

BRABOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council
Held at 7.00pm on Monday 19th July 2010
At Brabourne Village Hall

1. Present

Cllr Ede (Chairman), Cllr Hickmott (Vice-Chairman), Cllrs Mrs Bewick, Mrs Whitehead, Mrs Young, and Mrs S Wood (Clerk). Cllr Mrs Beavers arrived during Agenda item 8 from a previously arranged engagement.

The Community Warden, PC Darren Laker and five members of the public were present.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Spokes and Cllrs Honey and Wood (borough councillors).

3. Declaration of Interest

Declarations of Interest were received from Cllr Mrs Whitehead (Personal) re Agenda item 7 (request for a donation to BTCV), and the Vice-chairman and Cllr Mrs Young (Personal) re Agenda item 8, planning application 10/00969/AS.

With the permission of the Chairman, the co-option of the new Councillor and signing of the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Undertaking to Observe the Code of Conduct were deferred until Cllr Mrs Beavers joined the meeting,

4. Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Parish Council held on 17th May and 7th July be approved and confirmed as true records.

5. Matters Arising

• **Provision for young people/skateboard Facility**

The Community Warden stated that visits by the Community Van have been cancelled due to lack of interest, the Scouts and Guides have also noted a drop in attendance – these may be indicative of changing demographics. The van is now visiting Aldington weekly and attracting an attendance of over 30. The Warden suggested that the situation be reviewed in 6 months. The Chairman queried the Playing Field as the location for the van and there was general agreement that there is no practical alternative.

• **Roads and footways**

a) It was stated that there has been an improvement in the general state of the roads in the parish. The following are still outstanding and will be passed to Highways: potholes in Brabourne Lane (Canterbury Hill); replacement chevrons opposite the Church Road war memorial; completion date for Pilgrims Way water works, which have overrun.

b) A complaint has been received that HGVs are 'rat running' through Prospect Way and Mountbatten Way. Miss Samm Orgar is to request that delivery drivers to the village shop do not use this route.

• **Church Road Footpath**

No progress to report.

- **Memorial to Councillor Moreton**

The inaugural John Moreton Prize for an Outstanding Contribution to School Life is to be presented at the Brabourne School prize giving evening on 22nd July, by the former Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr Peter Clayton. After considerable discussion the 2010 prize is to be a substantial dictionary bearing a bookplate and Waterstones' book vouchers. A framed 'Ex Libris' certificate bearing the winner's name will also be presented, this to be held by the school. The prizewinner will be asked to write to the Parish Council and Mrs Ann Moreton giving details of the book(s) purchased with the vouchers.

6. Report from Community Warden

The Community Warden advised that the Support Warden is about to start employment with Sure Start, and this will allow him to be more flexible vis-à-vis working hours, as the Support Warden was not allowed to work after 5.00pm.

The Warden reported that he had attended the Village Fete and hoped to be able to offer more help in 2011 with the Fete clear-up.

In addition he was a guest speaker at the Monday Club and had been involved in the 2 week programme 'Ashford's Safety in Action'. During the latter he had taught Road Safety to about 1600 year 6 pupils.

The Warden stated that he would not be working full weeks until the end of August, because of leave and forthcoming dentistry.

The Chairman thanked the Community Warden for his efforts and PC Laker for his help at the Village Fete, and invited PC Laker to present a report.

PC Laker introduced himself and stated that he will be attending the North Weald Police Forum and will bring crime figures to the next Parish Council meeting - changed duty rosters mean that he can now attend meetings. PC Laker further advised that, following a change in staffing, he is no longer responsible for the parishes of Wye, Chilham and Challock and this will enable him to concentrate on the Brabourne area.

7. Financial Report

Resolved:

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

Payments

Details	£
Mrs J Cooper	240.00
Mrs S Wood	297.60
Mrs B Rich (salary)	156.60
ICO (DPA renewal)	35.00

Receipts

Details	£
Lloyds TSB interest	0.60
HMRC – VAT refund	172.75

Total balance £ 10160.95

To consider a donation to Vitalise

Resolved:

That the donation to Vitalise be refused.

To consider a donation to the Kent BTCV Tree and Pond Warden Schemes

Resolved:

That the donation to the Kent BTCV Tree and Pond Warden Schemes be refused.

