

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 11 November 2019.

Present: Councillors: Geraldine Brown (Chairman) Yalding, Cheryl Taylor Maggio (Vice Chairman) Langley, Helen Anderson (Secretary), Richard Ash Bearsted, Robert Turner Boughton Malherbe, Ivor Davies Boxley, John Wilson Coxheath, Lloyd Porter East Farleigh, Tim Turnill and Malcolm Ireland East Sutton, Fred Stanley Harrietsham, Gary Thomas Hunton, Lyn Selby Headcorn, Bob China Leeds, Richard Greenwood Lenham, Kate Tippen and Lesley Mannington Marden, Sue Forward Staplehurst, Eve Poulter Sutton Valence, Peter Coulling and Chris Douglass Teston, Peter Titchener Ulcombe, Martin Moy West Farleigh, John Perry MBC.

Apologies. Councillors:, Fay Gooch and Bryan Vizzard Barming, Pat Marshall Bearsted, Ron Galton Boughton Malherbe, Andy Humphryes Boughton Monchelsea, Chris Webb and Mike Fitzgerald Chart Sutton, David Goff Collier Street, Nigel Pyman Headcorn, Robin Gardner Otham, Matt Lingwood Ulcombe.

1. **Minutes.** The minutes of the 23 September 2019 meeting were taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
2. **Welcome to Tovil Parish Council.** Tovil have now re-joined KALC and an invitation has been extended to join us at the next meeting.
3. **Speakers**

- 3.1 Sarah Pugh, Chief Executive of the Heart of Kent Hospice gave a very informative talk on the work of the hospice including two new projects about to be launched 'The Compassionate Neighbour Scheme' in which Parish Councils can play a pivotal role in advertising this to their communities and a fundraising 'Elmer's Big Heart of Kent Parade'. More information can be found on their website www.elmermaidstone.co.uk.
- 3.2 Ryan O'Connell of Maidstone Borough Council gave a brief overview of the Planning Committee Terms of Reference changes.

4. **Matters Arising.**

No matter was raised.

5. **Report from Representatives**

- 5.1 **Parish/Maidstone Borough Council Liaison** The minutes of the meeting are still awaited and will be circulated in due course.
- 5.2 **Maidstone Joint Transport Board** The minutes of the meeting were circulated to members prior to the meeting.

6. **Report from Executive**

- 6.1 **Circulation of Minutes** The minutes of the meeting are still awaited and will be circulated in due course.
- 6.2 **Report from John Wilson on the HGV Pilot Scheme (South of Maidstone).** Cllr Wilson reported that due to the Government elections, the necessary legislation that needs to be passed through Parliament to get this scheme up and running has been temporarily halted. However, he praised KCC for all their work so far and was confident that the scheme would be up and running within the given time frames in 2020.

7. Local Plan Review

7.1 Co-ordinating Group's Meeting with MBC – Cllr Coulling gave a detailed synopsis of the discussions that had been held with William Cornell and Mark Egerton of Maidstone Borough Council. Letters of correspondence by both parties has been distributed to committee members and Parish Clerks.

A 12point plan looking at ways to reduce or manage the housing number proposals has been put together by the co-ordinating group and at a recent meeting of the Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Committee, its Chairman, Cllr Burton agreed in principal to review the paper. Subsequently, a meeting invitation has just been received from Cllr Burton.

Some members felt that infrastructure constraints were also a key element and this needed to be addressed with the respective utility companies such as water, drainage, highways etc.

7.2 Call for Sites Much discussion was had on this issue especially surrounding the overall release of the information and the worry this had evoked amongst residents. It was reiterated that it is important for Parish Councils to meet with the LDF Team to discuss the sites that have come forward within their Parish. The team are quite flexible and willing to meet at either the Borough Council offices or in your Parish.

It was noted that each site will have to undergo a 'Local Strategic Environmental Assessment' to ascertain whether it is a viable option to be put forward for public consultation. Early indications (although not guaranteed) is that this list will be made available in late February/March time. It is too soon to begin public consultation at this time.

The Chairman advised that KALC cannot enter into dialogue regarding individual sites unless the site has an impact on the wider KALC area.

KALC Update on PC Websites and GDPR It was noted that many Councils are using the free KCC EIS websites, however, EIS have recently signalled that they are ceasing this service by September 2020. Parish Councils will have to source and budget for new website providers ensuring that they are GDPR and disability compliant.

8. Any Other Business

The Chairman attended a Flood Resilience meeting and the report will be circulated upon receipt.

9. Time and date of the next meeting This will be held on Monday 17 February 2020 at the Town Hall, Maidstone starting at 7pm.

Meeting Closed at 9pm

Helen Anderson
Secretary
KALC Maidstone Area Committee

