

BRABOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council
Held at 7.00pm on Monday 16th September 2013
At Brabourne Village Hall

1. Present

Cllr Hickmott (Chairman), Cllrs Mrs Bewick and Mrs Young, Cllrs Mayland and Spokes, and Mrs Wood (Clerk). Mrs Tanner and Mr Joules were present. Cllr Miss Martin and Cllr Howard (ward members), Mr Graham Kingston (Community Warden) and three members of the public attended.

2. Apologies

There were no apologies.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

4. Co-option to fill casual vacancies

Resolved:

That Mrs Sylvia Tanner and Mr Robert Joules be co-opted to fill the vacancies arising from the resignation of Cllr Mrs Beavers and Cllr Ede.

5. Declaration of Acceptance of Office

The Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Undertaking to Observe the Code of Conduct were signed by Mrs Tanner and Mr Joules and received by the Clerk as Proper Officer of the Council.

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Mrs Tanner and Cllr Joules to the Parish Council.

6. Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 15th July 2013 be approved and confirmed as a true record.

7. Matters Arising

7.1 Roads and Footways

7.1.1 There have been no further complaints about parking near Orpins Stores.

7.1.2 Problems reported to KCC Highways have been addressed.

7.1.3 The following will be reported to KCC Highways:

Pothole in Manor Pound Lane

Manor Pound Lane at the eastern end near Canterbury Road needs resurfacing

Deterioration of the Lees Road surface

7.1.4 Remedial work has been carried out on trees on The Warren.

7.1.5 The car park at The Five Bells was reportedly closed during a Classic Car event – Cllr Howard will notify the Licensing Officer.

7.1.6 Local needs housing. Tessa O’Sullivan (Rural Housing Enabler, ACRK) has reported that there has been no response from the owner of site 1 despite repeated attempts; a reply is awaited from the owner of site 4 regarding the involvement of the English Rural Housing Association. The meeting with the agent for the owner of land behind Fortescue Place is to be rearranged following its postponement.

7.2 Registration of The Warren as a village green A decision is awaited from KCC, but is not expected for several months.

8. Reports from Community Warden and PCSO

Mr Kingston and PCSO Carr’s reports are attached.

Complaints have been received regarding vehicle parking on pavements, particularly in Lees Road; Mr Kingston has spoken to the owner concerned. Vans have been parking at the junction of Lees Road and The Warren and continue to do so despite representations from Mr Kingston. PCSO Carr is monitoring the situation. Mr Kingston will report the deterioration of the surface of Lees Road to KCC Highways. A

number of new PCSOs are being trained; a PCSO for Brabourne, Smeeth, Aldington and Mersham is likely to be deployed in October/November.

9. Financial Report

9.1 To agree payments in accordance with the Budget

Resolved:

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

Payments

Details	£
Brabourne CEP School (John Moreton Memorial Prize)	48.96
KALC – Good Councillors Guide	25.00
Parish Online (subscription renewal)	12.00
HMRC Q2	133.80
S Wood (net salary Aug)	284.25
S Wood (net salary Sept)	284.25
D Ansley (salary) (24 hrs @ £6.19/hr)	148.56
Harmer and Sons (grass cutting – The Warren)	450.00
D Herrick (reimbursement – defibrillator key safe)	8.00
S Wood (expenses)	122.03
PKF Littlejohn (audit fee Annual Return)	240.00

Receipts

Details	£
Lloyds TSB interest	1.44
Member Community Grant (for Fete Committee)	500.00

Balance: £ 25279.57

The Clerk reported that the Annual Return had been approved by PKF Littlejohn, the external auditors appointed by the Audit Commission to conduct the annual audit.

The balance of the Precept, Concurrent Functions Grant and Council Tax Support Grant are due to be paid on 30th September.

9.2 To consider a request to put a dog bin at the village hall

Advice will be sought from the dog warden re suitable sites.

9.3 To consider a donation to Victim Support

Resolved:

That the request for a donation to Victim Support be refused.

9.4 To consider taking over maintenance of footpaths between Prospect Way and Canterbury Road, and between John Childs Garage and Lees Road

The PROW office no longer carries out routine clearance of footpaths, and any work undertaken is carried out by volunteers. Harmer and Sons (the contractors currently responsible for maintaining The Warren) will be asked to quote for routine maintenance.

9.5 To consider a request to act as banker for the Community Led and Emergency Plan groups

Resolved:

That Brabourne Parish Council acts as banker for the Community Led Plan and Emergency Plan groups.

Resolved:

That a No. 2 account be set up for the Community Led Plan and Emergency Plan groups.

10. Planning Committee report

Cllr Hickmott reported on 21 planning applications. Of those discussed at earlier meeting decisions are awaited on 5, including 1 case of non-compliance. 1 application was an agricultural notification and therefore prior approval was not required. Of the remaining applications no objections were raised to 4, 2 were withdrawn by the applicant, 1 application was permitted and the decision awaited on the remainder.

2 planning applications are still out for consultation. Concerns regarding building works at a property in Brabourne have been passed to the Planning Dept ABC. Cllr Howard is to ascertain if planning permission is required for works currently being carried out at another property. Advice has been sought as to whether planning permission is required for stabling recently erected.

11. Report from KALC representative

There has been no meeting since the Parish Council meeting of 15th July. The next meeting is on 2nd October.

