



Minutes of a meeting of the Council on **Monday 13/09/2021 at 7.30pm in The Pavilion**
In attendance: Cllr Peel, Cllr Brooker, Cllr Brown, Cllr Davenport, Cllr Halliday, Cllr Marshall and Cllr Sales

Present: Clerk and 32 Parishioners, Cllr Grint, Austin Blackburn (Go Coach, Andy ? Go Coach)

A talk was given by Austin Blackburn, Managing Director of Go Coach and a Q&A session was held - Appendix 1

Meeting begins at 20.30

1. Apologies and absences – none

2. Declarations of interest – none.

3. Chairman's remarks including update on the Broke Hill inquiry.

Cllr Peel updated on Broke Hill. Inquiry begins on 26th October. The Government Inspector has said much of the enquiry will be via Zoom. It is the responsibility of SDC to set up meetings. Tuesday 2nd November is the date when 'interested parties' can speak to the inspector. If you would like to speak, please give your name to Cllr Peel and a brief description of what you wish to talk about.

Topics Quinn will be using to prove they have a Very Special Circumstances argument include: Additional school, Retirement home, Sports Facilities, Environment and Green Belt and housing need.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting – Minutes of a meeting held on 12th July 2021 were approved

5. Public Participation Session

Parishioner asked for an update on Wheatsheaf Hill. This council are still waiting for LBB to take action.

6. District Councillor report

Council was joined by Cllr John Grint.

A planning application for a significant amount of earthworks at Chevening House went to Development Control Committee in early September and was rejected for the reasons of being inappropriate development in the Green Belt. Much concern was expressed at the vast number of lorry movement that the development was going to entail through the villages.

Cllr Marshall thanked Cllr Grint for his contributions to the opposition of this application.

Cllr Grint was asked about the issue at Fort Halstead where water has been cut off again until 20th September. Residents have been delivered small 500ml bottles. All

Signed by Louise Dancy

agreed this is outrageous. Cllr Grint's optimistic view – the development at Fort Halstead will upgrade the water supply system.

Council to discuss with residents' Association at Fort Halstead and Cllr Grint and raise the issue with Laura Trott MP. Cllr Nick Chard and Debbie King at the Chronicle. Council will also raise the issue with the Department of Health

Cllr Grint was asked for an update on Land North of Hunters Retreat - No new update on the appeal.

7. Finance

- a. Payments to be made were **approved** and receipts **noted**.

8. Planning Matters

- a. Applications made and decisions were **noted**.
- b. **Verbal update on the 5G mast application.**
HPC have had no luck discussing suitable alternative locations with the application with either SDC or the applicant.

9. Date of next meeting: Monday 11th October 2021

Buses to Sevenoaks.

Cllr Brown addressed the council and parishioners regarding the bus service in Halstead. With the withdrawal of the 402 and the demise of the Route 3 amidst the pandemic, parishioners have questions regarding the service.

Austin Blackburn from Go Coach addressed the council and parishioners.

The 402 service was withdrawn as losing money and KCC had no funds to subsidise a poorly used service. The R3 was implemented but underused / only used by Londoners going to Polhill.

Throughout the Pandemic, bus use on Go Coach went down to 10% of capacity. It is currently running at 55% (TfL running at 70%)

During the Route 3 was withdrawn and the Go2 service was implemented. With this service you can book a bus to collect you from a bus stop (by calling or by booking on the app) and it will collect you at an agreed time to take you to an agreed location such as Tesco or the Hospital. The service is well used across the district (200+ people per day) but not in Halstead. Mr Blackburn felt that the service is well loved by those who use it.

A second service has since been introduced – Go2Direct – which is more like a taxi service but only goes throughout the district.

The closure of Route 3 and Route 4 (and parts of 2 and 5 pays) for the Go2 service.

Mr Austin feels that the concessionary scheme in Kent isn't fit for purpose. GoCoach receives 92p for every concession that rides the bus, no matter what the distance. This means that the Go2 service can't and doesn't offer the full concessionary service, but some discounts do apply.

Mr Blackburn was clear that the issue in Halstead is that we fall on the edge of the district and therefore benefit from TfL services which most of the district don't benefit from. We also have a Zone 6 station which takes us direct to Sevenoaks. It's very tricky to drum up additional services because the current services offered can get residents to key places.

Two upcoming changes which may be of benefit to bus travel in the area:

- The development at Fort Halstead has promised money to the public transport system which will have a knock-on effect to Halstead, Badgers Mount and Knockholt. We need to ensure that developers can't shirk their promises.
- The government are developing a national bus strategy in which £billions are to be spread across the country. It is unlikely Kent will be a priority but to have any chance at some extra funding, KCC need to develop an Bus Service Improvement Plan by October 2021. This plan should include targets on greener travel and growth of public transport services.

For the Go2 on demand service, GoCoach need to enter into partnerships with the Local Authorities – the best route for action would be to talk to the District Councillor – Nick Chard.

Questions were asked to Mr Blackburn:

Regarding school services.

The T3 service used to offer 35-minute bus journey to Tunbridge Wells Schools. This service has been merged and is taking over an hour. The service was changed after the bus passes for the year had been purchased and the extended times leaves students unable to sue their bus passes as parents must collect them to enable them to continue other commitments.

Go Coach did not feel this was their issue to manage and the felt the bus routes for schools at this time were satisfactory. They are hopeful that another operator will be taking on a portion of that route which will help the service from Halstead.

They suggested not sending children to schools so far away and contacting the District Council if transport services are not suitable.

Parishioner asked about the feasibility of a once-a-week service to Seveonaks.

