

# ULCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 10 March 2016 at 7.15p.m.at the Village Hall, Ulcombe

Those Present Cllr Titchener (Chairman), Cllr Moir, Cllr Prendergast, Cllr Watton, Mrs Helen Anderson (Clerk).

There were 2 parishioners present. Borough Councillor Round, Dawn Riach-Brown (Community Warden).

### **Part 1**

1. **(a) Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Thompson (Family Commitments), Cllr Lovegrove will be late.  
**(b) Declarations of Changes to the Register of Interests** There were no changes to the register of interests.  
**(c) Declarations of Pecuniary Interest or other Interests as defined by the Kent Code of Conduct and the Localism Act 2011 on any items on the agenda** - None were received.  
**(d) Requests for Dispensations** There were no requests made.  
**(e) Declarations of Lobbying** There were no declarations made.  
**(f) Intention to Film or Record the meeting** No notifications were given.
2. **Parishioners Questions** Minute Book Closed.
3. **Yasmin Gordine** Parish Liaison Officer at Maidstone Borough Council gave a brief introduction of her new role which came about via the Parish Charter, and the lack of communication between officers and Parish Councils. She has already dealt with a wide range of issues including flytipping.
4. **Policing Report** - There were no reported crimes in February 2016.

**Community Warden Report** –Dawn Riach-Brown noted that many areas where flytipping does occur are quickly reported by members of the public for removal. She hopes to attend a fundraising event near Ulcombe Church on the 17 April and is currently liaising with the organiser’s regarding road signage along the Lenham Road to help make the event safer for pedestrians.

*19:31 Mary Ann Lovegrove arrived.*

5. **Borough Councillor Report** – Cllr Round gave a short report and it was noted that a paper is shortly to be presented to the Policy and Resources Committee regarding the use of a Matrix, which is a multi-agency approach to help identify and action areas of key concern using a range of scales and scores.
6. **The Minutes** of the meeting held on 11 February 2016 were received. It was RESOLVED that the minutes were taken as a read and confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**7. To receive an update about progress of resolutions from the last meeting (Information Only)**

1. Finance (9D) The bank mandate has now been amended to include the new clerk's details.
2. Queen's Birthday Celebrations (11.1) a response has been received from the Church wardens stating that they are happy to loan the beacon out if required, but felt that there would be limited response from residents to any celebration at the church.
3. Recreation Play Area/Car Park (12) The No Dog Signs have now been received. A Borough Wide audit of all dog bins is currently being carried and any not widely used will be removed. The clerk was to request that the one by the Village Hall be removed.
4. Highways (13) Potholes in William Post Road have been reported under ref 198399. Item (13.4) the purchase of wooden bollards remains in hand with Cllr Titchener.
5. Annual Parish Meeting (14) the hall has been confirmed and invitations have been sent out to all clubs and societies. The meeting information has been sent to the newsletter, Kent Messenger, posted on the website and village noticeboard.
6. Village Party (17) No response has been received so far from local residents to form a working group. It was felt that as time was running short a picnic on the recreation ground could be arranged for the 11 June.
7. An email has been received from Boughton Malherbe Parish Council and Jenny Whittle to just confirm that they are still in contact with KCC regarding the costing for HGV unsuitable signs.
8. An update from Nick Gallavin, Maidstone Borough Council regarding the felling of trees at Rough Wood has been received and a response from the Forestry Commission was still awaited.

**8. Parish Clerks Report**

There were no items to report.

**9. Planning**

- a. The Council considered the following planning applications

16/500927/FULL The Woodyard, Water Lane, Harrietsham, ME17 1DE Construction of steel framed building and removal of some existing buildings to maintain yard space; Installation of 1.8m high security fence at front boundary. Would wish to see approved and do not wish for this to be reported to the planning committee.

16/501413/TPO E J Holmes and Sons Ltd, The Woodyard, Water Lane, Harrietsham TPO application to a coppice of sweet chestnut – fell. Would wish to see approved and do not wish for this to be reported to the planning committee.

16/501619/FULL Cobdown, The Street, Ulcombe, ME17 1DR Erection of a detached garage in front garden. The Council requested that this be deferred in order to seek measurements of the roof height.

