

## **REPORT TO WOULDHAM PARISH COUNCIL 3<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST 2021**

**By the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Councillors for  
Burham and Wouldham Ward  
Councillors Dave Davis and Roger Dalton**

### **NEW LEADER OF TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

1. It is with great pleasure that we announce that Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council has a new leader: Councillor Matt Boughton. Matt is 28 years old making him one of the youngest council leaders in the country. He was educated at Oakwood Grammar School and has been a Conservative councillor on Maidstone BC before joining us in 2019. He lives in Tonbridge.

### **TMBC BOUNDARY COMMISSION REVIEW**

2. In last month's report we explained that a boundary review was being done on TMBC by the Boundary Commission Review (BCR). The progress, as at your last meeting, was that the BCR indicated they would make a reduction in the size of the Council from 54 members to 43 or thereabouts.

3. TMBC have submitted their proposal to the BCR for the warding relationships for the Borough based on a 43 member council. In consideration of the options, we advised strongly against an option to create a ward of Burham, Wouldham and Blue Bell Hill. We also advised that the option of the Burham, Eccles and Wouldham (BEW) ward including Peters Village as a two-member ward was the least worst option. That now is the TMBC proposal for a 43 member council and that full proposal is attached.

4. We have put our own submission to the BCR that BEW should be a 3-member ward and that the Council size should be increased from 43 to 44. That proposal is attached.

5. Our proposal is supported by TMBC, the leader of the council and the Conservative Group in their submissions to the BCR and it remains to be seen if the BCR will accept it. This will be the best option for our villages if it is accepted.

## MINUTES OF VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE MEETING

JULY 27<sup>TH</sup> 2021

1.

**APOLOGIES:** Anne Marr Andy Marr

2.

Chair to sign minutes. Proposer Jenny Head Second Donna Cook

3.

### **DEEP CLEAN OF HALL AND FUTURE CLEANING**

Discussion on using an individual versus using a company (check they have all the official paperwork, own risk assessment etc) Nicky to find company.

Specific areas as advised by Jellybeans - behind the radiators, lights, kitchen, beams.

Check company first for deep clean before hiring them for regular cleaning.

4.

### **UPDATE ON NEW HALL AND DISCUSSION ON RENOVATING CURRENT HALL TO INCLUDE INSTALLING A PARISH OFFICE.**

There are no more plans to build a new hall, Nicky to tell the estate agent that the hall is officially off the market.

#### **Areas in the hall that need urgent attention:**

**Toilets do not flush and no hot water in toilet block. Skirting boards are disintegrating.**

VHC recommendation: **Replace toilets and install hot water into the toilet block**

**Floor in entrance hall is dipping, front door is unsafe, no disabled access**

VHC recommendation: Get quote to **replace front and back door** with an entrance flush to the floor, try to get grant to put **in ramp at the back, level concrete entrance to the door** including work on the drain to prevent water run-off.

#### **Guttering.**

VHC recommendation: **All the guttering in the hall needs to be looked at**, downpipe missing at the end of the back block, needs soakaway installed, damp is on the outside walls in a few places that need urgent attention.

#### **Replacement of kitchen**

Kitchen tiles are coming away from the wall, floor is very difficult to keep clean, kitchen very old. There are snail trails at the end of the kitchen due to the poor quality of the front of the hall.

VHC recommendation: Get quote to **replace kitchen** putting in a small office for VH users in the front.

#### **Front of the hall needs work**

VHC recommendation: Ask **payback to remove rendering on front of hall and get quote to get the rendering replaced and repainted.**

**Windows still have very old, in some cases Victorian glass which may be unsafe. Quite a few of the windows don't open.**

VHC recommendation: To get quotes to **replace the glass with safety glass** and get windows to open.

#### **PUTTING A PARISH OFFICE IN THE HALL**

There is a suggestion to put an office in the garden, the VHC look at the space and discuss access to the toilets (no-one else can use the toilets when JB are in the hall)

Discussion on **reconfiguring the back block**, lift the floor, re-open the side door, put in an office and a disabled toilet which would only be accessible to the clerk's office during the day. Discussion on cost and viability.

**Both these options to be put to the PC at their meeting next week.**

**A new grant has been sent, Nicky to apply**

**The VHC is willing to fund much of these updates, they will be asking the Parish Council if they can make a donation – as owners of the hall and they will be attempting to get grants where available.**

**There is also still £3700 in the Wouldham Project account which can be used.**

#### **5. LIFTING OF COVID RESTRICTIONS**

Following Government guidelines, the VHC agree to re-open the hall for exercise and craft classes during the summer. Table to remain with hand sanitizer and masks.

#### **6. ACCOUNTS – FINANCIAL REPORT YEAR TO DATE**

The VHC see the accounts, current balance £32497

#### **7. NUMBER 13 AND 19, OVERGROWN GARDENS AND FIRE EXIT**

There is a very overgrown hedge coming over the fence from 19, JB have cut it back many times this year already. Nicky to try and contact them.

The fire exit from 13 is blocked, there should be a one-meter strip down the side of the fence to protect the fence and there is a lot of ivy covering the back of the hall and coming in through the window of the girl's toilet. The tree at the back is a willow and there are branches overhanging the garden which is a health and safety issue, it would be very costly to remove/crown, it is also causing the fence and the shed to go green in the shade. Martin has offered to help her clear the strip and remove the waste. Discussion on a company in the village being able to carry out the tree work cheaply. Nicky to speak to the owner.

#### **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Martin informs the committee that he may be taking a secondment for a year and will have to resign. He will let them know next week.