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Draft Minutes of the meeting of **Borough Green Parish Council** held in Borough Green Village Hall on **Monday 13th March 2023** starting at 1930. The meeting was recorded to ensure the accuracy of the minutes

Present: Cllrs Taylor (Chairman), Shaw, Millener, Butterfill, Ramsden, Rawsthorne, Rothwell, Simpson, Bartlett & the Clerk

Cllr Rayner (KCC) & Cllr Palmet (TMBC) was present, and Howard Passingham BGJFC

206. Apologies for Absence Cllrs Millener & Reading

207. Declarations of Interest - None

208. Minutes of the meeting 6th February 2023- AGREED

209. Matters Arising - None

210. Resignation - Chair reported resignation of Cllr Wray, and gave details of his letter of thanks to Cllr Wray for his work on the Play Area and Perimeter Path.

Notice to Co-opt - Resignation reported to Monitoring Officer, and the prescribed Vacancy Notices had been posted

211 Submissions by County and Borough Members

Cllr Palmer announced the key dates for the 4th May Elections, and that Parishes had to ensure everyone knew about Photo ID. She reported on a recent JTB meeting where a hasty report from KCC announced their refusal to work with Parishes and Members on Highway matters in Planning. Cllr Rayner outlined the steps he was taking at KCC to get this proposal abandoned.

Cllr Rayner updated Members on Levelling Up fund money going to Dover for Port Improvements, the local impact of the Lower Thames Crossing with the A227 upgrade. KCC are resisting the expansion of the London ULEZ. KCC are proposing a doubling of the size of Wrotham School, and an application will have to come to TMBC Planning. He announced that a recent Government Bus Service Improvement Grant would bring an end to any further rural bus subsidy reductions cuts.

212. Bus Subsidy Cuts - Chairman took the opportunity to announce receipt of a KCC grant of £10k to BGPC who are leading an alliance of 12 Parishes to fund Nu-Venture Buses, allowing continuation of the village route shopper buses from BG/Wrotham on the Monday 70 to West Malling, and the Friday 58 to Maidstone. The key to this is publicity, letting people know the service exists.

211 - MOP - Mr Howard Passingham set out his proposal to use Football Foundation grants to BGJFC to take over the deeper maintenance costs at Potters Mede, but they needed a 10 year agreement to obtain the funding. Members agreed provided there was a provision for other sports to use the pitches at off-times without detriment to the pitches. AGREED. Howard also outlined the growing success of the Girls Football initiative, now up to 15 girls. Clerk will draft an agreement

213 Planning Matters to hand

- (i) To note Planning Notices as circulated
- (ii) Current applications and responses circulated - None
- (iii) cont/

(iii) Note draft changes to Planning Rules, Cllr Palmer had discovered that the TMBC Constitution had been changed to take Planning Decisions away from democratically elected Members and into the hands of Officers by removing the right to call applications to a Planning Committee. As a direct result of Cllr Palmer's concerns, TMBC Leader Matt Boughton has announced an urgent review of the Constitution to address the matter. The current 21 day consultation/call-in period may also be extended. Planning is a legal process, and despite the ever-tightening rules on what is permitted in planning, it is at its heart a democratic process, and the electorate are being sidelined whilst developers steadily gain financial benefits, with communities losing out.

214 Potters Mede

(i) Container Cllr Simpson tabled quotes for a 20' shipping container for equipment storage, and there was discussion about siting, and an onsite meeting was agreed. As Members were in broad agreement, once the site and base were agreed, an order can be placed. There was also discussion about re-purposing two changing rooms for other uses, and a proposal for a Community Mother and Baby Group was discussed, and agreed to explore further

215 Recreation Ground

(i) CCTV enhancement, Quote from Astra. £7946.22 for two posts and multiple extra cameras, plus 229.95 for wireless internet connection, with £450pa connection charges. Whilst there was no cost benefit compared to actual vandalism costs, the public security and peace of mind tipped the balance. Clerk to progress and negotiate discounts.

(ii) Update Play Area repair. Members expressed their anger at Eibe Play for the 4 month delay in supplying a new handrail, we could not risk any repair that might negate our warranty of insurance cover.

216 Village Enhancements

(i) Green Space Review - Members thanked Cllr Bartlett for the Gateway planting had been carried out on the A25 North side. She has been investigating bio-diversity net gain, and will be applying those principles to our green spaces, and assessing the possibility of grant aid. An initiative to plant up open land with trees was discussed, but the PC has already extended the Potters Woodland Walk, and other open land in our control has important open habitats. There was a proposal for Nature Walks in Tonbridge & Maidstone, but it was felt we had a profusion of such walks locally, and they could be better promoted in the future.

217 Financial Matters

(i) Responsible Financial Officer's report. It was agreed to increase the Clerk's Office use allowance to £70 per month.

(ii) Bank Reconciliations 28 February Total cash reserves as at 28/02/23 - **£116,869.54**

(iii) To approve Payment List as circulated.

