Moore, Mrs. A. Oakley, R. Roud and Mrs. C. Woodger

**APPROVAL AND SIGNING OF MINUTES AND APPENDICES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 18TH MAY 2023**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 18th May 2023 be **APPROVED AND SIGNED** by the Chairman.

**APPLICATION FOR THE EAST MALLING WARD VACANCY ON THE PARISH COUNCIL BY CLAIRE SHIRE**

The Chairman reported that Claire Shire has applied for co-option to the Parish Council to serve in East Malling Ward

It was **PROPOSED**  by Cllr. Mrs. Tatton, **SECONDED** by Cllr. D. Thornewell that Claire Shire be co-opted to the Parish Council and serve on the Planning and Development Committee where there is a vacancy at present.

Claire Shire duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office Book and joined the Meeting.

**MATTERS ARISING**

There were no Matters Arising

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

(i) **Ratification of Planning Comments Submitted Since 18TH May 2023**

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

The Chairman drew attention to the objections to the proposed extensions to Cherry Plum Cottage.

(ii) **List of Decision Notices Received since 18th May 2023**

The Lists off Decision Notices issued by the Borough Council had been **CIRCULATED** and were **NOTED.**

(iii) **Any Other Planning Matters**

The Chairman reported that the Borough Council are reviewing the way that planning applications can be called in to the Area Planning Committees.

**RATIFICATION OF PAYMENTS SINCE 18th MAY 2023**

The List of Accounts paid out of Meeting had been **CIRCULATED,** this action was **RATIFIED.**

**REPORTS ON STANDING COMMITTEES HELD DURING JUNE**

(i) **Amenities and Open Spaces,** 14th June 2023

Cllr. Thornewell presented these Minutes in the absence of the Chairman.

We are still awaiting a date for a meeting with Burslem’s regarding the work to the inscriptions on the East Malling War Memorial.

The purchase of Leybourne Wood by Leybourne Parish Council is going ahead and the conveyancing is taking place.

Cllr. Thornewell reported that he and Cllr. Roud had met at South Ward Playing Field to assess a site for the proposed Outdoor Gym Equipment, a site meeting with a representative of the company is to be arranged.

It was **AGREED** the Minutes be **ADOPTED** as a true record of the Meeting.

(ii) **Planning and Development,** 21st June 2023

Cllr. Thornewell presented these Minutes which he felt were self-explanatory.

Cllr. Thornewell reminded Members that a Public Meeting is taking place this Friday, 7th July 2023 at Larkfield Village Hall between 6.30p.m. and 7.30p.m. in respect of the proposal to extend Gallagher’s Quarry which take in part of Oaken Wood.

Cllr. Millson reported that residents are concerned at the proposal particularly in respect of the blasting that will take place.

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

The Chairman reported as follows:-

Only wish to use the opportunity to say he attended Cabinet at the Borough Council last night and they endorsed that Carnation Green and Larkfield Leisure Centre Car Park are removed as potential housing sites.

They also reversed the decision of the Finance, Regeneration and Property Srutiny Select Committee to put forward to Planning Site 59469 at Russett Close, Holtwood being an open space, for possibly 23 houses, there is a restricted covenant on the green.

So now no Borough Council owned open spaces in Malling Area put forward for development.

A decision is still awaited in respect of the Green at Bradbourne Fields, Larkfield Football Club land

and The Lakes Green.

Cllr. Millson expressed concern at the cost of the consultants in respect of the Urban Capacity Study being £24,000.

Cllr. Bishop said that this was decided by Officers at the Council and the Leader and did not go to Committee at all.

**REPORT BY BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Cllr. Bishop attended the Overview and Scrutiny Meeting and the plan by the Borough Council to decarbonise the Leisure Centres.

Cllr. Thornewell mentioned the Green Belt Study.

A Litter Pick will be taking place on Saturday 12th August meeting at Church Farm.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr. Mitchell expressed his concern at the caravan parked in Woodpecker Road causing an obstruction and he has reported this to Environmental Services. The Clerk has also reported this to Waste Services who deal with abandoned vehicles.

Cllr. Millson reported that work has stopped on the Apple Tree Room at St. James Church as the Borough Council need to accept the Archaeological Report and a query over the size;, so work has come to a standstill.

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Daniel Markham reported on the situation with the Russett Close open space and he was thanked for the work he carried out in this respect by alerting residents.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, 2nd August 2023

**CLOSURE**

The Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 8.25p.m.

Chairman

2nd August 2023