

BRABOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Held on Monday 17th March 2014 at 7.00pm
At Brabourne Village Hall

1. Present

Cllr Hickmott (Chairman), Cllr Mrs Young, Cllr Mrs Tanner, Cllrs Joules, Mayland and Spokes, and Mrs S Wood (Clerk). The Community Warden (Mr Graham Kingston), PCSO Huckstepp and PCSO Carr were also present.

Nine members of the public attended.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs Bewick, and Cllr Miss Martin and Cllr Howard (ward members).

3. Presentation of Annual Citizenship Award

The Chairman said that the Award is given annually in memory of Cllr Chris Goodall, whose contribution to the parish is immeasurable. This Award marks the affection and respect with which he was held and is awarded to someone who has worked for the parish and for the people of Brabourne in a voluntary capacity. The recipient is chosen by the Parish Council from nominations submitted by the community.

Continuing, the Chairman announced that it gave him great pleasure to present the Award on behalf of the community and Parish Council to someone who had been described as a:

Mum of 5 with a 36 hour clock, who always finds time when anyone needs it.

Who works helping manage the long-term local family business.

For many years was a major force in fundraising on Brabourne School's PFA.

Is a crucial part of the development of the Junior Football Club in roles such as publicity, fundraising and event coordination.

Is always found behind the BBQ at village events such as the fete.

Is now a Parish Councillor.

To loud applause, the Chairman presented the Award and a cheque for £100 to Mrs Sylvia Tanner.

The Chairman also presented Mrs Tanner with an engraved glass plaque, donated by Mrs Marion Goodall and her daughters.

Mrs Tanner thanked all present for the Award, and donated her prize cheque to Smeeth and Brabourne Football Club.

4. Minutes of the 2013 Meeting

The Chairman read the Minutes of the 2013 Annual Parish Meeting, which had been agreed at the meeting of the Parish Council held on 13th May 2013.

5. Matters Arising

The Hearing Loop for the village hall has been ruled out on grounds of cost.

6. Financial Report

The draft accounts were presented.

It was noted that the Council is on a sound financial footing, with the projected balance carried forward to 2014-2015 being approx £19,000. It is recommended that reserves are held to cover the costs of a by-election, Standards Committee investigation, local referendum and 50% of the Precept – these total £13,500. The Precept has been set so as to cover all the Parish Council's expenditure, because grants currently received from Ashford Borough Council will cease and the likelihood of capping remains.

7. Any Other Business

7.1 Mr Peter de Lacey (Chairman, Brabourne and Smeeth Allotment Society) thanked the Parish Council for its support; Cllr Hickmott congratulated the Society on the success of the project. He noted that it is hoped that the project will break even by the end of the year, after which a rent

review will take place. The cost of plot rental may then either be reduced, or maintained at the current level and the surplus used for capital expenditure on the allotments.

- 7.2** Mrs Monica Scotton asked how who is consulted on planning applications: are neighbours within a set distance from the site included in the consultation? The Clerk replied that the decision as to whom to consult lies with the Planning Officer, but immediate neighbours are consulted; residents can comment on a planning application even if not included as consultees. [Post meeting note: details of all planning applications in the parish are uploaded on to the Community website, with a hyperlink to the application.]
- 7.3** A site meeting at Orpins Stores was reported. It was noted that no planning application has yet been received, and the meeting may have been pre-application discussions.

The meeting closed at 7.15pm.