

BRABOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council
Held at 7.00pm on Monday 19th September 2011
At Brabourne Village Hall

1. Present

Cllr Hickmott (Vice-Chairman), Cllrs Mrs Beavers, Mrs Bewick, Mrs Young, Mayland and Mrs S Wood (Clerk). Two representatives from UK Power Networks and five members of the public were present.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Ede (Chairman) and Cllr Spokes (prior commitments), and Mr Kingston (Community Warden).

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Hickmott took the Chair.

3. Declaration of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were received.

Presentation on upgrading of electricity supply in the Ashford area

The representatives of UK Power Networks stated that the Parish Council will be notified of road closures, in order that these can be publicized. Completion is due in May 2012. Concerns were expressed re closure of Plain Road and its implications for the number 10 bus route: these are to be raised with Stagecoach. The representatives were thanked for their presentation.

4. Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 18th July 2011 be approved and confirmed as a true record.

5. Matters Arising

5.1 Roads and Footways

5.1.1 Church Road footpath. A decision is awaited from KCC shortly. Dog walkers are asked to be responsible when exercising their dogs on farmland.

5.1.2 Proposed diversion of footpaths at Blrcholt Court. No objections were raised; it was felt that the proposed diversion would be safer for walkers, as the new footpath would be removed from farm equipment.

5.1.3 Potholes. Potholes in The Ridgeway, Plain Road and The Street will be reported to KCC.

5.2 Speedwatch in Brabourne. Six volunteers have come forward. Possible sites will have to be approved by Kent Police, who will also organize training for volunteers.

5.3 Traffic problems in Brabourne parish. See item 5.4.

5.4 Agricultural traffic. A meeting is to be held on 27th September with Brabourne and Smeeth Parish Councils, and farmers in the area. Problems reported by both residents and farmers will be discussed.

6. Report from Community Warden

Mr Kingston's report is attached.

7. Report from Neighbourhood Officer

Nothing to report in PC Laker's absence.

8. Financial Report

Resolved:

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

Payments

Details	£
Mrs A MacCormack (John Moreton Prize)	50.00
Audit Commission (Audit fee)	162.00
Mrs S Wood (salary August)	318.44
Mrs S Wood (salary September)	318.44
Mrs S Wood (expenses April – September)	112.08
Mrs B Rich (salary)	29.65

Receipts

Details	£
Lloyds TSB interest	1.00
VAT refund	212.87
Allotment rental payments	45.00

Balance: £14495.33

The balance of the Precept and Concurrent Functions Grant will be paid on 30th September:

Precept £5655.50

Concurrent Functions Grant £640

The Annual Return has been approved by the Audit Commission.

Provision of a dog waste bin in Plain Road

Resolved:

That the quote from Environmental Services be accepted for provision of a dog waste bin, at a location to be agreed in Canterbury Road.

9. To receive the Report of the Planning Committee

The Chairman of the Planning Committee stated that three planning applications have been received since the last meeting: one application was supported (and has been approved by the Borough Council), no objections raised to one application, and the remaining application is still being considered by the Committee. One case of non-compliance is still outstanding. Of older applications, one was withdrawn and the Borough Council approved seven. The Parish Council was advised that a letter from the Planning Dept, ABC, had been sent to the owners of The Five Bells, regarding the marquee in the garden.

10. Report from KALC Representative

The Minutes of the meeting on 27th July have been circulated.

Mrs Judith Batt stepped down as Secretary to the Ashford Area Committee after the meeting, due to other commitments. The Clerk was elected as the new Secretary.

The next meeting is on 5th October.

11. Provision of allotments on land behind The Plough Inn

11.1 The Clerk advised that Awards for All has agreed that the money awarded for raised beds can be reallocated to the 'green' lavatory, as the demand for raised beds (as evidenced by the Expression of Interest forms) is lower than expected.

The contract from the Kent Downs and Marshes Leader Scheme for the proposed grant of £10,000 is awaited. This grant will not fund all items on the application, therefore additional funding must be sought. Were these items to be dropped from the project, the Leader grant funders would reduce the grant pro rata.

It was agreed that the priorities are installation of the access, hardstanding, and additional standpipes and water runs. A request has been received from the Allotment Society that the groundworks be completed by late October, before the onset of bad weather.

11.2 To consider quotes for the installation of standpipes, additional water runs and water butts.

Resolved:

That the quote from Fortescue and Son be accepted for the installation of standpipes and additional water runs.

