

**BRABOURNE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council**  
**Held at 7.00pm on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2012**  
**At Brabourne Village Hall**

**1. Present**

Cllr Ede (Chairman), Cllr Hickmott (Vice-Chairman), Cllrs Mrs Beavers, Mrs Bewick, Cllrs Mrs Young and Cllrs Mayland, Spokes, and Mrs S Wood (Clerk). Cllr Howard (ward member), Mr T Snare and Mr Kingston (Community Warden) attended and five members of the public were present, including the agent for planning application 12/00712/AS (Fairview, Bridge Road).

**2. Apologies**

There were no apologies for absence.

**3. Adoption of the 2012 Code of Conduct**

The Chairman tabled a briefing note on the Code. He reported that the draft Code issued by ABC is likely to be further revised, and the recommendation from KALC is that Parish Councils await the final draft. Brabourne Parish Council will continue to observe the 2007 Code until it adopts the 2012 Code.

**4. Declaration of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**5. Minutes**

**Resolved:**

**That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 21<sup>st</sup> May be approved and confirmed as a true record.**

**6. Community Warden's report**

Brought forward from item 7 with the Chairman's permission.

Mr Kingston's report is attached, and he was thanked by the Chairman for his efforts on behalf of the parish.

**7. Matters Arising**

**7.1 Roads and Footways**

**7.1.1** Church Road footpath. The objection having been withdrawn, a decision is awaited from the Planning Inspectorate.

**7.1.2** Potholes. Some repairs have been carried out, others remain. Canterbury Road is to be resurfaced.

**7.1.3** Hedge in Lees Road. Following a number of complaints to the PC and a site visit by KCC Highways, a hedge adjacent to the highway has been cut back, but the approach taken by KCC was thought to have been overly officious. The Chairman apologised to the resident concerned for the PC's failure to communicate regarding the possible problem and for the approach taken by KCC Highways. If a similar situation arises, KCC's guidance will be sought and any contact will be through the PC.

**7.1.4** 30mph speed restriction in The Street. An application has been made to Andrew Wickham (county councillor). Noted that the govt is consulting on giving powers to change speed limits to local authorities.

**7.1.5** Speedwatch in Brabourne. Cllrs Mrs Bewick and Mayland have been trained, but more volunteers are needed.

**7.1.6** Verges: The number of cuts has been reduced by KCC Highways, leading to overgrown verges and safety concerns re visibility splays; knotweed is growing in the verge on Lees Road; these are being taken up with Highways.

**7.2 Speedwatch in Brabourne** See 7.1

**7.3 Traffic problems in Brabourne parish** See 7.1

- 7.4 Agricultural traffic** The Code of Conduct and information leaflet were distributed at the fete and were well received; they will also be made available in Orpins Stores. Complaints have been received about the use of high intensity lights on farm vehicles at night, probably due to drivers omitting to douse them when leaving the fields.
- 7.5 Housing Needs Survey** English Rural Housing Association has sought the permission of both Parish Councils to contact landowners re their willingness to make land available for new affordable housing. The Chairman stated that any development would be go out to public consultation and would require planning permission.
- 7.6 Community Led Plan** Cllr Mayland reported that 2 meetings have been held, but more volunteers are needed – this is to be advertised. Apparent apathy was regretted given the number at the April public meeting.

## 8. Financial Report

### 8.1 To agree payments in accordance with the Budget

**Resolved:**

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

#### Payments

Details	£
WW Electrical Ltd (allotment access way repairs)	594.00
HMRC (Q1 payment)	177.80
S Wood (net salary June)	269.65
S Wood (net salary July)	269.65
D Ansley (salary) (12 hours)	72.96
Information Commissioner's Office (DPA renewal)	35.00
S Wood (stationery & certificate frame)	20.83

#### Receipts

Details	£
Lloyds TSB interest	0.49
VAT refund	151.49
Allotment rental (Paula Head)	20.00
Mercia Garden Products Ltd (restitution – allotment access damage)	250.00

Balance: £ 11979.11

Allotment Society contribution to sheds due: £1335

## 9. Planning Committee report

The Chairman suspended the meeting to allow Mr McSorley (agent for the applicant 12/00712/AS) to answer questions on the application. The Planning Committee chairman welcomed the amended scheme, which was for a lower number of dwellings of higher design quality.

The meeting was reconvened and the Chairman of the Planning Committee reported on ten planning applications: two applications were supported; no objections raised to six; an objection made to one, and comments have yet to be submitted on application 12/00712/AS. Of the applications where the Parish Council has responded, the Borough Council granted two, and a decision on seven is awaited. An appeal to the Planning Inspectorate on an earlier application was dismissed. One case of non-compliance is still outstanding – Cllr Howard to pursue.

## 10. Report from KALC representative

The Clerk reported that Localism was discussed at the meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> June, and information on the new Code of Conduct will be give at the next meeting, on 18<sup>th</sup> July.

## 11. Allotments project

The Clerk that advised that Notice has been served on 2 allotment holders to improve their plots, otherwise their tenancies will be terminated.

The Chairman and Vice-chairman will carry out a site inspection during the week beginning 23<sup>rd</sup> July. It was noted that the work to install the communal shed and green lavatory has yet to be completed, further delays may necessitate the use of a contractor, with cost implications. The Allotment Society was advised to contact CJK Carpentry who is willing to lend a generator for the works. A cheque for £250 has been received from Mercia Garden Products Ltd in settlement of the claim arising from damage to the access way.