Invoices checked : MT/SB Prop-Chair, 2nd Cllr Shaw - AGREED

(iv) Legal Cost Recovery - Clerk reported on detailed complaint and claim to Ombudsman

(v) Appointment of Internal Auditor - Prop Chair 2nd Cllr Simpson - AGREED

(vi) Proposed Grant - Parish Church Hall - awaiting application. Clerk proposed a £50 donation to a CPRE Wildlife scheme. Chairman abstained as a member of CPRE

Chairman moved to Part 2 to discuss Staff Appraisals and Salaries. Returned to Part1. Chairman thanked the Clerk and Mt Glew for their exceptional dedication, and congratulated Mr Springett on his hard work and improvements over the past year.

218 Website & Social Media

(i) No Report

219 TMBC Local Plan & Policies

(i) To note TMBC two lane approach, current rules, and possible relaxation of Housing Targets, second Reg 18 Consultation incorporating 50+ new sites.

(ii) Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Rawsthorne proposed developing a plan, and whilst some councillors expressed doubts, it was decided to explore costs, commitments and value further, to come back to the next meeting

220 Highways & Streetlighting

- (i) Update on A25 road and pavement resurfacing - JTB reports June 6th start date.
- (ii) KCC Baskets & Lighting KCC bill for £1200 lighting column timer cost. CJS plants invoice for Summer hanging baskets £3600 - Agreed

221 Quarries & Landfills

- (i) H+H Celcon - trying to establish land ownership at their entrance with a view to establishing a pedestrian footpath into the site. Ightham and BGPC support the scheme.

222 Councillors Reports from outside Bodies (max 3 min)

- (i) Borodara report diminishing membership, and BGPC have offered the free use of the Parish Office for their committee meetings.
- (ii) St Georges Court - the behaviour of Clarion over the past 10 years was noted, and a report of a recent well attended meeting in St George's Church. Chairman clarified that the pledge by BGPC was at this time moral support, unless Wrotham PC reported any progress on the legal front. St George's Court was a vital local elderly resource, freeing up family homes. There was a discussion about the multiple failures by Clarion to abide by their statutory duties as a Social Housing Provider. Chairman reported on difficulties finding appropriate housing for the elderly, lack of maintenance by Clarion, and one mother who had been left for the last 3 weeks without heating and hot water, and instances of black mould in properties.
 - (iii) KCC -community-services-consultation - noted
 - (iv) Cllr Ramsden reported from the Village Hall. Quotes are being sought to paint the Pam Young Hall, and progress towards a dedicated website and online diary.
 - (v) Cllr Shaw reported that the JPCTCG had been absorbed into the T&M KALC Committee.
 - (vi) Clerk reported on a proposal for electric charging points. Whilst a great idea, Potters Mede was not suitable as a site because of access restrictions, and the Village Hall might have problems with the 3hr parking limit.

223 Coronation Advance Planning

- (i) Purchase of flags, bunting, posters. Members agreed a budget of £500 for purchase of these items, and thanked Cllr Butterfill for her efforts. Noted a £300 grant from the Nisa parent company.

224 Future Dates

- (i) Date of next meeting **Monday 3rd April 2023**
Date of Annual PC and Parish Annual 1900 9th May 2023

At all other times contact the Clerk using the details above.

There being no other business, Chairman closed the meeting at 2222hrs

225 Exclusion of Public and Press: Pursuant to Section1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Chairman to move that the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting during consideration of any item.

Members are reminded that any release of information from a Part 2 discussion is contrary to the Standards Code and an offence under the above Public Bodies Act.

Appendix 1 PAYMENT SCHEDULE below

Appendix 1

Payments List March 2023

Staff Costs	
Staff Salaries	4,630.85
HMRC	2,173.48
KCC Pensions	1,084.82

BACS Payments

TMBC - RG	69.00
TMBC - PM	42.00
SHS Hygiene, inv 44189	631.20
KCC, inv 900165828	1200.00
Greenthumb, inv 0229998	25.00
Royal Mail, inv 1802612898	378.00
Lav Hire, inv 2839	180.00
Npower Power Networks (subject to enquiry with NP) *	3034.80
Expenses - B Galopin	144.00
Expenses - B Galopin - Clerk's annual household costs for BGPC	840.00
Expenses - B Glew	81.38

DD Payments

Zen Internet	13.99
Bank Charges *	22.00
PWLB Loan	2752.59
Npower* - streetlighting	1066.32
NPower* - public toilets	133.96
EDF (PM)*	1126.00
EDF (RG)*	28.00
Castle Water*	120.25
Castle Water*	17.60
Vauxhall Finance	544.80

* DD amounts may vary on a monthly basis

Total Payments	20340.04
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NB: Receipts 01/02/23 to 28/02/23 (exc bank transfers) 814.04

TOTAL RESERVES at 28 Feb 2023 **£116,869.54**

Signatures Cllrs Taylor, Butterfill