Go Coach have not found this a viable option in the past and are generally not well used. Go2 services would better suit those who wish to go to Sevenoaks on a weekly basis. Fees are approx £3 per journey depending on the milage.

Appendix A – Payments and Receipts

Payments to be made				87.38
108	06/09/2021	Refuse Disposal	Viridor	87.38
Payments made by DD / SO				1,006.18
97	25/07/2021	Wifi	BT	36.99
98	25/07/2021	Telephone & Internet	BT	45.95
99	25/07/2021	Telephone	BT	2.98
142	07/09/2021	Wifi	BT	36.99
143	07/09/2021	Telephone & Internet	BT	45.95
139	28/07/2021	Water Supply – BH	Castle Water	5.00
128	31/08/2021	Water Supply - BH	Castle Water	5.00
129	31/08/2021	Water Supply - PR	Castle Water	6.00
133	20/07/2021	Gas Supply – PR	CNG	38.07
130	20/08/2021	Gas Supply – PR	CNG	45.81
140	07/09/2021	Gas Supply - PR	CNG	45.30
137	28/07/2021	Cleaning company	Home Maid - Ward	85.17
138	28/07/2021	Cleaning company	Home Maid - Ward	177.00
119	28/08/2021	Cleaning company	Home Maid - Ward	85.17
120	28/08/2021	Cleaning company	Home Maid - Ward	177.00
101	27/07/2021	Ink Supply	HP Ink	13.74
117	28/08/2021	Ink Supply	HP Ink	13.74
95	26/07/2021	Electricity Supply	Opus Energy	25.30
96	26/07/2021	Electricity Supply	Opus Energy	43.91
144	07/09/2021	Electricity Supply	Opus Energy	46.49
145	07/09/2021	Electricity Supply	Opus Energy	24.62
Payments made between meetings				4,527.56
90	13/07/2021	Newsletter	Advantage Media Ltd	125.00
103	28/07/2021	Printing - banner	Advantage Media Ltd	26.67
92	15/07/2021	Paper	Amazon.co.uk	14.25
109	06/09/2021	Pavilion General	Amazon.co.uk	19.41
110	06/09/2021	Pavilion General	Amazon.co.uk	8.35
111	06/09/2021	Security– trail cam	Amazon.co.uk	58.32
112	06/09/2021	Pavilion General	Amazon.co.uk	5.82
113	06/09/2021	Pavilion General	Amazon.co.uk	19.10
114	06/09/2021	Pavilion General	Amazon.co.uk	14.97
115	06/09/2021	Pavilion Cleaning	Amazon.co.uk	39.92
135	06/09/2021	Security - CCTV	Amazon.co.uk	149.99
102	28/07/2021	Grounds Maintenance	Commercial Services	1,550.02
104	28/07/2021	Fire Equipment Service	Future Fire Protection	148.00
105	28/07/2021	Fire Equipment Service	Future Fire Protection	56.00
89	13/07/2021	Pavilion Roof Repairs	Geminal Roofing	485.00
100	26/07/2021	EIC Report	Jason Langstaff	400.00
141	07/09/2021	Land Registry Search	Land Registry	6.00
91	15/07/2021	Fire Alarm Installation	Spy Alarms	1,310.00
106	05/08/2021	Refuse Disposal	Viridor	70.74

Payments Received				345.75
21	15/07/2021	Allotments Rent	Luciano Bellenie	23.75
22	15/07/2021	Pavilion Hire	Thomas Boatwright	35.00
23	15/07/2021	Pavilion Hire	S Venables	49.00
24	06/09/2021	Pavilion Hire	Matthew Ashley	21.00
25	06/09/2021	Pavilion Hire	DNA Kids	175.00
26	06/09/2021	Pavilion Hire	Shensoy Dervish	42.00

Appendix B – Planning Matters

1. Applications received – no objection made

- a. **Reddings 4 Watercroft Road**
Garage conversion.
- b. **4 Knockholt Road**
Construction of a new driveway including the extension of vehicular access, landscaping works and extending fence at side and rear.
- c. **1 Wood Edge Halstead Place**
Convert the existing loft space into an additional bedroom and office space with roof lights to the east and west elevation, alterations to fenestration.
- d. **Fairfields, Church Road**
Demolition of rear extensions, Proposed part single part double storey side extension with accommodation in roof, single storey rear extension. Extension to first floor at front. Garage conversion.

2. Applications received – Objection lodged

- a. **Land North of Hunters Retreat Shoreham Lane** - Certificate of lawfulness for the use of the land for the storage of roll-on/ roll-off bins and skips, and porta cabin for more than 10 years; and the erection of a building more than 4 years.
- b. **BT Telephone Box South Of 38 Southdene** - Proposed 20.0m Phase 8 Monopole C/W wraparound Cabinet at base and associated ancillary works.

3. Applications received – to be decided

- a. **21/02751/House - 12 Beldam Haw**
Proposed two storey rear extension and porch
- b. **21/02763/House – 11 Beldam Haw**
Proposed first floor rear extension, porch and container
- c. **Garden House, Church Road**

4. Applications granted

- a. **13 Armstrong Close** - Erection of a first floor rear extension with a glazed balcony
- b. **Hillcrest, Sevenoaks Road** - Loft extension with front end gable, dormer windows and rooflights
- c. **13 Fort Road** - Two storey side extension and front porch
- d. **Twin Oaks, 3 Kiln wood** - Two storey side extension and garage extension
- e. **Lynton, Sevenoaks Road** - First Floor Front Extension

5. Applications refused

- a. **The Village House, Church Road**
Replacement of a fence and gate with brick wall and metal gate
- b. **2 Fort Road**
Two storey side extension