

TESTON PARISH COUNCIL

17th March 2021

Teston Parish Councillors are summoned and members of the public and the press are invited to attend an extraordinary meeting of Teston Parish Council, called by the Chairman, which will take place via Zoom video-conferencing on 23rd March at 7.30pm.



Michelle Tatton, Clerk to the Council

To request meeting code please email

the Chairman petercoulling@hotmail.com or Clerk testonparish@aol.com

In the interests of transparency, all Parish Councillors declare that that they have an interest in (a) Ash Tree Corner, Courtlands Verge and the Allotments, as the Parish Council owns the land; (b) the Village Green and Village Hall as Custodian Trustees; (c) Teston Land Conservation Trust Matters as they are Trustees; (d) Teston Village Stores CIC as they are Directors of the CIC; and d) Cllr Douglass, Cllr Owens, Cllr Miss Page and Cllr Mrs Wheat have an interest as members of Teston Village Hall Management Committee.

20/042	Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and/or Other Significant Interests
20/043	To Receive and Agree Apologies for Absence
20/044	To Approve Minutes of Meeting on 26th January 2021
20/045	Ratification of Decisions Taken by Clerk under the Scheme of Delegation Since 26th January 2021 as Set Out in the attachment
<i>Meeting Adjourned</i>	
Public session: for approximately 15 minutes the Chairman invites comments and questions from members of the public upon items that are on the Agenda. Members of the public may not speak at any other time during the meeting, save with the express consent of the Chairman. Members of the public are requested to keep their microphones switched off unless invited to speak.	
<i>Meeting reconvened</i>	
	Finance and Administration
20/046	Statement of Accounts: to consider receipts, approve bills for payment – including ratification of payments made since the last meeting - and to note the general financial position including Parish Services Scheme
	Other
20/047	Clerk's Report for Noting
20/048	<u>Confidential Items:</u> To resolve that the press and public be excluded from all or part of item 19/050 below on the basis that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted
20/049	Proposed Pastoral Scheme for St Peter & St Paul: to consider whether to seek leave to appeal to Her Majesty in Council against the Commissioner's Decision to proceed – the only objection being to the unification of the parochial parishes of Barming and Teston, but with no objection to combination of benefices

Clerk: Mrs Michelle Tatton

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List of Decisions Taken by the Clerk Since 20th January 2021 Under the Agreed Scheme of Delegation During COVID-19

Detail	Decision and background	Date Taken
Planning application	21/500187/PNOCLA Wealden Court Church Street Prior notification for the change of use of offices to 1 no. residential unit. For its prior approval to: Transport and Highways impacts of the development; Contamination risks on the site; Flooding risks on the site; Impacts of noise from commercial premises on the intended occupiers of the development and Provision of adequate natural light in all habitable rooms of the dwellinghouses Comments were sought from all Cllrs. There was no objection raised in principle. Conditions were proposed to ensure the adequacy of parking, restrict occupation to one family, and for obscured glazing to the south facing bathroom. A response was submitted on this basis.	21.01.2021
Tapestry Advertising Fees	With the approach of the new financial year consideration was given to whether the advertising fees should be increased for the period April 2021 to March 2022. The views of Cllrs were sought by email. It was felt that advertising rates should be held at their current level for the year ahead given the likelihood that the pandemic may have impacted negatively on some advertisers. The matter could not be left until the next formal meeting given its closeness to the end of the financial year and the need to give advertisers advanced notice of prices.	18.02.2021
Grounds Maintenance Contracts 2021-22	Following the last Zoom Parish Council Meeting the Clerk in conjunction with Chairman made enquiries of the preferred contractor to clarify terms of the contract, specifically in relation to indemnity and termination. Following receipt of responses these were shared with all Cllrs and it was agreed that the position had been clarified satisfactorily and that the Clerk should confirm the contract with Landscape Services. It was also agreed that the quotations from Gary's Landscapes for cutting the Village Green and Courtlands hedges should be accepted, together with the quotation from Three Counties Contracting for cutting the Allotments hedge and the wildflower verge on the south side of Tonbridge Road.	18.02.2021
Tree Application	21/500422/TCA Becketts Croft Malling Road Teston ME18 5AR – Various tree works Details were submitted to all Cllrs. It was felt that the work had been probably been needed for some while and would probably be beneficial to neighbours. On this basis a response was submitted raising no objection subject to the Tree Officer and Conservation Officer considering the work to be acceptable.	18.02.2021
Notice Board Policy	An update of the Notice Board Policy had been circulated prior to the Zoom meeting in January. As a result of discussion at that meeting a few minor changes were made to clarify access for placement of notices. These changes were shared with all Cllrs for comment following which the Policy was deemed suitable for adoption.	18.02.2021
	21/500757/FULL and 21/500759/LBC The Old Post Office Church Street Teston Maidstone Kent ME18	03.03.2021

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	5AH Change of use from a post office to residential use, new shop front Cllrs were asked for comments. It was noted that, while no viability assessment had taken place, there had been a small general store and an occasional Outreach Post Office opposite this property since 2013. Regarding appearance, it was noted that the current shop window would be replaced, with openable top panels over the main windows and obscure glazing in the four main window panels. Glazing in the old door and whether the door or its glazing would be replaced was unclear. It was felt that the change would be noticeable and fairly prominent at the village crossroads and the view of the Conservation Officer would be important and the Council would support those views. The Clerk submitted a response on this basis.	
Notice board installation costs	A quote for installing the soon to be delivered notice board was received and circulated. Although the quote was higher than anticipated it was the general view that the quote be accepted, particularly given the time sensitivity with delivery of the board expected shortly with installation planned over Easter when the Pre-school would not be in the Village Hall. Accordingly, an advance was made to the contractor for £650 on account of materials.	10.03.2021
Tree Application	21/501029/TPOA St Peter And St Paul's Church Church TPO application to prune back overhanging branches of one Red Oak to boundary wall of churchyard View were sought from all Cllrs with the except of Cllr Miss Page who had submitted the application on behalf of the Church. It was the collective view that Cllrs should support the Tree Officer, including any variations to the work proposed, with the assumption that <i>particular attention be given to the Red Oak, including the effect of work on the tree's balance, stability, on-going health and appearance.</i> The Clerk submitted a response on this basis.	12.03.2021

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