## **12. Proposed transfer of land at The Warren**

**12.1 Advertising costs** Following intervention from Cllr Wood (ward member and Leader, ABC) these have been reduced to £42 from ~ £800; the PC has been asked by the Strategic Housing and Property Team if it wishes to continue.

### **Resolved:**

**That the Parish Council agrees to advertising the proposal, at a cost of £42.**

The Parish Council will incur legal costs arising from the transfer, but Cllr Howard indicated that he is minded to give a contribution towards these costs from his Member Community Grant. Cllr Howard recommended that the Parish Council employs the services of its own solicitor with regard to the transfer. It is hoped that this will be offered *pro bono* – Cllr Mrs Young to pursue.

**12.2 Proposed housing at Manse Field** Cllr Mrs Young noted that the exhibition was well attended, but residents suggested that the new homes be built fronting Plain Road. The Clerk advised that this has been raised with ABC and a reply is awaited. Cllr Howard stated that any new housing would be for families, thus ruling out bungalows. The Chairman welcomed the interest, and advised that any proposal would be out for public consultation and would require planning permission.

## **13. Brabourne CE Primary School Community Governor Vacancy**

Following an approach from the Clerk to the Governors of the school, the Parish Council was asked to assist in the search for suitable candidates. The Chairman and Cllr Mayland consented to their names being put forward.

## **14. Borough councillor's report**

Cllr Howard introduced Mr Snare, on work experience with the Borough Council.

Cllr Howard then reported as follows:

- The Olympic torch will be conveyed along the A20 in a vehicular convoy.
- ABC is to fly flags of Regiments having the Freedom of the Borough on the appropriate dates, and on Armed Forces Day – he noted that this necessitated obtaining planning permission, which is required for flying flags other than the Union flag.
- Cllr Howard congratulated the fete organizers on the successful event, and is minded to give a grant towards costs for the 2013 fete.
- Lorry park at Aldington: this is now unlikely to go ahead due to a lack of funding and community support, together with changed Police procedures for dealing with Operation Stack which have resulted in fewer delays. A number of smaller sites for overnight HGV parking is now under discussion. In answer to a question, Cllr Howard advised that the moveable barrier for Operation Stack has been returned, and Kent Police is liaising with other forces to halt lorries entering Kent when Operation Stack is on.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Howard for his attendance at the fete and help with parish matters.

## **15. Open Session**

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

Mr Clayton stated that the noticeboard outside Orpins Stores is now dilapidated, and asked the Parish Council to consider replacing it; he also noted that it will need to be relocated when the shop front is changed.

## **16. Proposed dates of future meetings**

The following were agreed, subject to hall availability:

21<sup>st</sup> January 2013, 18<sup>th</sup> March, 20<sup>th</sup> May, 15<sup>th</sup> July, 16<sup>th</sup> September and 18<sup>th</sup> November.

## **17. Any other business**

**17.1** The Vice-chairman advised that there is to be a public meeting in Sellindge School, 26<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm, to discuss the planning applications for wind turbines.

**17.2** Cllr Mayland suggested that a village sign be placed in Brabourne Lees.

**17.3** On behalf of the Parish Council the Chairman thanked Mr Sanders for organizing the fete, and Mrs Godfrey for taking over as Chairman for the 2013 fete. In spite of poor weather over £2000 was raised for the Playing Field Association.

**17.4** Correspondence:

**17.4.1** ABC Diamond Jubilee Civic Awards, introduced to celebrate HM the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and honour those who have delivered outstanding community service: Information is on the parish website and will be in August Parish News.

**17.4.2** English Rural is advertising a re-let of a one-bedroomed ground floor flat in Fortescue Place. Details are on the noticeboards, on the parish website and in August Parish News.

## **18. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2012 in Brabourne Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

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### **Community Warden Report**

I wish to thank the Parish Councils for its kind invitation to join them at the Village fete, which despite the windy weather I believe was a worthwhile first attempt.

There has been a report of theft of calves from a local farm which may have been happening over a few months.

I was informed by a local resident that 'Duster sellers' were in the village again claiming to raise money for the armed services which was obviously wrong. Whilst looking around the village I was contacted by the trading standards to inform me of the same, so the message is being shared amongst the community.

I have been involved in the Ashford area 'Safety in action' event for primary school children in their last year at junior school looking at various forms of safety from road safety to internet safety which was attended by the local primary school.

I was requested by a resident to look at children going onto land ( I believe an old quarry ) off of Plain Road, as some minor damage had been caused to a derelict building there and advise them about their conduct.

There has been a search warrant executed by Police and ABC housing Dept in The Warren an investigation is ongoing.

At the request of the Parish Council I have looked into the matter of parents using the Nursery in Plain Road parking on the verge nearby and I have not witnessed any personally, I have spoke to the proprietor of the Nursery and she has confirmed that she has write and spoken to parents and operates a system whereby there should be no need for parking on the verge, which appears to be working at present.

General I have been asked by Police to highlight that there have been a number of burglaries from outbuildings in the surrounding area and request that residents are particularly vigilant.

Burglary at Bockham Farm West Brabourne where a motorcycle was taken.

Graham Kingston

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