



# Kings Hill Parish Council



*Enhancing the lives of the Kings Hill Community*

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Ms J Beilby  
Chief Executive  
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council  
Gibson Drive  
Kings Hill  
Kent  
ME19 4LZ

30 June 2023

Dear Ms Beilby

## **REQUEST FOR COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

I write regarding the above.

At a full meeting of Kings Hill Parish Council held on 22 June 2023 the council decided that it would request Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council to undertake a Community Governance Review with the aim of reducing the number of seats from 12 to 10. (Extract from minutes attached, FC 120.3 refers)

Kings Hill Parish Council is of the opinion that 10 Parish Councillors is a sufficient number to fully represent the electorate of Kings Hill and will not negatively affect the democratic process. Furthermore, the council does not believe that there will be strong opposition to the proposal.

National government guidance notes that 'Council size is the term used to describe the number of councillors to be elected to the whole council. The 1972 Act, as amended, specifies that each parish council must have at least five councillors; there is no maximum number. The Government's guidance also states that 'each area should be considered on its own merits, having regard to its population, geography, and the pattern of communities' and therefore the Council is prepared to pay particular attention to existing levels of representation, the broad pattern of existing council sizes which have stood the test of time and the take-up of seats at elections in its consideration of this matter.

Kings Hill is a condensed development and more compact and not as spread out when compared to similar sized parish elsewhere.

The balance of evidence indicates that there are sufficient grounds to progress to formally reduce the current number of Parish Council seats from 12 to 10, to better reflect the number of electors within Kings Hill. In suggesting a reduction in the number of Parish Councillors serving Kings Hill, the council firmly believes that accountability and effectiveness of the Parish Council will be maintained and that a reduction in numbers will have no significant effect.

The Aston Business School found the following levels of representation to the good running of a council:

<b>Electors</b>	<b>Councillors</b>
Less than 500	5-8
501-2,500	6-12
2,501-10,000	9-16
10,001-20,000	13-27
More than 20,000	13-31

The population of the electorate (those of voting age and above) within Kings Hill is approximately 8,600. On this basis decreasing the number of seats from 12 to 10 means that the parish council falls within acceptable levels of representation for a parish of this population size.

I hope Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council will support Kings Hill Parish Council in undertaking the Community Governance Review, you have my assurance that Kings Hill Parish Council will fully support Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council throughout this process.

Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to let me know.



Karen Bell  
Clerk to the Council

FC 120.1	<b>Staffing Matters</b> Staff Training                      Agreed Part Time Caretaker   Amended Contract agreed.	<b>Unanimous</b> <b>Unanimous</b>
FC 120.2	<b>Legal Matters</b> FC 120.2.1    Police update FC 120.2.2    Advice from KALC FC 120.2.3    Advice from Surrey Hills FC 120.2.4    Correspondence from Resident representative FC 120.2.5    Action against vexatious resident Agreed FC 120.2.6    Correspondence from former Employee Noted / No comment	<b>Noted</b> <b>Noted</b> <b>Noted</b> <b>Noted</b> <b>Unanimous</b> <b>Unanimous</b>
FC 120.3	<b>Community Governance Review</b> Request to be submitted to TMBC which will seek to reduce the number of seats from 12 to 10.. Agreed	<b>Unanimous</b>
FC 120.4	<b>Review of Kings Hill Pre-School</b> Agreed to be reviewed in consultation with the pre-school by Cllrs. Colman, Kirk, MacKay, Mclymont & Petty	<b>Unanimous</b>
FC 120.5	<b>Kings Hill Parish Councillors – Consideration of two late acceptance of Declaration of Acceptance of Office</b> Refused	<b>Unanimous</b>
FC 120.6	<b>Kings hill Parish Council Status</b> Deferred to October 2023	<b>Unanimous</b>

103/2023    **Date and time of Next Meeting:** Confirmed as 22 June 2023

There being no additional business, the meeting closed at 10.20 p.m.

*These minutes are not a verbatim record of the meeting, but a summary of discussion and decisions made at the meeting.*

Chairman: .....    Date: 20 July 2023