

ULCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 7 November 2024 at 7.15pm at Ulcombe Village Hall.

Those Present: Cllr Titchener (Chairman), Cllr Barlow, Cllr Charlton, Cllr Diamond and Cllr Sharp. Clerk: Helen Anderson

There were no residents present.

1. **(a) Apologies for absence** Cllr Boland (Work Commitments) were received and accepted. Maidstone Borough Councillor, Z Trzebinski.
(b) Declarations of Changes to the Register of Interests There were no changes to the register of interests.
(c) Declarations of Pecuniary Interest or other Interests as defined by the Kent Code of Conduct and the Localism Act 2011 on any items on the agenda There were none received.
(d) Requests for Dispensations No requests were made.
(e) Declarations of Lobbying None were received.
(f) Intention to record or film the meeting Cllr Titchener recorded the meeting.
2. **Public Session** – No issues were raised.
3. **The Minutes** of the meeting held on 3 October 2024. It was RESOLVED that the minutes were taken as read and confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
4. **County Councillor** – No report was received.
Borough Councillor Report –No report was received.
5. **To receive an update about progress of resolutions from the last meeting.**
 1. A meeting date is still awaited for a meeting with the Leader of Maidstone Borough Council.
 2. Comments were submitted to the Maidstone Borough Council Non-Domestic Rates Discretionary Rate Review Consultation.
6. **Planning**
 - (a) There were no planning applications received for consideration.
 - (b) There were no planning appeals received.
 - (c) The following planning decisions by Maidstone Borough Council were noted:-

APPLICATION REF: 24/503682/FULL PROPOSAL: Demolition of existing shed and replacement with a new single storey home office and storage area, including increase in fence height. ADDRESS: 2 Fairbourne Heath Cottages Windmill Hill Ulcombe Kent ME17 1LP. It was RESOLVED to approve this application with a condition requesting that it must be for domestic use only and not for commercial use. **PERMITTED.**

(d) Notification of the Maidstone Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Development Plan Document – Preferred Approaches (Regulation 18b). It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council would submit comments by the Consultation deadline of 12 December 2024.

7. **Finance**

(a) Receipts of Income

HMRC	VAT Return 2020-2024	5,679.01
I Bowie	Refund from PO Box No	360.00
	Cheque Cancellation	<u>14.23</u>
Total		£6,053.24

(b) It was RESOLVED to agree that the following payment was made:-

DD	IONOS	Council Email Address Fee	30.00
002443	Paul Waring	Recreation Ground Maintenance	1224.00
002444	Whitehead Monckton	Legal Advice	1011.00
002445	Commercial Svcs	Grounds Maintenance	207.31
002446	EDF Energy	Electricity Costs	18.92
002447	Amesis	Litter Picking Dec 2024-Feb 2025	337.50
002448	Royal British Legion	Wreath and Donation	50.00
002449	KCPFA	Annual Subscription	20.00
002450	Helen Anderson	Salary & Expenses	628.00
002451	HMRC	Tax & NI	157.74
002452	EDF Energy	Electricity Costs	19.55
002453	Peter Titchener	Expenses	184.45
002454	DM Payroll	Payroll Admin Oct 24-March 25	<u>60.00</u>
Total			£3,948.47

(c) The Bank Reconciliation was presented at the meeting. The closing balance per the cash book as of 25 October 2024 was £31,854.10 for the deposit account and £18,038.42 for the main current account.

(d) Notification was received from NALC of the Local Government Services pay agreement for 2024/25.

(e) It was RESOLVED that a direct debit would be set up as part of a new contract for the pavilion electricity.

8. **Correspondence**

(a) An email was received from Kent Highways regarding a Highway Improvement Plan meeting. It was RESOLVED for Councillors to forward items for discussion to the clerk.

(b) Notification was received of the KALC AGM being held on 30 November 2024.

(c) Notification was received of a Government Consultation on 'Enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings. It was RESOLVED to submit comments to this.

9. **KCC Notice of Claimed Public Rights of Way C442, C443 & C444 Informal Consultation – Ulcombe** Notification was received regarding The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 – Section 53 Three claimed public footpaths in woodland known as Birch Woods, Maidstone. C442 - Claimed Public Footpath from Public Footpath KH329 to KH329 circular route through centre of ancient woodland known as Birch Woods. C443 - Claimed Public Footpath through centre of Birch Woods from Public Footpath KH329 to Public Footpath KH330. C444 - Claimed Public Footpath from Public Footpath KH329 to KH329, circular outer path at edge of woodland known as Birch Woods. Three applications have been submitted under Section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 that the Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way should be modified by adding the public footpaths as noted above, on the basis of the public having used the routes for an uninterrupted period of 20 years. It was RESOLVED to submit a supportive comment for the three footpath applications.
10. **KALC Maidstone Model Code of Conduct** This draft document was reviewed and it was RESOLVED to submit a comment agreeing to the code as submitted but not paragraph 'a' of the 'Context' which it was RESOLVED to delete.
11. **Village Hall** – A request for funding towards the resurfacing of the village hall car park entrance was received. It was RESOLVED that the Council would be prepared to fund up to £1,500 of the cost subject to sight of the specification of works to be carried out.
12. **Play Area/Recreation Ground**
- (a) A play area inspection report was received with no new issues found at the time. It was RESOLVED that Councillor Barlow will undertake this role going forward every month.
- (b) Cllr Barlow gave an update on the play area upgrade and surrounding area. Further detailed plans will be produced shortly looking at a phased approach dependent on sourcing avenues of additional funding.
13. **Matters for information, urgent matters at the discretion of the Chairman for noting only or any items for further discussion at the December 2024 meeting.**
- No items were raised.
14. **Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act 1960), the public and press be excluded from the meeting by the reason of its confidential nature.**
- (a) The Council was briefed on the document retention matters and it was RESOLVED to instruct solicitors to proceed.

The Meeting closed at 9.15pm

Approved by:

Date: