

BRABOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council
Held at 7.00pm on Monday 17th January 2011
At Brabourne Village Hall

1. Present

Cllr Ede (Chairman), Cllr Hickmott (Vice-Chairman), Cllrs Mrs Beavers, Mrs Bewick, Mrs Young and Mrs S Wood (Clerk). Mr R Sinden (Community Warden) and PC Laker (Neighbourhood Officer) also attended. Three members of the public were present.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Spokes and Honey (prior commitments).

3. Declaration of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were received.

4. Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 22nd November 2010 be approved and confirmed as a true record.

5. Matters Arising

• **Roads and footways**

- a) KHS has been notified of numerous potholes in Canterbury Road, near Brabourne School. A failed repair in Lees Road is to be reported.
- b) Theft of the Brabourne village sign in Canterbury Road has been reported to KHS and the Police.
- c) The PROW officer, KCC, is investigating the application to claim the Church Road footpath as a Public Right of Way. A number of users of the footpath are to be contacted, and old photographs requested – these should be sent to the Clerk.
- d) Dog fouling is a persistent problem in Canterbury Road and Mountbatten Way.

• **Organisation of the Village Fete for 2011**

A joint meeting with Smeeth Parish Council will be held on 29th January at which it is hoped a new Chairman will come forward. Failing this there is a possibility that the 2011 Fete will not go ahead. Cllr Mrs Beavers regretted that she will not be able to attend the meeting, but is happy to advise the new Chairman and help on the day of the Fete.

• **Village Lottery**

A volunteer is now running the Lottery following Mrs Marchesi's retirement.

6. Report from Community Warden

Mr Sinden reported that the Christmas period was quiet. He offered to advise the Allotment Society on security and security marking, and to help on the day of the fete, setting up. Funding has been secured and the Community Warden scheme will continue for at least 2 more years.

Mr Sinden noted that he is aware of the problem of dog fouling and is patrolling the area, giving out disposal bags to dog walkers. An article giving the penalties for fouling is to be put in the Parish News. Dog owners are reminded that bags are available free of charge from John Childs garage.

7. Report from Neighbourhood Officer

See PC Laker’s written report (attached).

Speed checks are being carried out on a regular basis. Thefts of heating oil have been reported in Aldington and Mersham. Complaints have been received about parking on pavements, and mud from agricultural vehicles continues to be a problem in East Brabourne.

The Chairman thanked Mr Sinden and PC Laker for their work in the parish, particularly for the speed checks which appear to be effective in slowing traffic.

8. To consider purchasing land at The Warren

Following the Parish Council’s request to meet Mrs Tracey Kerly (Head of Housing Services, ABC) regarding The Warren, the Chairman and Clerk are to meet her on 28th January to discuss the resulting offer to sell the land to the Parish Council. Costs will depend on a valuation (for which the Parish Council would be charged £283 by ABC) but are likely to be £3000.

The meeting was suspended while Mr Peter Clayton raised concerns about maintenance costs. The Chairman noted that help would be sought from volunteers to minimize these.

After the meeting recommenced:

Resolved:

That the Parish Council request a valuation of the land, consequent on the outcome of the meeting with Mrs Kerly.

The Vice-chairman stated that Mrs Kerly should be asked if any clause re future development by ABC would be attached to the purchase. He also suggested that the Parish Council register it as a village green after purchase, but the Clerk replied that Cllr Honey had advised against this as it would limit the Parish Council’s options.

The Chairman noted that Cllr Honey has also suggested that facilities such as outdoor gym equipment could be installed on The Warren.

The Vice-chairman said that it may be necessary for the Parish Council to arrange for its own survey.

9. Financial Report

Resolved:

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

Payments

Details	£
Mrs B Rich (salary)	112.67
SLCC (annual subscription)	42.95

Receipts

Details	£
Lloyds TSB interest	0.75
Fordred’s Charity	168.00
Allotment rental payments	600.00

Balance: £ 12125.35

To consider a donation to the Ashford Counselling Service.

After debate:

Resolved:

That a donation be refused.

To consider a financial contribution to the Dymchurch Recreation Ground Project.

After debate:

Resolved:

That a financial contribution be refused.

The Clerk presented the draft Budget as amended following the Resolution to purchase land at The Warren.

After debate:

Resolved:

That the Budget for 2011 -2012 be unchanged from that decided at the meeting of 22nd November 2010.

10. To receive the Report of the Planning Committee

The Chairman of the Planning Committee reported that 1 Notification of Discharge of Conditions and 3 Decisions to Permit have been received; 2 applications for The Five Bells remain outstanding. 1 application was supported and a decision awaited; 2 applications are under consideration.

An application for change of use for Chapelfield, from C2 (care home) to residential, was discussed and supported.

