

# KENT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Minutes of the Meeting of the Maidstone Area Committee of the Kent Association of Local Councils held at Maidstone Town Hall, High Street, Maidstone at 7pm on Monday 23 September 2019.

**Present:** Councillors: Geraldine Brown (Chairman) Yalding, Helen Anderson (Secretary), Pat Marshall and Richard Ash Bearsted, Robert Turner and Ron Galton Boughton Malherbe, , Ivor Davies Boxley, Steve Bowring Bredhurst, Tina Clark Broomfield and Kingswood, Chris Webb Chart Sutton, Keith Woollven Coxheath, John Clayton Detling, Lloyd Porter East Farleigh, Bob China Leeds, Lesley Mannington Marden, Sue Forward Staplehurst, Eve Poulter Sutton Valence, Peter Coulling and Chris Douglass Teston.

**Apologies.** Councillors: Cheryl Taylor Maggio (Vice Chairman) Langley, Fay Gooch Barming, Andy Humphryes Boughton Monchelsea, John Wilson Coxheath, Nigel Pyman and Lyn Selby Headcorn, Kate Tippen Marden, Robin Gardner Otham, Peter Titchener Ulcombe, John Perry MBC.

1. **Minutes.** The minutes of the 17 June 2019 meeting were taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## 2. Matters Arising.

Cllr Coulling reported that dialogue continues with the Post Office regarding poor connectivity issues experienced with the local Post Office Outreach Service. This will be an agenda item for November.

The 10 diffusion tubes are now starting to record air quality and this will enable statistics to be collated over a long observation period and highlight any areas of concern.

## 3. Report from Representatives

**3.1 Parish/Maidstone Borough Council Liaison** The minutes of the meeting of 8 July 2019 are attached.

## 4. Local Plan Review

**4.1 MBC Local Plan Consultation** – The current consultation on Scoping, Themes and Issues ends on Monday, 30 September 2019 and Councils are urged to put their responses in before the deadline.

The co-ordinating team are looking forward to a meeting with William Cornell, MBC to continue discussions around housing numbers and the need to push for flexibility given that ONS statistics are continuing to decline in the Borough. The duty to cooperate with neighbouring councils and KCC also remains high on the agenda as such developments have a considerable impact on the infrastructure of Maidstone Borough (roads, public transport, doctors etc).

**4.2 Call for Sites** A STRICTLY PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL review of the sites that have come forward will be disseminated to Parish Councils on 4 October. These are for the eyes of Parish Councillors ONLY and must not be shared with family, friends or other members of Neighbourhood Planning Groups etc. Details will be made public on 4 November 2019.

**5. Maidstone Borough Council Planning Committee Terms of Reference Change** It was agreed that further clarification would be sought from MBC regarding the impact that this would have (if any) to Parish Councils.

## 6. Any Other Business

The Chairman has procured a copy of the MBC Planning Department structure (copy attached).

An informative email from KCC is attached regarding removing parked vehicles when resurfacing.

The new website for KALC is now up and running with just a few tweaks still to be made. It is expected that all Councillors will be given individual log ins to the members area in due course.

KCC/Environment Agency are holding a series of flood warden training sessions to encourage new wardens to join; volunteers have decreased over the last few years. It is hoped that instead of just being responsible for your own village/area, some shared responsibility could be implemented, especially during times of high alert/major flooding incidents.

- 7. Time and date of the next meeting** This will be held on Monday 11 November 2019 at the Town Hall, Maidstone starting at 7pm. A guest speaker will be in attendance regarding the Good Neighbour Scheme.

Meeting Closed at 8.25pm

Helen Anderson  
Secretary  
KALC Maidstone Area Committee