The Chairman thanked The Tree Warden, Cllr Mrs Whitehead, for her efforts on behalf of the parish.

The Clerk advised that the Concurrent Functions Grant has been reviewed by a Working Party, and that the Grant paid to Brabourne may be reduced. However, there had been concerns that it may be discontinued: payment of the Grant, albeit a lesser sum, was welcomed.

8. Report from the Planning Committee

The Chairman of the Planning Committee presented his report.

10 applications have been received: 4 have been supported by the Parish Council; comments were submitted on 1 application; a further 5 applications are under consideration. One case of possible non-compliance has been referred to the Planning Compliance Team.

The Chairman suspended the meeting at 7.40pm and invited Miss Samm Orgar to address the meeting on the planning application for works at Orpins Stores (10/00969/AS) and to answer questions on the application from Councillors.

Following her presentation, Miss Orgar was thanked and the Chairman reconvened the meeting at 7.50pm.

9. Co-option of new Councillor

Cllr Mrs Beavers was co-opted at the meeting on 7th July, following interviews with candidates, and was welcomed by the Chairman.

10. Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr Mrs Beavers signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and the Undertaking to Observe the Code of Conduct, which were received by the Clerk as Proper Officer.

11. Report from KALC Representative

The Clerk attended the AGM of the Ashford Area Committee on 2nd June. All officers were re-elected. The new Chief Constable is to be invited to a meeting and Councillors were asked to consider suitable Resolutions to put forward for discussion at the KALC AGM in November, and then taken to NALC.

The Chairman suspended the meeting at 8.00pm to allow the former Chairman, Mr Peter Clayton, to address the meeting, which was reconvened at 8.05pm.

12. Report from the Tree Warden

- Cllr Mrs Whitehead reported that 1 of the 3 newly planted whitebeams on the green is suffering from a lack of water. The Tree Officer (Mr P Cook) has been notified and is obtaining quotes for watering.
- Old orchard plum trees in West Brabourne are suffering die-back due to a fungal infection and bacterial canker. Replacement trees will be planted.
- A free elm sapling may be made available to the Parish Council by the Conservation Foundation's 'Great British Elm Experiment'. The Tree Officer will make arrangements for planting but responsibility for after care during the first 2 years will lie with the Parish Council. It was suggested that Smeeth School be approached and the Clerk is to contact the Head Teacher.

13. Report on ACRK Traffic Management Forum

The Clerk advised that she had attended 2 meetings arranged by ACRK (Action with Communities in Rural Kent) on traffic problems in the rural parishes. Speeding was identified as a common concern. It was suggested by the Forum that a Motion be put forward to KALC for discussion at its AGM (to be taken forward to NALC) regarding a reduction in the speed limit on rural C and unclassified roads, from 60mph to 50mph. All parishes are asked to support the Motion (copy attached). Councillor Mrs Whitehead recommended a reduction to 40mph, but it is felt that the target of 50mph is more achievable.

Resolved:

That the Parish Council supports the Motion that the parishes of Ashford Borough propose that KALC petition NALC to make representations to the UK Government that the speed limit for the UK's rural (ie 'C' class and unclassified) roads be reduced from the present figure of 60mph to 50mph.

The Vice-chairman noted that Pluckley Parish Council has drawn up a 10 point plan to survey speed limits in the Parish. This is to be circulated to all Councillors and a similar plan considered for Brabourne.

14. Road priority change at East Brabourne - publicity

Cllr Honey has asked if the Parish Council would be willing to take part in a publicity campaign to persuade Kent Highways to reconsider the decision not to reinstate the original priority. The Chairman felt that as it is now about 6 years since the change, to revert would be confusing for road users. Cllr Mrs Bewick said that a reduction in the speed limit was to be preferred. There was general agreement and it was felt that the change could not be justified in the current financial climate. The Chairman noted that a safety assessment has been carried out, and that the existing layout complies with current criteria. It was agreed that the Parish Council could not offer support to a publicity campaign.

