

**BRABOURNE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council**  
**Held at 7.00pm on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2012**  
**At Brabourne Village Hall**

**1. Present**

Cllr Ede (Chairman), Cllr Hickmott (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Mrs Bewick and Cllrs Mayland, Spokes, and Mrs Wood (Clerk). The Community Warden (Graham Kingston) and five members of the public were present.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs Beavers, Cllr Mrs Young (prior commitments) and Cllrs Howard and Wood (ward members).

**3. Declaration of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**4. Minutes**

**Resolved:**

**That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 10<sup>th</sup> September be approved and confirmed as a true record.**

**5. Matters Arising**

**5.1 Roads and Footways**

**5.1.1** Church Road footpath. The Planning Inspectorate's consultation has been completed, and the report is due in December/January.

**5.1.2** Ditches. Clearance is the responsibility of the landowner, but residents are asked to report problems to KCC (Highways) and the Parish Council.

**5.1.3** The following will be reported to Highways:

Large stones on a verge in Canterbury Road. Ownership of the verge is to be ascertained, and the matter reported if on Highways land.

White lines in the village need refreshing.

Subsidence in Bridge Road.

Satnavs are giving priority to traffic joining Lees Road from Church Road (the minor road).

Damage to verges in Canterbury Road, caused by large vehicles turning into a farm track.

Removal of obsolete disabled parking bay. No response from Highways – Clerk to follow up.

**5.1.4** 30mph speed restriction in The Street. No feedback from Cllr Wickham – Clerk to follow up.

**5.1.5** Grass cutting – some areas still being missed. Clerk to follow up.

**5.1.6** Red tarmac outside Brabourne School shows signs of wear. Remedial action is unlikely until the whole stretch needs renewing.

**5.2 Speedwatch** No new volunteers have come forward to help in Brabourne. To be readvertised.

**5.3 Agricultural traffic** Complaints received regarding ploughed footpaths, mainly due to delays in reinstatement.

**5.4 Affordable Housing** Agents for the owner of the land behind Fortescue Place contacted the Parish Council, seeking to gauge interest in a possible similar scheme. An informal meeting was held on 8<sup>th</sup> November, attended by Cllr Austen (Chairman, Smeeth Parish Council) and the Clerk. Cllr Ede had been called away and could not be present. The agents noted that there are no plans at present for the land, and were advised that it is not a development site in the Local Plan. Design quality, landscaping, access and small scale/piecemeal development were among issues raised, combined with the necessity to have residents' support. Drawings are to be sent to the Parish Councils for discussion at the January meetings.

**5.5 Community Led Plan** Nothing to report.

**5.6 Community Governor vacancy at Brabourne School** Cllrs Ede and Mayland were nominated by the PC. No decision as yet.

**5.7 Wind turbines planning application (Sellindge)** Nothing to report.

**6. Community Warden's report**

Mr Kingston's report is attached.

Mr Kingston noted a rising number of oil fuel thefts, and is to ask the Street Cleansing Team to clear debris remaining from the road accident. The Clerk will approach the Green Team re repairs to the hedge.

## 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	£
HMRC PAYE Q2	177.80
S Wood (net salary October)	269.65
S Wood (net salary November)	269.65
St Mary PCC	500.00
Smeeth and Brabourne Football Club	300.00
Shepherd Neame (allotment annual rental)	400.00
D Ansley (salary)	196.71
South east water (invoice – allotments' water supply)	93.10
S Wood (paper and ink)	14.12

#### Receipts

Details	£
Lloyds TSB interest	1.09
HMRC VAT refund	163.23
Precept	5655.50
Concurrent Functions Grant	585.00
Member Community Grant (transfer costs of The Warren)	530.00

Balance: £ 15356.33

Allotment Society contribution to sheds due: £1335

### 7.2 To consider the draft Budget for 2013-2014

The Clerk presented the draft Budget.

Provision must be made for: maintenance costs of The Warren after its transfer to the Parish Council and a new Parish Council noticeboard. Quotes will be brought to the January meeting at which the Budget and the Precept demand will be finalised.

Income and expenditure on the Allotments' project was reviewed, and a deficit of £3039.48 recorded. It is unknown when the Society's contribution towards the cost of the sheds can be paid.

An increase in the rental paid by plot holders was discussed to recoup costs; following which it will be reduced.

**Resolved:**

**That the annual rent for a standard plot on Brabourne allotments be raised to £45 from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013.**

### 7.3 To consider subscribing to Parish Online

The Clerk advised that this will be of use for the Emergency and Community Led Plans. Costs depend on the number of residents, and would be £20pa for Brabourne with a set-up fee of £20. Maps are provided by the OS and can be used in planning applications without incurring a further charge.

**Resolved:**

**That Brabourne Parish Council subscribes to Parish Online.**

### 7.4 To consider a request for a donation from the Kent Tree and Pond Warden Schemes

**Resolved:**

**That the request be refused.**

### 7.5 To consider a request for a donation from Victim Support

**Resolved:**

**That the request be refused.**

## **8 Planning Committee report**

The Chairman advised that, under the Code of Conduct 2012, two members of the Planning Committee had sought and been granted a Dispensation, allowing them to participate in discussions and vote on planning applications for East Brabourne.