12. Allotments project

No reply has yet been received regarding the type of material deposited on the pub garden. The security fencing will be erected later in the month. Requests for 2 plots have been made. A rota is in place for maintaining the site.

13. Village handyman scheme

Cllr Miss Martin and Cllr Howard reported that the parishes of Smeeth and Brook hope to work with Brabourne in a cluster under the scheme. Mersham and Bilsington will be discussing participation at their next PC meetings. It is unclear if Aldington wishes to take part, following problems identified during its pilot scheme, but this should not delay introduction of the scheme elsewhere. The other pilot, in a cluster including Wittersham, is ongoing and operating well.

Michelle Byrne (Funding and Partnerships Officer, ABC) will give details of services provided by ABC and costs to any PC registering an interest in joining the scheme; it was noted that Smeeth PC has registered its interest. The PC can choose to carry out some or all of the services currently delivered by ABC, litter picking is not included at present but could be added at the PC's request. The Chairman stated that activities such as grass cutting, street sign cleaning and litter picking would be undertaken by the Brabourne Handyman, giving the PC local control.

The Clerk will register Brabourne PC's interest with Michelle Byrne.

14. Open Session

In answer to a question from Mr Willis, Cllr Howard stated that there has been no progress regarding the proposed new homes at Manse Field; these would not be built as a 'one-off' but when other, similar properties are going up elsewhere to minimise costs.

15. Any Other Business

15.1 Correspondence:

15.1.1 A letter of thanks from John Jamieson for the PC's good wishes on his retirement.

15.1.2 An invitation to the annual KCC Highways seminar, October 22nd.

15.1.3 KCC Highways - provision of salt bags during the coming winter.

15.1.4 The Warren – results of the most recent tree survey (2011).

15.2 Problems re some postal deliveries were reported at the Smeeth PC meeting. No such problems were identified in Brabourne.

15.3 The Chairman will represent Brabourne at the Remembrance Day Parade.

15.4 Distribution of Fordred's Charity payments will be discussed at the November meeting - Councillors are asked to bring names to the meeting.

15.5 Cllr Mrs Bewick and Cllr Mrs Tanner asked if additional recycling bins could be provided, and were advised to contact Philippa Stylianides of ABC. A request for a smaller residuals bin was made, these will be delivered when all properties have been provided with bins – approx 50 households have yet to receive their wheelie bins. Cllr Miss Martin stated that feedback on the service can be left on the ABC website.

15.6 Cllr Mayland advised that there is to be an open meeting at Brabourne Baptist Church on September 24th for the Community Led Plan and Emergency Plan, beginning at 2.30pm.

15.7 The Chairman noted that an email had been circulated to PCs by the Village Alliance on funding for J10A by ABC. Cllr Howard replied that the Alliance had initially emailed a series of questions to borough councillors, but this elicited little response. This was followed by the email to PCs referred to by the Chairman in which it was alleged that ABC would contribute £3,300,000 towards the costs of a half J10A. Cllr Howard stated that no such funding had been approved, there having been no discussions in Cabinet or at a Council meeting. He further stated that borough councillors would prefer a full junction. Cllr Howard advised that he would be declaring a DPI when this is discussed but would forward comments from residents and PCs. Cllr Miss Martin noted that a full junction would cost £75,000,000, and that

Andrew Wickham (Ashford Rural East county councillor and KCC Deputy Cabinet Member for Community Services) has stated that the junction will not go ahead unless full funding is forthcoming from a developer. **15.8** Cllr Howard reported that the John Lewis at Home Store will open on 7th November. Dunelm Mill and B&M are opening stores at the Sevington Business Park. The town centre is being Improved with the introduction of the TCAT team, tasked with maintaining the area, and the opening of a number of pop-up shops.

16. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday, 18th November 2013 at 7.00pm, in Brabourne Village Hall,

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Community Warden's Report

It has been brought to my attention that there have been parking issues around the Five Bells pub and in particular highlighted by a vehicle parked on the island in the middle of the junction. Although it is nice to see a local business doing well it is unfortunate if it impacts on residents. I have spoken to a manager and suggested that a further flower container strategically placed on the island may solve that particular problem although not the wider problem which at specific times causes the car park to overflow.

I have continued to monitor the tree that was damaged on the Green and another branch has been broken I have spoken to children playing in the area and if required will visit the local school. Michael Hinchliffe kindly volunteered to tidy the damage.

I have also been told of one or two vehicles which have had their suspension lowered to the point where they ground on the road in the Warren, Bridge Road area, I have also received a complaint that the owners of the vehicles leave their tools about the footpath causing a hazard. I will try to speak to those concerned but I have been informed they may be leaving the village soon.

There was also a report of an assault and damage which I believe to be a domestic incident and police attended.

Graham Kingston

PCSO's Report

In Brabourne Lees a male was arrested over criminal damage in Lees Road. I have investigated reports of youths causing problems on farmland in Lees Road and damage to trees at the Warren.

On the 3rd September I spent time with the SID Speedwatch team on Church Road. With the increased numbers of tractors and agricultural plant using country lanes and also schools reopening please be mindful of your speed.

There have been several sheds broken into in Ashford and I would advise residents to secure their property when it is not being used. Batteries have also been stolen from stock fences in rural locations so please keep a look out for any suspicious vehicles or persons and report this on our non-emergency number 101.

PCSO Carr