15. Provision of allotments on land behind the Plough Inn

The Clerk advised that Shepherd Neame has offered the Parish Council use of the field behind The Plough for allotments, on a 5 year lease at a rent of £400 for the whole period. A further 5 years may be granted at a cost of £500. The area would be divided into 8 allotments and a rent of £25-£30 charged per allotment per annum. The Chairman reported that were the Parish Council to proceed, the scheme would be overseen by the National Allotment Association.

In answer to a question from the floor, it is not clear to which field this refers, or whether the current licensee has been made aware – further information is to be sought from Shepherd Neame. Interest has already been shown by 1 resident, and a notice is to be put on the noticeboard to gauge interest in the Parish.

16. Organisation of Village fete for summer 2011

The Chairman stated that a new organiser is being sought, now that Cllr Mrs Beavers has stepped down. The Chairman thanked her for all she has done in organizing the fete in the past. It was suggested that the Scouts and Guides may wish to be involved, being beneficiaries of Fete proceeds. The Chairman suggested that the Parish Council organize a 'Save the Village Fete' meeting, and that Smeeth Parish Council be invited. Cllr Mrs Beavers recommended that the meeting be held in the Village Hall, to attract a large number of participants, rather than the existing Committee only. Cllr Mrs Young suggested that the village organisations benefitting be advertised to promote interest. The Clerk is to ascertain the availability of the Village Hall for an October meeting and liaise with Smeeth Parish Council.

17. Dates for meetings in 2011

17th January, 21st March, 16th May, 18th July, 19th September and 21st November.

18. Any other business

- Cllr Mrs Bewick was advised that no date has yet been given for the traffic calming measures at Brabourne School.
- The Vice-chairman thanked Landscape Services for their efforts in Prospect Way and Canterbury Road.
- The Vice-chairman stated that a new quarterly fundraising effort for the Village Hall is to be launched in September: Brain Buster which will comprise crosswords, word searches, Sudoku etc. Puzzle sheets will be on sale with prizes for winning entries.
- The Clerk is to attend a Council meeting of ACRK on 27th July to discuss a change in the legal structure from unincorporated charity to charitable company limited by guarantee.
- The Borough Council's Draft Residential Parking Strategy DPD is out for consultation.
- KCC is consulting on new sites for minerals and waste facilities.
- Congratulations are offered to Miss Orgar on her success in the ACRK 'Rural Retailer of the Year' competition. Orpins Stores has been shortlisted for the prize, from a very large number of entries.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8.50pm and invited members of the public present to raise items of concern. Among matters raised were: progress on the recycling initiative in the parishes; provision of a dog bin on Canterbury Road; registration of The Warren as a village green; and replacement of the vandalized bench on the green.

19. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 20th September at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

(NAME) PARISH COUNCIL

*Mrs Judith Batt
Secretary, Ashford Area Committee KALC
Keg Barn
Hornash Lane
Shadoxhurst
Kent
TN26 1HX
(date)*

Dear Judith,

Motion for KALC AGM

At a recent meeting of the Traffic Management Forum, organised by Action with Communities in Rural Kent, the members agreed to ask their Parish Councils to express their support for the following motion to be presented at the KALC AGM by the Area Committee.

(Name) Parish Council supports the motion and asks that it be presented to NALC for action as soon as possible:

The Parishes of Ashford Borough propose that KALC petition NALC to make representations to the UK Government that the speed limit for the UK's rural roads be reduced from the present figure of 60mph to 50mph. The reasoning behind this motion is as follows:

- 1) The safety of all people in rural areas will be improved.*
- 2) The numbers of deaths & serious injuries from accidents on rural roads will be reduced. DfT figures indicate that 60% of all in car deaths occur on single carriageway roads and that for every 1mph reduction in average speed the accident frequency drops by 5%. The proposed 10mph reduction would, therefore, lead to a significant reduction in the number of deaths in the order of 50%.*
- 3) The reduction in accidents will ease the burden on the Emergency Services at a time when the present Government's austerity measures will impact on these resources also.*
- 4) The CO₂ emissions from vehicles will be reduced.*
- 5) The present confusion between the speed limits for cars and light commercial vehicles will be removed.*

We hope that the County Executive places this motion on the Agenda for debate at the KALC Annual General Meeting and would strongly support its adoption.

Yours Sincerely,

Cc Mrs Kathy Bugden (Action with Communities in Rural Kent)
Ashford Borough Council ward member