11. Report from KALC Representative

There has been no meeting since the last Parish Council meeting. The Chief Constable will attend the meeting on 2nd February, and questions are invited by the Area Committee.

12. Provision of allotments on land behind The Plough Inn

The Vice-chairman reported that the access was pegged out before Christmas, taking into account space needed for the dray lorry and dustcart. A meeting was held by the Allotment Society on 14th January, at which plots were allocated by ballot, drawn by the Vice-chairman.

Mr Peter de Lacey (Chairman, Brabourne and Smeeth Allotment Society) was invited to present a report. Minutes of the meeting of 14th January had been prepared by Society's secretary, Mr Brian Murphy, and are attached. Mr Clinton Johnson and Mathew Johnson were thanked for marking out the plots. 29 plots have been marked out, including 2 set aside under the Disability Discrimination Act, but there is space for up to 8 more. Footpaths have been included in the layout and all plots can be accessed by vehicle.

The Vice-chairman noted that those who had requested half plots had been allocated half of a standard plot, allowing scope to extend if wished at a later date.

Mr de Lacey stated that work on the access is the next priority, and the Chairman advised that planning permission will be needed if hardstanding is to be used for the onsite car park.

To comply with restrictions imposed by Shepherd Neame, mesh will be used on the access track to maintain the green appearance. To lay mesh on the access and where needed elsewhere on site would cost about £4000.

Following requests at the meeting, the Vice-chairman is to pursue installation of additional standpipes with Mr A Fortescue.

Mr de Lacey asked why the number of sheds is limited to 10, and if they can be placed on plots. He was advised that these are conditions imposed by Shepherd Neame and that they must be in a line on the eastern boundary. It was suggested that Shepherd Neame be approached again when the allotments are in use.

A large shed for storage of bulk bought materials is also required.

For security it was suggested that gates be installed at the top of the access (by the bins) and on the boundary.

Further to a request from Mr de Lacey, the Clerk is to seek permission from Shepherd Neame to pollard the tree in the centre of the site; it was noted that this had been carried out in the past.

Given the presence of a large warren, rabbit-proof fencing is needed.

The Clerk is to seek funding for the mesh, sheds and rabbit-proof fencing.

Mr de Lacey stated that a working party is to clear the site on 23rd January, and asked if a skip could be provided.

Resolved:

That the Parish Council would pay for provision of a skip for 23rd January.

Cllr Mrs Beavers suggested that the schools be invited to take an allotment, and that the Scouts and Guides be asked to help with the clearance as part of their Community badge. The latter is to be pursued.

The Chairman thanked Mr de Lacey and the Committee for their hard work.

The corrected lease for the allotment site has been received:

Resolved:

That the Chairman and Vice-chairman sign the lease for the land behind the Plough Inn for use as allotments.

13. Extension of the Blue Box scheme to Brabourne parish

The extension of the scheme is welcomed, although it is regretted that the round will end at The Five Bells, and not continue along The Street at East Brabourne. The Chairman advised that ABC will provide the boxes, which can be used to recycle glass, cans and newspaper (although not cardboard).

Cllr Mrs Bewick is to liaise with the landlord of The Five Bells re the possibility of either leaving residents' own boxes for collection or installing a bottle bank in the car park.

Assurances have been received that the scheme will not prevent the Scouts and Guides continuing to collect newspaper; it had been suggested that stickers would be put on the boxes reminding residents of this – the Clerk is to pursue this with Cllr Honey.

14. Provision of 'No cold caller' signs in the parish

A request was made at the meeting of 22nd November that signs be put up stating that the parish is a 'No Cold Calling' zone. Guidance was sought from the police, and had been circulated to councillors.

It was agreed that the signs would not be erected, given that: cold calling is not thought to be a significant problem in the parish; costs would be incurred; there is no evidence that the signs are effective; a proliferation of signs would detract from the rural character of the area.

It was stated that the Neighbourhood Watch coordinator is happy to advise residents if needed.

15. To receive and adopt the 2010 Standing Orders

Following a review by the Chairman and Clerk, Standing Orders adapted from the 2010 NALC Model for Local Councils had been circulated to all councillors.

Resolved:

That the 2010 Standing Orders for Local Councils, as amended, be adopted.

16. Any other business

- The Vice-chairman reported that 'Brainbuster' crosswords are now on sale in aid of the Village Hall refurbishment project.
- The Parish Council has been asked to publicise the University of the Third age, Wye and District branch, and the Royal British Legion's 90th anniversary – 'Poppy parties' are encouraged.

17. Resolution to exclude the public

Resolved:

That under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, because of the confidential nature of the business to be dealt with, the Public and Press leave the meeting during the following, namely item 18, the Citizenship Award.

