

LONGFIELD & NEW BARN PARISH COUNCIL

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Longfield and New Barn Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held at Jubilee Hall, Main Road, Longfield at 8pm on Tuesday September 27, 2016

Present: Cllr S Brown
Cllr S Carlse
Cllr J Kite - Chair
Cllr T Mack
Cllr D Patel
Cllr G Sandher
Cllr Z Snell
Cllr C Stafford
Cllr M Tamber
Cllr C Thornhill

2016/284: Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Brown declared an interest as a member of the Development Control Board and Cabinet Member at Dartford Borough Council.

Cllr Kite declared an interest as Executive Member and Leader of Dartford Borough Council, as a member of Kent County Council, Director of the Leigh Academy Trust and Director of Dartford Football Club

Cllr Patel declared an interest as Director of Hodgson Pharmacy, Smartmove homes Ltd, Lifeline Health Ltd and owner of properties in Longfield.

Cllr G Sandher declared an interest as Director of Kent Equality Cohesion Council and Cohesion Plus Kent.

Cllr Tamber declared an interest as Sub Postmaster of Longfield Post Office, and owner of properties in Longfield

2016/285: Apologies for absence:

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr R Perfitt and Cllr S Perfitt.

2016/286: Minutes of the Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on July 26, 2016, were approved as an accurate record.

Proposed by Cllr Carlse and **seconded** by Cllr Snell.

2016/287: Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising not included elsewhere on the agenda.

2016/288: Chair's Report

Cllr Kite advised members that two candidates had been interviewed for the post of parish clerk, and that an offer would be made to the successful candidate within a few days.

2016/289: Correspondence:

Members asked for further information on the following items:

Item 18: Bus Service. This related to recent timetable changes.

Item 23: Removal Court Costs, unlawful traveller encampments.

This informed members of a recent court ruling that meant that local councils would now be responsible for paying the £205 fee when cases were taken to magistrates' court. Cllr Kite said that this would not deter Dartford Council from taking action when necessary.

Item 26: 423 Bus Service. A resident had raised concerns about the bus service to Dartford Grammar schools. Councillors were advised that this issue had now been resolved.

Public Question Time

The members of public attending the meeting raised concerns about changes that had recently taken place over the operation of the car park at Waitrose. A private company had taken over the day to day running of the car park, and the fine for over-staying the 90-minute maximum had increased from £20 to £70. It was felt that this was unreasonable, and that the 90-minute period did not leave enough time for people wanting to carry out a number of tasks in the village such as visiting the doctor, hairdressers, library or bank as well as shopping. The consensus was that a period of four hours would deter commuters from using the car park, but allow residents to continue using local traders, ensuring that the village remained vibrant. Residents asked that the parish council support them in trying to achieve the changes.

Committee Reports and Recommendations:

2016/290 Finance and General Purposes

a) Recommendation to receive and approve the receipts and payments for August and September 2016

It was **agreed** to approve the receipts and payments for August/September 2016.

Proposed by Cllr Brown and **seconded** by Cllr Sandher

b) To note comments from PKF Littlejohn re End of Year Accounts 2015-2016

The auditors had commented on the level of reserves held by the council. The meeting acknowledged that the amount held in reserves was high, but drew attention to the fact that the council was going through a period of transition and was looking at how it could best deliver services in a more effective way for residents.

It was **agreed** that the council would look at spending some of the reserve funds for projects in the village,

One quote had already been obtained for Keep Fit equipment at The Oval and Cllr Snell was asked to obtain two more quotes so that the matter could be discussed at the November meeting.

c) Parish Clerk interviews

This item had been covered in the Chair's report.

2016/291 Development Control

a) Review of planning applications received in August/September

Cllr Snell reported on the meeting of the Development Control committee held on September 27.

b) Mission Hall, Longfield Hill

Cllr Patel declared an interest in this item and did not take part in the discussions.

Cllr Kite reported that a Letter of Comfort had been received from the prospective purchaser of the property outlining his plans for the building.

It was recognised that the council was not allowed to make an unreasonable objection or hold up a sale, and councillors were concerned about the poor state of the building.

The Parish Council had been advised to employ a surveyor to look at the plan of works, and subject to a satisfactory report, to release the easement which was in place.

It was **agreed** to grant approval for the proposed works, subject to the surveyor's report, as the Council felt that the sale of the building would prevent further dereliction.

Proposed by Cllr Brown and **seconded** by Cllr Snell.

2016/292 Lighting, Street Scenes and Allotments Committee

a) Village Sign, Station Road

Money for this project was available from Cllr Kite's allocation of the KCC Members' Fund. Cllr Kite asked for details of the design and cost to be forwarded to him.

b) Bus Liaison Meeting, September 20, 2016

Cllr Mack had attended this meeting. He had raised the issue of the lack of bus shelters in New Barn and had been advised that there was a scheme where projects could be 50% funded. Cllr Mack was asked to obtain further details and report back.

c) Waitrose Car Park

Following the discussion during the public question time, members said that they valued the contribution Waitrose made to the village and understood the need to retain the car park for shoppers rather than commuters. They recognised the difficulties of residents undertaking shared visits, for whom 90 minutes was insufficient. It was **agreed** to write to the Waitrose Head Office asking for the period to be increased to four hours. It was also suggested that borough councils make representations to Waitrose.

Proposed by Cllr Kite and **seconded** by Cllr Brown.

d) ROSPA report – repairs to be undertaken.

Cllr Thornhill was asked to obtain quotes for repair work needed on play equipment at The Oval. The meeting also **agreed** to emergency repairs at the Whitehill allotments costing £150, and discussed the possibility of entering into a call-down contract.

2016/293 Grants and Community Committee

No meeting

2016/294 Longfield Festival

Cllrs Brown, Sander, Snell and Stafford were appointed to the Festival Committee.

2016/295 Friends of Long Valley – Community Hall

a) Monthly update on Long Valley Hall

The hall continued to be well used. Two quotes had been received for repairs to the fence and a budget of up to £300 was approved for the work.

b) Long Valley Car Park

There had been reports of anti-social behaviour particularly on Friday and Saturday nights. The police were aware of the problems.

2016/296 KALC – Dartford Area Committee, October 4, 2016

Cllr Sander said that he hoped to attend this meeting.

2016/297 Borough and Parish Councils Forum, October 11, 2016

A report would be made to the next meeting.

2016/298 Dartford Borough Council – Matters to report

A member asked for an update on traffic problems in Dartford. Cllr Kite said that there had been crisis talks with Highways England over continued congestion in and around the town centre. He said that the current situation was unacceptable and changes to the layout and charging system at the Dartford Crossing were being considered. One suggestion was to increase the fines to over height lorries to try to reduce the problems that they caused.

2016/299 Kent County Council – Matters to report

Cllr Kite drew members' attention to a consultation on the county's libraries.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Date of next Full Council Meeting: Tuesday November 22, 2016, 8pm.

Chairman

Date.....

Longfield & New Barn Parish Council