

BRABOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council
Held at 7.00pm on Monday 18th March 2013
At Brabourne Village Hall

1. Present

Cllr Ede (Chairman), Cllrs Mrs Bewick, Mrs Young, Cllr Spokes, and Mrs Wood (Clerk). Cllr Wickham (county councillor) and thirteen members of the public were present.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Hickmott (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Mrs Beavers, Cllr Mayland (prior commitments) and Cllr Howard (ward member).

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

4. Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Parish Council held on 24th January and 28th January 2013 be approved and confirmed as a true record.

5. Matters Arising

5.1 Roads and Footways

5.1.1 The Church Road footpath has been added to the Definitive Map of Footpaths.

5.1.2 The following will be reported to Highways: potholes in Lees Road and Canterbury Road. Cllr Wickham advised that residents are encouraged to report potholes etc via the online portal on the KCC website. He advised that Find and Fix is operating, but is weather dependent. Temporary repairs are carried out to make safe deep potholes – these are sometimes criticised as being inadequate but it should be emphasised that these are only temporary and the team will return to effect permanent repairs.

5.1.3 30mph speed limit in The Street Cllr Wickham advised that this could not be included as it required a Traffic Regulation Order, and could not therefore meet the funding deadline, and suggested that it be resubmitted in the next financial year.

5.2 Speedwatch A grant of £300 has been awarded by Cllr Howard towards purchase of the equipment. Cllr Wickham invited the PC to apply for a KCC grant (although this cannot be submitted until after the May election) and noted that the case for a grant would be strengthened if the equipment were to be shared with other parishes.

5.3 Valentine Knott Charity The account has been closed and remaining funds will be forwarded to the PC (£22.61).

5.4 Transfer of The Warren Transfer to the PC has been completed; application for village green status will be sought.

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	£
Land Registry (transfer of The Warren)	50.00
S Wood (net salary February)	269.65
S Wood (net salary March)	269.65
S Wood (expenses)	140.07
D Ansley (salary) (26.5 hours)	164.09

ACRK (annual subscription)	32.50
Citizenship Award	100.00
Brabourne Village Hall (donation)	1500.00
Footpaths' Association (donation)	10.00
Playing Field Association (donation)	1100.00

Receipts

Details	£
Lloyds TSB interest	0.95
Allotment rentals	1445.00
Awards for All (allotment fencing)	8500.00
Street cleansing grant	760.50
Land Registry – fee overpayment	10.00

Balance: £ 21822.22

Allotment Society contribution to sheds due: £1335

Cllr Wickham advised that there has been no increase in KCC council tax for the third consecutive year. He noted that savings of £354,000,000 have had to be made consequent on a reduction in the grant to KCC from central government – it is a popular misconception that KCC is wholly funded from council tax. Additional savings of £6,000,000 will have to be made in the coming year, while protecting essential services. This meant that other services will have to be cut, but all libraries will be kept open.

The meeting was suspended to allow Mr Clayton to address the meeting. He asked if KCC has any interest in collective energy purchasing, which would benefit ratepayers. Cllr Wickham replied that he was unaware of the scheme but would pursue it.

The meeting was reconvened.

8. Planning Committee report

Cllr Spokes reported on 17 planning applications. Of these, 3 applications were supported, objections made to 5, no objections raised to 6, comments submitted on 1, 1 application was withdrawn and 1 is a retrospective application raised following noncompliance. 2 applications were permitted by the Borough Council - this includes the application for 2 semi-detached houses at Manse Field (granted but with changes to the design of the proposed homes following representations by the PC). Decisions are awaited on the remaining 14 applications.

The Chairman suspended the meeting to allow applicants to answer questions on planning applications.
 Clovelly, Canterbury Road: Plans have been amended to address concerns re the visual impact and height.
 Hillside, Weekes Lane: Pre-application advice has been sought from the Planning Dept of ABC re demolition of the existing bungalow and erection of a single storey property with an enlarged footprint. The information provided was welcomed.

The meeting was reconvened.

9. Report from KALC representative

The next meeting of the Ashford Area Committee is on 20th March. A planning conference will be held on 23rd March.

10. Allotments project

The Allotment Society's AGM is on 27th March; the Chairman hopes to attend.

11. Community Led Plan and Emergency Plan

A meeting of the Community Led Plan and Emergency Plan Committee scheduled for 5th March was postponed due a lack of a quorum. A Powerpoint presentation on the 2 plans has been prepared to show to village groups, but so far there has been little interest. The apparent apathy by residents to this and other village initiatives was regretted, and the PC re-emphasised its support for the Community Led

Plan and the Emergency Plan. It was noted that the former will be of importance in demonstrating evidence of need to guard against unwanted development.

The Chairman suspended the meeting to allow residents to raise matters of concern.

12. Open Session

12.1 Mr Clayton mourned the loss of Peter Wood, ward member. This was reciprocated by the Chairman, who also paid tribute to Stuart Austen (Smeeth Parish Council Chairman) who died suddenly in February.

A minute's silence was held to mark the passing of Peter Wood and Stuart Austen.

12.2 New waste contract. The Clerk advised that this will be phased in from April. A borough-wide survey of properties has been carried out to ascertain suitability for wheelie bins. These properties will be given a caddy for food waste (weekly collection), a wheelie bin for recyclables (to include cardboard and plastics) (fortnightly collection), a bin for residual waste (fortnightly collection) and a bin for green waste (for subscribers, a fortnightly collection). Where residents are unable to handle the bins, help will be available from the roundsmen.

12.3 Concerns were expressed by local farmers re continued problems caused by loose dogs and dog fouling. When approached some dog walkers are apologetic but others are abusive. Incidents of criminal damage have also been reported when fences are cut for access – these have been reported to the Police. The Code of Conduct leaflet was handed out at the fete, more copies are to be made available in Orpins Stores, and an article placed in Parish News and the Village Directory. Information as to days and times will be sent to the PCSO and Community Warden, and they will be asked to monitor the situation. Advice will be sought from the Dog Warden.

12.4 Cars have been seen driving across The Warren – details will be passed to the Community Warden.

12.5 Farmers were thanked for their efforts clearing snow.

13. Any Other Business

13.1 Cllr Spokes reported that the salt bag in Prospect Way had been well used and had proved very useful, residents having used it to salt the pavements.

13.2 Church Road resurfacing is being carried out as part of a £6,000,000 programme for the county. Cllr Wickham was thanked for putting this forward and for his efforts on behalf of the parish.

13.3 The Chairman will represent the Parish Council at the St George's day parade.

13.4 The Saxon Shore by-election will be held on 2nd May.

14. Motion to exclude the public

Resolved:

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 discussion of item 15, review of the Clerk's spinal column point.

15. Review of the Clerk's spinal column point

Resolved:

That the Clerk's spinal column point be increased to 24.

16. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday, 13th May 2013 at 7.00pm, in Brabourne Village Hall, the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.
