

SALTWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 6th December 2021 at 6.30 pm at Saltwood C/E School

Present : Cllrs Boland (in the Chair), Johnson, Matthews, Carter & Sadler

In attendance : Mr. G Eaton, Clerk to the Council, KCC Cllr Love, FHDC Cllr Whybrow and two members of the public

Cllr Boland opened the Meeting by thanking everyone for attending and welcomed the members of the public

Action by:

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Russill-Roy

2 Registering declarations of interest in items on the Agenda

There were no declarations of interests in items on the Agenda

3 Minutes of the last Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st November 2021 were unanimously approved

4 Matters arising

Cllr Boland reported that he had sent the cheques to The Royal British Legion (£50) and The Salvation Army (£50)

5 Reports

KCC Cllr Love spoke about home to school transport, digital inclusion and broadband, the Civic Society strategy, the KCC budget and other local issues

FHDC Cllr Whybrow spoke about digital services, charging points for electric cars confirming that the points would have adequate lighting, and various climate change initiatives

6 Finance

a/ To receive bank balances

The Clerk reported the bank balances as at 31st October 2021 (November statements were not available)

	£
Community (current) account	4186.57
Business Manager (savings) account	12465.33

The balances were unanimously approved

b/ To approve invoices presented for payment

The following invoices were approved for payment –

	£
F Boland, hall hire reimbursement	25.00
G Eaton, Clerk's salary/expenses	257.29
Saltwood Primary School, hall hire	25.00
Safeplay, quarterly inspection report	51.60

C/ To agree the 2022/2023 Precept requirement

The draft 2022/2023 Precept requirement figures previously circulated were discussed and it was unanimously agreed to request a Precept of £11,000

Clerk

D/ To consider banking arrangements

There was a brief discussion about future banking arrangements and the need to have online banking facilities

7 Adjournment of Meeting for Public Inclusion

The members of the public spoke about their planning application 21/2300, Blue House, and there followed a general discussion and question & answer session

8 Planning & Enforcement

New Planning applications

21/2300 – two storey extension, glazed link, replacement garage/annexe and associated hard landscaping, soft landscaping, parking and relocated site access, resubmission of planning application 21/0466

Blue House, Blue House Lane, CT21 4EN

It was agreed by a majority vote to support the application (four Cllrs support, one Cllr objects)

21/2235 – conversion of former Stables Block currently used for storage, to sixth form teaching accommodation

Brockhill Park Performing Arts College, Sandling Road, CT21 4HL

There were no objections to this application

21/2258 – erection of 2 detached residential dwellings

The Pleasance, Sandling Road, CT21 4QJ

Councillors expressed concern about this application, principally on the grounds of unsuitable access, an increase in density of housing in an area that had always been low density housing, the proposed development being too dense for the size of the site and a possible precedent being created for development in the adjacent field. However, Councillors were surprised that there had not so far been any comments/objections from neighbours and wondered whether letters informing them of the proposed development had been delayed. Cllr Whybrow undertook to look into this. In order to get a sense of the views of neighbours before the Parish Council commented, it was agreed to request an extension of the deadline for comments

9 Environment Agency's proposed tree works at Mill Leese Wood

The Environment Agency had clearly decided not to undertake any work until the Spring which allowed more time to try to resolve issues. There had been a meeting between the landowner, Damian Collins M.P. and Cllr Boland on 19 November: Mr. Collins remained keen to help and had suggested organising a meeting with Ministers. The Environment Agency had finally responded to the two outstanding Freedom of Information requests submitted by Cllr Boland. The information on water levels at Mill Leese clearly demonstrated that it was rarely more than a big puddle, and that only on very rare occasions and for very little time. The Engineers' reports had been so heavily redacted as to be nearly useless. Cllr Boland said he was contemplating an appeal to Office of the Information Commissioner

10 Playpark

Cllr Johnson summarised the recent inspection of the playpark and it was agreed to repair a damaged swing

Cllr Johnson

11 Inspection of Parish Council owned trees

One estimate had been obtained for an inspection of Council-owned trees. A second estimate was awaited

12 Christmas decorations on the Village Green

There was a brief discussion about providing some lights on a tree on the Village Green. Cllr Johnson would arrange for this to be investigated further

Cllr Johnson

13 telephone Box/Defibrillator

Cllr Boland reported that the new defibrillator was now up and running and that the cabinet would be connected soon. Cllr Boland undertook to advise various people/organisations that the defibrillator was now fully functional

Cllr Boland

14 Correspondence

Press release from FHDC – Princes Parade scheme gets Government backing

15 Any Other Business

Cllr Boland reported that the telecoms cabinet recently installed by 'Trooli' on The Green was not on land owned by the Parish Council, therefore it would not be possible to insist on a wayleave agreement. Cllr Matthews wondered whether the map of The Green obtained from KCC might be out of date as a result of changes to roadside verges over the years and that it might be possible to claim this area of land under "adverse possession" procedures

There was a brief discussion about traffic congestion at Brockhill Park at school drop off and pick up times

16 Date of next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Parish Council Meeting would be held on 10th January 2022 at 6.30 pm at Saltwood C/E School

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.35 pm