



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021** AT 19:30PM. **THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL DUE TO THE COVID:19.**

Present: Cllr S Barker (Chair), Cllr M Colman, Cllr S Falzon-Thomas, Cllr C Finlay, Cllr C Henley, Cllr K Kassem-Toufic, Cllr S Kirk, Cllr A Petty, Cllr N Redding, Cllr N Sherlaw Cllr D Waller, Cllr R Zahidi

Apologies: There were none.

Also in attendance: Ms J Miller (Clerk & RFO), Mrs G Jackson (Deputy Clerk), 33 Members of the Public

The Chairman asked that a minute of silence be taken to pay tribute to the Duke of Edinburgh following his death at the age of 99.

The minute of silence was undertaken

**APM21/1. To receive and accept Apologies for Absence.**  
There were none.

**APM21/2. Welcome by the Chairman of the Parish Council**  
The Chairman welcomed new councillor, Clive Henley, to Kings Hill parish council and then welcomed members of the public to the meeting.

**APM21/3. Minutes** - It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019 be approved and were duly signed.

#### **Annual Report**

**APM21/4.** To receive the annual report.  
The annual report was received.

**APM21/5. Guest Speaker**  
**Martin Guyton, tmactive**  
Martin Guyton gave an update on the progress of the third party management of the sports park by tmactive.

#### **Open Forum Questions from Residents**

**If you have a question for the council please email the clerk in advance of the meeting with your question and you will receive details of how to join the meeting and address the council.**

**APM21/6.** A resident asked what is the current position regarding the delayed take-over of the management of the Sports Park by tmactive?

Cllr Finlay reported that the parish and tmactive are working towards a 1st May transfer of responsibility. The delay arose due to a combination of the drafting of the sublease, and the changes required to the head lease and sublease that is taking longer to complete.

**APM21/7.** A resident asked what type of additional bookings are being targeted for the newly enlarged Community Centre and what is the marketing strategy of the council in this regard? How much additional income is expected from this?

Cllr Finlay reported that marketing planning for the community centre and the New Hall started in November 2019. The parish council engaged a professional marketing individual and plans were formulated to:

- update marketing materials (new leaflets for halls, meeting rooms, illustrative events),
- update the web site (with meta tagging to focus the new hall on weddings and more formal events)
- commence regular quarterly mailshots to businesses within 10 miles of Kings Hill (for meeting rooms / hall rental).
- consider attendance at wedding events, advertising in wedding magazines, etc.

As the virus emerged, and parish finances got strained, marketing was put on hold.

**APM21/8.** A resident would like further clarification of the deal with TM Active to take over management of the Sports Park. Whilst they agree that a Sports Park is probably better managed by a professional body than an inexperienced Parish Council, they would like to know what commitment for maintenance costs will remain with KH residents and for how long?

Kings Hill Parish Council has a 130 year lease with Liberty Property Trust which includes a 'full repairing' responsibility. That responsibility remains with the parish throughout. Tmactive has been engaged to manage the facility, and to develop the services further, over a 25 year term. Tmactive will be responsible for service related repairs but not building or infrastructure repairs.

**APM21/9.** A resident asked what was happening with the skate park on Kings Hill.

Cllr Barker stated that in the Phase 3 Planning Approval, S106 monies were allocated for a "youth outdoor recreation facility. Liberty Property Trust are not obliged to provide this until the occupation of the 300th dwelling on phase 3, they are currently at approximately 100 occupied dwellings.

**APM21/10.** A resident asked why the precept had raised by an extraordinary percentage this year.

Cllr Finlay reported that there are two fundamental causes. Firstly, the runaway spending in the period 2016 to 2019 that wiped out the parish reserves and prompted the previous increase of 15%. The second was the pandemic that stopped all income from the sports park and community centre and, like many councils and businesses caused great financial problems, which in our case warranted seeking and getting an advance from Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council on next year's precept, hence the 23% increase.

**APM21/11.** A resident asked what the parish council was going to do this year to ensure residents do not continue to see unacceptable precept increases in future years?

Cllr Finlay reported the transfer of the Sports Park to a professional management company will ensure better management of the existing facilities. The introduction of tennis courts, a rugby pitch, trim trail, etc... will extend the sporting activities at the park, increase footfall and increase revenues. The introduction of the new hall will also improve services and revenue at the community centre.

- APM21/12.** A resident has asked what the parish council is doing in liaison with the community police officer and local police about the anti-Social behaviour of a few young people who gather regularly each evening around the square.

Cllr Barker reported that any anti-social behaviour must be reported online or 101. Without this evidence the police are not aware of the anti-social behaviour. Cllr Barker will ask the clerk to email the CSU Inspector to raise concerns.

- APM21/13.** A resident has asked why the local PCSO is not seen around Kings Hill any more.

Cllr Barker reported that she would raise this with the TMBC Community Safety Unit Inspector. Cllr Barker also advertised the Neighbourhood Anti Social Behaviour Meeting to be held via Zoom by Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

- APM21/14.** A resident asked why the Chairman had not stepped down due to the parish council having to borrow £60,000 from Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council.

Cllr Barker reported that the chairman, the vice chairman and the current councillors are not the cause of the financial problems. Cllr Finlay reiterated this and reported that it is the uncontrolled spending from the 2016 to 2019 period that wiped out the reserves. The council and particularly the sport park committee from 2016 to 2019 are the individuals responsible. The current chair, vice chair and current councillors are doing the responsible job of rebuilding the finances.

- APM21/15.** A resident asked if meetings could be broadcast in the future when face to face meeting resume.

Cllr Barker reported that this is being investigated but audio equipment would need to be purchased and there is no budget for this in the next financial year.

- APM21/16.** A resident asked why was the investigation into the shooting at the Sports Park was carried out internally and not reported in public meeting?

Cllr Barker reported that the subject of shooting at the Sports Park is now subject to legal proceedings so the parish council are not able to discuss it at this time due to legal restrictions.

- APM21/17.** A resident asked when the public would be receiving the results of the Chairmans investigation into the removal of the priority booking from Kings Hill Football Club requested on 19th Feb 2020.

Cllr Barker reported that given the pressures of cost containment, and consequent workload on office time, such an investigation was deferred until the office had the time to participate fully. However, in that passage of

time, and the advent of tactive, the relevance of such an investigation diminished.

**APM21/18.** A resident stated that on 19th February last year at a Full Council meeting witnessed by more than 300 residents in person, a parish poll was taken by the public. The poll was a resounding vote of no confidence in the Parish Council Chair Sarah Barker. It is alleged that at the meeting the clerk accepted and recorded the poll despite it being slightly irregular in how it was taken. Since then, this vote of no confidence has been raised numerous times and the poll chased up through the Chairman and the office. We have not had the vote of no confidence processed or even received a reply to why it hasn't been pursued. Can we now get an answer as to why the Chairman has not stepped down and will no doubt be trying to hold onto power in the May Annual General Meeting.

Cllr Barker explained that governance dictates that a parish poll cannot be taken at a Full Council meeting, it can only be called at a parish meeting arranged for that purpose therefore a parish poll was not taken at the Full Council meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

**APM21/19. Meeting Close**

The meeting closed at 20.37 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

DRAFT