

**AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL    BURHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**DITTON PARISH COUNCIL    EAST MALLING AND LARKFIELD PARISH**  
**COUNCIL**

**FOUR PARISH COUNCILS LIAISON MEETING**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2 FEBRUARY 2021**

**Present:**

**Aylesford Parish Council** – Councillors Balcombe, Mrs Gadd and Sullivan

**Burham Parish Council** – Councillors Dalton and Young

**Ditton Parish Council** – Councillors Mulcuck and Rook

**East Malling and Larkfield Parish Council** – Councillors Roud, Thornewell and Mrs Tatton

**Also Present** – Neil Harris, Clerk to Aylesford Parish Council

Councillor Balcombe of Aylesford Parish Council in the Chair for the meeting

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves to the meeting.

2. **Future Role of the Meeting**

There was a general discussion on the future role of the meeting going forward and it was seen as a means for discussing planning matters that affected all the Parishes within the area to the east of the Borough. It would allow the Councils to liaise with and to support each other on all planning matters sharing knowledge and experience.

3. **Panatonni Application**

Ditton and East Malling and Larkfield Parish Councils updated the Group on the current position with regard to this application which it was agreed should remain on the Agenda for future meetings.

4. South East Water Site Proposals

Ditton and East Malling and Larkfield Parish Councils updated the Group on the current position with regard to this application which it was agreed should remain on the Agenda for future meetings.

5. Ditton Edge

Ditton Parish Council updated the Group on the current position with regard to this application which it was agreed should remain on the Agenda for future meetings.

6. Bunyards Farm

Aylesford Parish Council updated the Group on the current position with regard to this application which it was agreed should remain on the Agenda for future meetings.

7. Parkside, East Malling

East Malling and Larkfield Parish Council updated the Group on the current position with regard to this application which it was agreed should remain on the Agenda for future meetings.

8. Hermitage Lane south of Barming Station 330 dwellings

Aylesford Parish Council updated the Group on the current position with regard to this application which it was agreed should remain on the Agenda for future meetings.

9. Update on TMBC Local Plan

Councillor Thornewell of East Malling and Larkfield Parish Council stated that TMBC had now responded to their Local Plan Inspectors. He suggested that everybody should take the opportunity to read this document and a copy of the link is below. It was also agreed that this should remain on the Agenda for future meetings.

[Examination Documents page](#)

10. General Discussion regarding the approach to Planning Applications

The meeting discussed the general approach taken by TMBC to planning applications and the position relating to the TMBC 5-year land supply. The meeting also discussed KCC's approach to commenting on planning applications and that they hardly ever object to the significant applications in the area making it very difficult to object on highway grounds.

It was accepted by the meeting that the main reasons it was difficult to fight the significant development applications in their area was

- (a) The TMBC 5-year land supply and what was the exact position. There was a need to understand whether TMBC were close to the figure or not. Depending on that response would help all the Council's to better understand how to fight this reason which was making TMBC approve and not refuse planning applications.
- (b) KCC Highways and their failure to object to applications when roads in the area are clearly over stretched. This made it difficult to object even when using consultants in support of their objections to the planning applications. There is a need to understand their position and to discuss at the right level both Member and Officer within KCC to determine their overall approach in responding to planning applications and how that can be changed to making highway objections to planning applications that severely impact the road network such as the A20.

The meeting also considered whether it was time for the Parish Council's to take a proactive approach and consider whether it should be going to TMBC with the sites they believe could be developed rather than being dictated to by TMBC.

#### 11. Future Meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting be held on 2 March at 2.00pm. It was also agreed that West Malling and Wouldham Parish Council's be invited to the next meeting.

#### 12. Duration of Meeting

\_2.00pm to 3.30pm