Following the passing of the Resolution, the Chairman suspended the public part of the meeting and the members of the public present left the meeting.

18. Citizenship Award

After debate:

Resolved:

That the Award be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting on 21st March.

19. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday, 21st March in Brabourne Village Hall, immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting which begins at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

KENT POLICE NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM

The following report relates to the period of the 4th November 2010 to 11th January 2011 and covers all crime and relevant incidents in your area.

CRIME

BRABOURNE

There has been one reported burglary in Brabourne. This was to a garage in Mountbatten Way. The offender's have climbed the garden fence after walking along the alleyway alongside the property.

They have then forced entry to the garage and taken the IP's fishing equipment. The IP feels that the offenders knew what he had as there was other valuable property in the garage but nothing else was taken.

There are no known suspects and all enquiries have been conducted.

There has been one theft and this also occurred in Mountbatten way. A trailer was stolen after the offenders have forced the padlock securing the trailer. The Trailer was on the front driveway.

There are no known offenders and all enquires have been concluded.

SMEETH

There has been one burglary Dwelling which occurred in Church Road. The IP went out for a few hours and upon returning home discovered a side window had been forced and jewellery and a picture frame had been taken and some other items. There was an untidy search in part of the property and it is possible that the offenders were disturbed as some items were left behind.

Soco attended and fingerprints were located but not good enough to identify a person unless we can put a name forward for comparison.

There was a break to a shed at the new houses in Calland where by entry has been forced to a shed and various golf equipment has been stolen. The offenders have also damaged the bolt for the gate as they were entering the garden.

There are no known suspects and all lines of enquiry have been concluded.

There was one theft from Motor vehicle at the Ridgeway. The offenders have smashed the Driver's side window and have then open the bonnet and have taken an engine part. It is unclear what was taken as a metal plate has been removed and it appears that the offenders were after something under the plate. From looking at the engine, it may be a plug of some sort.

Nothing seen or heard and nothing for Soco.

There has been one report of Criminal Damage that occurred in Calland. A motor vehicle has been scratched that was parked in the Lay By at the top of the hill.

This appears to be a neighbour dispute as the vehicle that was damaged as the area is used by numerous people and several residents feel that the spaces are for their use.

I have conducted house-to-house enquiries but negative result. There have been no more reports.

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

There is nothing of note.

I have conducted a couple of speed checks in the area but no excess speed. I have also arranged to do a couple of speed checks in January with Ian and any one else who wishes to join me.

There have been several calls to the Caldecott, which has resulted in arrests, but I am in contact with the school and having monthly meetings to try to and reduce the calls.

PC 11307 Darren Laker

Neighbourhood Rural Policing Officer

Brabourne Parish Council Allotment Society Report January 2011

At a meeting held 7th December 2010 hosted by Brabourne Parish Council the council outlined advanced plans to develop an allotment site on land behind the Plough leased to the council from Shepherd Neame. The council proposed that interested parties pay a £30 annual rent per full plot and form an allotment society to work in tandem with the council to manage the site. Approximately 30 people expressed an interest in allotment plots and all six volunteers within the group were elected committee members to investigate formalisation of the society, constitution and rules, naming the society, National Society of Allotment & Leisure Gardeners Limited (NSALG) membership, site layout and plot allocation and other issues.

The committee comprising Diane Tuff, Sue Bartholomew Richard Graham, Peter De Lacey, Neil Hodgkin, Jim Noble and Brian Murphy met twice in December 2010 and called a full meeting of those who had paid a £30 rent for 14th January. The committee organised, with a great deal of help from Clinton Johnson and his son Mathew the marking out of allotment plots on site, proposed naming the group Brabourne and Smeeth Allotment Society and discussed issues further including the need for clear strong working relations with Brabourne Parish Council.

At the very well attended meeting in January committee officers; Peter De Lacey (chair), Neil Hodgkin (fundraising), Jim Noble (Treasurer) and Brian Murphy (Secretary) were appointed and the name of Brabourne and Smeeth Allotment Society was adopted. A membership fee of £10 was agreed and collection has begun to enable a bank account to be set up in the society name and also to register the society with the national body. Mike Hickmott kindly provided an update from Brabourne Parish Council and also made the draw of names for allocation of allotment plots. The group is very grateful for all the work done to date and for ongoing support from Brabourne Parish council. 29 allotments have been laid out and many of these are now taken. Over the weekend work has begun on clearing the site and breaking ground on allotments. A working party of members will meet next Sunday (23rd January) to carry out more clearance work on site.

Brabourne Parish Council have given undertaking to provide better access, parking, fencing and communal shed(s). There are some unallocated plots and together with Brabourne Parish Council the society proposes to offer these plots to new interested parties. Brabourne and Smeeth Allotment Society will hold an AGM 1st April 2011.