- b. The submission of the Parish Councils comments on Maidstone Borough Council Regulation 19 Consultation for the Local Plan and Draft Integrated Transport Strategy was agreed with an additional paragraph to be inserted by Cllr Prendergast.
- c. The Appeal Decision on APP/U2235/W/15/3053100 Land adjacent to Roydon Farm, Pye Corner, Ulcombe ME17 1EF was noted and it was felt the decision to allow this

application very disappointing. It was agreed that options would be explored to recover the appeal.

- d. Cllr Prendergast gave a brief update on the result of the Tong Farm Solar Plan application which has now been turned down by the Borough Council planning committee. It was felt that the grounds of refusal in relation to landscape and heritage were strong reasons and it was hoped that this will deter a planning appeal in the future by the developer.
- e. To receive an update on any outstanding and proposed development issues. MA/15/505778 Little Neverend Farm was still underdetermined. The clerk to check the position with the Planning Officer.

## 10. Finance

### (a) Receipts of Income

|                    |            |                 |
|--------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Natwest Bank       | Interest   | 0.68            |
| HM Revenue&Customs | VAT Return | 1663.35         |
| Total              |            | <u>£1664.03</u> |

### (b) The Council RESOLVED for the accounts listed to be paid.

|                      |        |                          |                      |
|----------------------|--------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| EDF Energy           | 001883 | Pavilion Electricity     | 17.87                |
| Safety Signs 4 Less  | 001884 | No Dog Signs             | 35.64                |
| Mrs H Anderson       | 001885 | Salary February          | 512.00               |
| HM Revenue&Customs   | 001886 | Tax&NI Contributions     | 128.00               |
| Ulcombe Village Hall | 001887 | Hire of Hall (Jan-March) | <u>140.00</u>        |
|                      |        | Total                    | <u><u>833.51</u></u> |

### (c) The Bank Reconciliation was agreed.

### (d) It was RESOLVED that the Council would not opt out of the Sector Led Body (Small Authorities Audit Appointments Ltd) for the external audit requirements.

## 11. Correspondence

- (a) An advertising leaflet for the purchase of Commemorative Medal for Schools and Councils to celebrate HM Queen Elizabeth II 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday has been received. It was RESOLVED to order 130 for the pupils of Ulcombe School.
- (b) A letter was received from a local resident regarding the dumping of white goods and general detritus in the nearby vicinity of Water Lane Council Caravan Site. It was RESOLVED that Cllr Titchener would contact Maidstone Borough Council regarding this issue.
- (c) Notification from Kent County Council has been received regarding a consultation on proposals to expand the number of admission places at Headcorn Primary School. This was noted.

## 12. File Storage

1. It was RESOLVED to purchase a total of three, four drawer files up to the value of £350.

### **13. Recreation Play Area/Car Park**

1. The monthly Inspection report was received from Maidstone Borough Council.
2. The quote for repair of the wet pour by the swing area was deferred.

### **14. Highway Issues**

1. New works to be reported:-
  - Potholes forming from the Village Hall along the Ulcombe Road towards Headcorn.
  - A layby appears to be emerging in the Ulcombe Road near the junction of Boycourt Lane.
2. There were no reports received on any outstanding issues.

### **15. Reports from Councillors who have attended external meetings.**

KALC Area Committee (24 February) Cllr Prendergast noted that they had received a presentation by Post Office, and discussions had also centred on forming a fighting fund to receive help in the challenge of housing numbers and employment sites.

Joint Parishes Group (2 March) Cllr Titchener noted that the discussions had centred round responding the Regulation 19 Local Plan Consultation.

KALC Planning Conference 7 March –Cllr Prendergast attended this event and a wide range of subjects were covered including an overview of the planning system by CPRE, the Thames Crossing consultation and landscape/visual impact assessments.

### **16. Matters for information, urgent matters at the discretion of the Chairman for noting only or any items for further discussion at the April meeting.**

Village Party

**Part 2** Exclusion of Public and Press – In accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded from the meeting by the reason of its confidential nature.

17. The item relating to the Clerks Contract was deferred.

The Meeting closed at 21.50pm

**Approved by:**

**Date:**