

BRABOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council
Held at 7.00pm on Monday 10th September 2012
At Brabourne Village Hall

1. Present

Cllr Hickmott (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Mrs Young and Cllrs Mayland, Spokes, and Mrs S Wood (Clerk). Three members of the public were present.

In the absence of Cllr Ede (Chairman), Cllr Hickmott took the Chair.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Ede, Cllr Mrs Beavers, Cllr Mrs Bewick (prior commitments) and Cllr Howard (ward member).

3. Declaration of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

4. Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 16th July be approved and confirmed as a true record.

5. Matters Arising

5.1 Roads and Footways

- 5.1.1** Church Road footpath. Planning Inspectorate's proposed modifications are out for consultation.
- 5.1.2** Potholes. Canterbury Road has been resurfaced. Potholes and broken kerbs in The Warren and Pilgrims Way are to be reported.
- 5.1.3** 30mph speed restriction in The Street. No feedback from Cllr Wickham – Clerk to follow up.
- 5.1.4** Speedwatch in Brabourne. More volunteers are needed but none has come forward.
- 5.1.5** Verges. Cuts have been carried out, including Prospect Way.
- 5.1.6** The Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way is being reviewed – KCC has asked for notification of any known errors.

5.2 Agricultural traffic Code of Conduct and Information leaflet were made available at the fete. Nothing further to report.

5.3 Housing Needs Survey English Rural Housing Association is in discussions with the owner of the site identified as the most suitable in the site search. Following the success of the Fortescue Place development, the landowner of the fields on which it was built has indicated that he is willing to discuss with the Parish Councils the possibility of making additional land available.

5.4 Community Led Plan Cllr Mayland was unable to attend the latest meeting.

5.5 Community Governor vacancy at Brabourne School Cllrs Ede and Mayland were nominated by the PC.

5.6 Wind turbines planning application (Sellindge) Public meeting to be held on 29th September.

6. Community Warden's report

No report in Mr Kingston's absence.

7. Financial Report

7.1 To agree payments in accordance with the Budget

Resolved:

That the following payments be agreed in accordance with the Budget.

Payments

Details	£
A MacCormak (John Moreton Memorial Prize)	49.99
Ashford Borough Council (KE fee - land transfer at The Warren)	62.40

Audit Commission (audit fee)	342.00
CJK Carpentry	50.00
S Wood (net salary August)	269.65
S Wood (net salary Sept)	269.65
D Ansley (salary) (24 hours)	145.92
S Wood (expenses)	147.50

Receipts

Details	£
Lloyds TSB interest (August)	0.36
Allotment rental (David Smith)	12.50

Balance: £ 10656.66

Allotment Society contribution to sheds due: £1335

7.2 Hire of a dumper truck for use on the allotments

Resolved:

That the £50 cost of hire of a dumper truck for use on the allotments be approved.

8. Planning Committee report

The Chairman of the Planning Committee reported on eight planning applications: three applications had been supported; no objections raised to four; and an objection made to one – this is to be disposed of as undetermined by the Planning Officer. Of the applications where the Parish Council has responded, the Borough Council granted five, and a decision on two is awaited. Two cases of non-compliance are outstanding.

9. Report from KALC representative

The Clerk reported that the Code of Conduct was discussed at the meeting on 18th July, the next meeting is on 3rd October. The KALC website has been updated and new passwords are needed to access the Members' only area – councillors should contact the Clerk for details.

10. Allotments project

The Chairman reported that he could not attend the Allotment Society meeting due to a prior commitment. The communal shed is now up, the solar light was passed to Sue Bartholomew (Allotment Society). Notice had been served on two plot holders to maintain their plots: one plot has been vacated; work has begun on the other. The vacant plot is to be advertised. Over 30 plots have been taken and more can be made available if the demand arises.

A working party has been set up to finish installation of the 'green' lavatory.

The garden at the Plough Inn has been levelled but is now significantly higher than the allotments' site and is banked against the boundary fence; concerns were expressed as to security and the integrity of the fence. The Allotment Society is hoping to put up a 2m high security fence, location to be decided.

'No parking' and 'No dogs' signs have been obtained and are to be put up.

11. Proposed transfer of land at The Warren

The proposal has been advertised in the Kentish Express, a map of the area was circulated. It is understood that land fronting Plain Road is under consideration as an alternative site for the affordable/council homes. Ryan Booth has offered help with the legal process.

12. Code of Conduct 2012

The Kent Code of Conduct, as adopted by Ashford Borough Council, and the Model NALC Code of Conduct for Parish Councils were circulated.

The NALC Code is specifically for Parish Councils, and was thought to be clearer than the Kent Code and easier to operate, while still complying with the Localism Act 2011.

Resolved:

That the NALC Code of Conduct for Parish Councils be adopted.

Following the adoption of the new Code of Conduct, councillors are required to complete their Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests. These must be lodged with the Monitoring Officer within 28 days, and published on the Parish Council's website.

Resolved:

That the information be summarised in table form for publication on the parish website.

13. Amendments to Standing Orders

The Monitoring Officer (Ashford Borough Council) has issued draft Standing Orders, pursuant to the 2012 Code of Conduct, Standing Orders 5b and 5c (Code of Conduct) ceasing to have effect.

In paragraph 2 of the draft: 'The Member will withdraw from the meeting room immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence.' Should be deleted, as it would disadvantage a Councillor and remove the rights granted under section 12.2 of the Code of Conduct 2007.

Paragraphs 3 and 4 of the draft should be deleted as they are covered under Standing Order 6 (Disorderly Conduct).

Standing Order 3b should be amended, giving authority to the Proper Officer to grant Dispensations on receipt of a written request, all such Dispensations to be recorded in the Minutes.

Resolved:

That the Standing Orders for Brabourne Parish Council as amended be adopted.

14. Open Session

The meeting was suspended to allow residents to raise matters of concern.

Overgrown vegetation on footpaths was reported.

Complaints regarding cars parking on footways and riding of quad bikes were received.

It was thought that were the proposed wind turbines to be built in Sellindge, they would have an impact on the parish, being visible.

The application for a 30mph speed limit in The Street, East Brabourne, was queried, given the costs and enforceability.

It is not yet clear where the Parish Council and village noticeboards are to be positioned, following the refurbishment of Orpins Stores. A request for additional parking was declined because of underground services.

It was reported that a car being offered for sale was parked on the verge at The Warren – this is to be reported to the Community Warden and monitored.

15. Any other business

15.1 Cllr Spokes reported that Smeeth and Brabourne Football Club plays its matches Sellindge because of the limited size and facilities on the playing field. Having been granted Charter status, which opens funding opportunities, it is looking for a suitable site in Brabourne or Smeeth to bring the club back to the village. The Club is seeking the Parish Council's support. This initiative was welcomed, and it was suggested that Countess Mountbatten be approached regarding a site (currently agricultural) next to the playing field.

15.2 The Chairman asked what the policy is regarding Disabled parking spaces when the householder moves away.

15.3 The Cobbs Wood, Ashford tip is closing on 1st October while it is enlarged and will reopen in March 2013. Temporary arrangements will be put in place. Restrictions on vehicle type and certain types of waste are being introduced on 1st October, and charges for disposal of asbestos and tyres.

16. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday, 19th November 2012 in Brabourne Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.14pm.