Resolved:

That the quote from Capital Gardens for water butts be accepted unless they can be sourced from garden centres at a lower price.

11.3 To consider quotes for the access and hardstanding on the allotments' site

Resolved:

That the quote from WW Electrical Ltd be accepted.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting and invited Mr Peter de Lacey (Chairman, Brabourne and Smeeth Allotment Society) to give a progress report. Mr de Lacey stated that there were problems with unauthorized visitors accessing the site. Visitors are reminded that the site is private property and permission should be sought before entering. Bunds of soil remaining after clearing plots are being removed, as required following the Parish Council Inspection. Plot 30 has become vacant and is to be advertised.

Mr de Lacey was thanked for his report and the meeting was reconvened.

12. Proposed purchase of land at the Warren

There has been no further progress.

13. To consider support for the Playing Field Association with regard to remedial works to the football pitch

At a meeting of Smeeth Parish Council it was reported that the pitch cannot be used for football because of the number of stones on the surface. The Parish Council was advised that this has been a problem for many years. Teams are playing elsewhere. Cllr Mrs Beavers stated that changing facilities would be needed if the pitch were brought back into use; permission would have to be sought from the Scout and Guide Association to hire the lavatories, entrance hall, and arrangements made to clear up. Failure to clear up resulted in complaints last time.

Resolved:

That 1st Brabourne Scout and Guide Association be asked if they are willing to let their facilities to football teams.

14. Improving Broadband coverage in Brabourne parish

The Chairman advised that in 2011 KCC allocated money to improve coverage in Kent; nine applications were received and five grants awarded. £10,000,000 is being made available during the next financial year, applications open in November. Smeeth Parish Council will support a joint application.

The Sellindge exchange has been listed as one where 'intervention is very likely to be needed', and is due to be upgraded to ASDL2+ by 31st March 2012. This will, however, only deliver an increase in speed of 75%.

It may be necessary to distribute a questionnaire to every household in the parish to assess need, depending on the application process. Cllr Mayland offered to deliver questionnaires in East Brabourne.

Further information is awaited from KCC.

15. Open Session

15.1 The Council was thanked for arranging for replacement of the Manse Field street nameplate.

15.2 The road sweeper has omitted to sweep Manse Field – this is to be taken up with ABC.

15.3 Problems with overhanging trees along the unmade track from Prospect Way to the rear of the houses in The Warren were reported. These are on ABC land and will be reported to the Tree Officer (ABC).

16. Any other business

16.1 Cllr Mrs Beavers advised that consideration should be given to providing a 'trolley' to carry the Clerk's papers, as their weight may be a manual handling hazard.

16.2 Cllr Mrs Young reported that repairs to the manhole cover by The Warren have not yet been carried out.

16.3 Brabourne Lane, Stowting is not being swept, despite being kerbed in places. This is to be reported to Stowting Parish Council.

16.4 Councillors are asked to note that distribution of the Fordred's Charity payments will be discussed at the next meeting.

16.5 A representative from Brabourne Parish Council will lay the wreath at the ceremony on Remembrance Sunday (November 13th).

16.6 A request has been received that the footpath between Lees Road and Bridge Road is included in the litter picking schedule.

16.7 It has been proposed that a Parish Plan be produced jointly for Smeeth and Brabourne.

16.8 Smeeth Parish Council is preparing an Emergency Plan – this is to be circulated to Brabourne councillors for comment. Cllr Mrs Beavers welcomed the Plan, particularly as Kent is to be a 'first responder' during the Olympics in 2012.

17. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday, 21st November at 7.00pm in Brabourne Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Community Warden's Report, September 2011

I have received information that door to door seller(s) have been in the area, selling tea towels, dusters, etc, and although no crimes have been reported they were quite persistent with elderly and more vulnerable residents. I have passed on this information to trading standards and police and have given a home security presentation to a local group.

Route markers (triangular orange signs) have been fixed to telephone poles etc. These were being left by a cycling organisation (Skyline Events) - a London based company. I have contacted them and they assured me that their last event of the session is on 21/09/11 and then they will be removed.

I was requested to speak to a resident who had several bonfires in a short space of time. The family had recently moved into the village and they were clearing an overgrown back garden. Although not doing anything illegal I have requested consideration for neighbours and suggested an evening bonfire maybe more sociable. They apologised for an inconvenience and said the garden had now been cleared.