The Chairman of the Planning Committee reported that 2 applications remain outstanding: 1 of noncompliance, and 1 dating back to 2011 and likely to be disposed of as undetermined.

6 planning applications have been received. Of these, 3 applications were supported and no objections raised to 1. The Planning Dept of ABC permitted all 4 applications.

2 applications submitted by The Five Bells were discussed: 12/01199/AS (new parking layout) and 12/01200/AS (rear extension and detached farmshop).

12/01199/AS: the following points were made with regard to the application:

- the need for a larger car park was queried
- proposed gravel was thought unsuitable because of noise
- the garden would be lost
- there would be an increase in traffic which would enter and leave via a road with a 60mph speed limit and on a bend

**Resolved:**

**That an objection be made to the application.**

12/01200/AS:

- a farm shop was thought incongruous in the context of a pub setting
- the same traffic concerns

It was noted that planning permission for the marquee has not yet been sought.

**Resolved:**

**That an objection be made to the application.**

## **9 Report from KALC representative**

The Clerk reported that the AGM was held on 17<sup>th</sup> November. The Code of Conduct and the Handyman scheme were discussed at the October meeting. The new waste contract is on the agenda for the next meeting (12<sup>th</sup> December).

## **10 General Power of Competence**

**Resolved:**

**That having satisfied itself that it meets the eligibility criteria, Brabourne Parish Council adopts the Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) 2012; such Power ceasing to have effect if the criteria cease to be met and unless a further Resolution is passed at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.**

## **11 Amendments to Standing Orders**

**Resolved:**

**That having adopted the General Power of Competence, Standing Orders be amended as follows:**

- Before exercising the power of General Competence, a meeting of the full Council shall have passed a resolution to confirm it has satisfied the prescribed statutory criteria required to qualify as an eligible parish council.**
- The Council's period of eligibility begins on the date the resolution under standing order (i) above was made and expires on the day before the annual meeting of the Council that takes place in a year of ordinary elections.**
- After the expiry of its preceding period of eligibility, the Council continues to be an eligible council solely for the purpose of completing any activity undertaken in the exercise of the power which was not completed before the expiry of the Council's preceding period of eligibility referred to in standing order (i) above.**

## **12 Allotments project**

The Chairman noted that the site had been used by those holding a party at The Plough, but without first seeking the appropriate permission from the Parish Council. In future permission must first be obtained from the PC, which would liaise with the Allotment Society.

The Chairman will attend the next meeting of the Society (4<sup>th</sup> December) to explain the rise in rental.

Replies have not yet been received to letters to Shepherd Neame re works in the pub garden.

The communal shed is up and secure; a working party will meet to continue installation of the green loo.

**13 Proposed transfer of land at The Warren**

The Deed of Transfer will be signed by the Chairman and Vice-chairman at the January meeting.

**14 Open Session**

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

It was suggested that the Union flag (still flying outside the hall) be lowered, to prevent excessive wear.

The Council's attention was drawn to a govt initiative for local authorities to bulk buy energy; this had been raised with ABC but little interest shown. Mr Clayton's offer to pursue this was welcomed.

**15 Any other business**

**15.1** Cllr Spokes reported that the Sports Relief mile raised £3860 for Sports Relief, and a further £1200 for the Teenage Cancer Trust (including £600 match funding from Barclays Bank). It was felt that the event had been very well organised (over 400 people attended); Cllr Spokes thanked all supporters of the event.

**15.2** Cllr Mayland asked for an update on the possible move of the Football Club to the playing field; he was advised by Cllr Spokes that this will be raised at the PFA AGM. A number of options are available, and grants will be sought from sports charities, facilitated by its Charter Status.

**15.3** The Chairman noted that a hall user had complained that the exterior lighting is inadequate, and at the lack of security lighting.

**15.4** Smeeth Parish Council has asked for a joint meeting with the PC to discuss the Handyman Scheme. This will be held in January.

**16 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 17, namely Distribution of Fordred's Charity payments.**

**17 Distribution of Fordred's Charity payments**

**Resolved:**

**That Cllr Mrs Bewick distributes the payments as agreed.**

**18 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2013, 7.00pm in Brabourne Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

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Community Warden's Report

Since the last meeting I have been made aware of several crimes which have occurred in the village and close area. There was a domestic burglary in Canterbury Road where a laptop was stolen and several other electrical items damaged. Following a road crash a vehicle had property stolen from it and was set on fire, were also two offences of criminal damage on Halloween where it appears that stones may have been catapulted throw windows. There has also been a report of theft of bantams in the last week.

I have monitored the parking situation near to the Plough pub and have not seen vehicles parking on the grass opposite however I am aware this maybe happening on specific occasions such as Guy Fawkes night or late in the evening when I am not on duty. Since the Orpins renovations have largely finished the issue of people parking next to the dropped pavements (allowing disabled access) seems to have receded.

Graham Kingston