

KENT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Minutes of the Meeting of the Maidstone Area Committee of the Kent Association of Local Councils held via Zoom Conference at 7pm on Monday, 31 January 2022.

Present: Councillors: Peter Coulling (Acting Chairman) Teston, Helen Anderson (Secretary), Leon Date Boughton Monchelsea, Anne Brindle and Ivor Davies Boxley, Steve Bowring Bredhurst, Tina Clark Broomfield & Kingswood, Chris Webb Chart Sutton, John Clayton Detling, Anne Marie Butler Downwood, John Wilson East Farleigh, Frederick Stanley and Tom Sams Harrietsham, Nigel Pyman Headcorn, Mike Summersgill Hunton, Carole Wright Langley, Velma Bennett Loose, Kate Tippen Marden, Eve Poulter Sutton Valence, Tony Hemsted Tovil, Matt Lingwood and Rachel Robinson Ulcombe, Martin Moy West Farleigh, Dee-Ann Stead Yalding and Peter Titchener (Audit, Governance & Standards Committee Rep).

Guests: Mark Egerton Maidstone Borough Council and Adrian Berendt 20's Plenty Campaign.

1. **Apologies for absence.** Councillors Geraldine Brown (Chairman) Yalding attended the first few minutes of the meeting, but then gave her apologies and left as she was unwell. Cllr Doe Barming, Richard Ash Bearsted, Jack Highwood Collier Street, Staplehurst Parish Council, John Perry and David Burton Maidstone Borough Council and Steve Kent of Kent Police.
2. **Presentation by Adrian Berendt from 20's Plenty Campaign.** A very informative talk was given regarding a successful campaign to implement areas with a 20mph speed limit. A pdf of the slide presentation will be distributed with the minutes. Adrian is always willing to chat and meet with Parish Councils and he can be contacted via email at Adrian.b@20splenty.org. It was also agreed that KALC would seek clarification on the use of roundels in 20mph zones and signage allowable in conservation areas as well as confirming with Kent Police regarding enforcing a 20mph speed limit.
3. **Minutes.** The minutes of the 29 November 2021 meeting were taken as read, confirmed as a correct record. These will be signed at the next available meeting held in person.
4. **Matters arising from previous minutes.** It is hoped that a representative of Kent Highways can be arranged to discuss issues raised under 6.4.1 (Traffic modelling with local input).
5. **Boundary Review.** The first phase of consultation has now launched and runs until 4 April 2022. Councils are encouraged to get involved with this review as to where the boundaries should be drawn. Maidstone Borough Councillor numbers will be reduced from 55 to 48. Further details can be found at <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/32722>.
6. **Executive Committee** - The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on 29 January 2022.
7. **Police.**
 - 7.1 **Ward Cluster Meetings with CSU** Due to Inspector Kent being unable to attend the meeting, no update was given.
 - 7.2 **New Initiatives from Kent Police** Cllr Brown will shortly email details of various communication initiatives that have been received for distribution to interested parties.
8. **Maidstone Borough Council Matters**
 - 8.1 **Parish Liaison Meeting** – This will be held on 7 March. Any items that you would like raised should be emailed in good time to chairman@yaldingparishcouncil.gov.uk.
 - 8.2 **Parish Services Scheme** – Clerks should have received from MBC their PSS calculation for 2022/23. PSS is now made up of a number of elements covering, for example, grounds

maintenance and playgrounds. The overall “pot” for all parishes increases by 2%, the same percentage increase as Council Tax. That does not mean that every parish will increase by 2% exactly, as the calculation within the pot has a “damping” parameter to ensure that no parish suffers a large reduction when compared with 2021-22. Details of that will be confirmed and distributed.

8.3 Planning Enforcement – There is currently no further update available.

8.4 Local Plan Review

8.4.1 Regulation 19 Consultation Update. Mark Egerton gave a synopsis of the progress made so far following the end of the consultation period, some 2,250 representations were received. . It is expected that the final draft of the review will be put to the Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Committee on 21 March 2022. If approved, it is then planned to send it to the Secretary of State/Planning Inspectorate on 31 March for review, with adoption of the plan expected in early 2023.

8.4.2 Impact of a possible review of Government Formula – There is currently no further update available.

8.5 Parish Charter - There is currently no further update available.

8.6 Model Code of Conduct – Despite consistent lobbying by KALC Maidstone representatives, at MBC’s Audit, Governance & Standards Committee, there is currently no further update available.

9. Civility and Respect Project - This remains ongoing.

10. Councillor Training – Please make sure that you make use of the excellent training resources available by KALC as well as Maidstone Borough Council.

11. Date of Next Meetings – All meetings will remain via Zoom. The next meeting will be on 28 March 2022 (possibly with MBC), 30 May 2022 which will be our AGM (but *maybe* face to face) and 25 July 2022.

If there are any items that you wish to be included on an agenda, then please email maidstonekalc@gmail.com.

If there are any items that you wish to be included at an MBC Parish Liaison Meeting, then please email chairman@yaldingparishcouncil.gov.uk

12. Any Other Business – Cllr Coulling raised the issue that Maidstone Borough Council uses the YouTube platform to broadcast meetings. However, recently the sound failed at an MBC Committee meeting (an in fact the then-current system failed for the first week of the examination of the current Local Plan) and therefore there is no recorded footage to refer to in the future to gain full knowledge of debate on agenda items. It was also noted that Maidstone Borough Council does not record in their written minutes, any details of answers to any questions asked to their committees nor any supplementary questions and answers which is unsatisfactory in terms of historical record and research.

Meeting Closed at 8.20pm

Helen Anderson
Secretary KALC Maidstone Area Committee

