

KENT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Minutes of the Maidstone Area Committee of the Kent Association of Local Councils held at Maidstone Town Hall, High Street, Maidstone at 7pm on Monday 11 February 2019.

Present: Councillors: Geraldine Brown (Chairman) Yalding, Cheryl Taylor Maggio (Vice Chairman) Langley, Helen Anderson (Secretary), Richard Ash Bearsted, Robert Turner and Ron Galton Boughton Malherbe, Andy Humphreys Boughton Monchelsea, Ivor Davies Boxley, Chris Webb Chart Sutton, Keith Woollven Coxheath, John Clayton Detling, Fred Stanley Harrietsham, Nigel Pyman and Lyn Selby Headcorn, Bob China Leeds, John Perry Staplehurst, Lorraine Cook Sutton Valence, Chris Douglass and Peter Couling Teston and Peter Titchener Ulcombe.

Apologies. Councillors: Pat Marshall Bearsted, Steve Bowring Bredhurst, David Goff Collier Street, John Wilson East Farleigh, Robin Gardner Otham, Rory Silkin Staplehurst and Fiona Kenward Ulcombe.

2. **Presentation** A short presentation was given by Estelle Culligan, Principal Solicitor, Contentious and Corporate Government at Maidstone Borough Council regarding the Code of Conduct and the key areas where letters of complaint against Councillors arise. Attached is a copy of a presentation put together by Christine Nuttall which has been used as a training aid with some individual Councils who have been experiencing problems with Code of Conduct complaints. It was agreed that it may be possible for this to be rolled out in a wider capacity to Parish Councils if joint training sessions were held and this will be explored further by this committee with Alison Broom.

The Local Government Ethical Standards Committee has recently published on 30/1/2019 a report on 'Standards in Public Life' which Councillors were recommended to read. This can be found at the following link:-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-government-ethical-standards-report>

How to deal with vexatious complaints from residents was also raised and a sample policy is attached.

3. **Minutes.** The minutes of the Meeting held on 26 November 2018 meeting were taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. **Matters Arising.**

4.1 Further to our last meeting, Kent County Council has agreed to adopt the area put forward by John Wilson for the HGV Pilot Scheme. A meeting with Kent Police is to be held shortly to look at ways to enforce this effectively.

5. **Reports from Representatives:**

5.1 **Parish Liaison Group.**

5.1.1 **Parish/Maidstone Borough Council Liaison** The minutes of a meeting held in January are attached.

6. **Local Plan Review**

6.1 **NPPF Consultation December 2018** Missed by many there was a technical consultation on updates to the National Planning Policy to review the Local Housing Need Assessment, Housing Land Supply and what is the definition of deliverable. A new revised document is awaited from Central Government.

6.2 **Report on Meeting with William Cornall and Mark Egerton of MBC** This was a very productive and useful meeting and MBC are requesting Parishes to support them in their

requirement for producing a sound Local Plan and by fully understanding that housing numbers are controlled by Central Government and not by each individual Local Authority. In order to have a sound local plan. Two tests are required; a) the District Authority (DA) must demonstrate that it has a 5 year housing land supply and b) it must prove that it has met its annual target for each of the preceding 3 years; this is proving to be a challenge as it is led by external factors i.e. developers/economy. If either of these tests fail, then the plan becomes unsound and developers can gain planning permissions at appeal on sites not included in the local plan. It was therefore agreed that KALC Maidstone would lobby for the KALC Executive to take this on board with NALC to review the 5 year housing supply methodology.

6.3 Call for Sites This will be a full consultation and is expected to begin at the end of February.

6.4 Parish Liaison Meetings There will be two sessions open to all Parish Councillors, 13 March at Lenham Village Hall and 24 March at Yalding Village Hall starting at 7pm. Please register your intention to attend by emailing valeriecowie@maidstone.gov.uk

7. Use of Permitted Development Rights (Teston) Cllr Couling gave a brief resume of the issues that his Parish Council was having with the no consultation on the use of permitted development rights. KALC Maidstone agreed to take this up further with the planning department.

8. Parish Experience with Post Office Outreach (Teston) Cllr Couling reported that on many occasions when his Parish receives their visit from the outreach post office service it is subject to the IT equipment failing therefore rendering the visit unuseful to many residents. It was felt that this IT failure is an occurrence for many of the outreach services they visit and it was agreed for KALC Maidstone to lobby KALC Executive/NALC for better IT equipment to be put in place.

9. Any Other Business – None reported.

10. Time and date of the next meeting This will be held on Monday, 15 April 2019 at the Town Hall, Maidstone starting at 7pm.

Meeting Closed at 8:40pm

Helen Anderson
Secretary
KALC Maidstone Area Committee