

BRABOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council
Held at 7.00pm on Monday 20th September 2010
At Brabourne Village Hall

1. Present

CLlr Ede (Chairman), Cllr Hickmott (Vice-Chairman), Cllrs Mrs Beavers, Mrs Bewick, Mrs Young, Spokes and Mrs S Wood (Clerk).

Cllr Honey (borough councillor), the Community Warden and three members of the public were present.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs Whitehead (prior commitment).

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 19th July be approved and confirmed as a true record.

5. Matters Arising

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

Nothing to report.

• **Roads and footways**

The Chairman noted that Kent Highways has been very visible in the village of late, and that the backlog of repairs seems to have been dealt with. A large pothole by the entrance to the playing field in Church Road is to be reported to Highways. A meeting has been arranged for 4th October with a Highways' representative to discuss parish problems and winter maintenance. The traffic calming measures at Brabourne School are expected to be installed in November/December.

• **Church Road Footpath**

No progress to report.

• **Memorial to Councillor Moreton**

The inaugural John Moreton Prize for an Outstanding Contribution to School Life was presented at the Brabourne School prize giving evening on 22nd July, by the former Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr Peter Clayton.

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

The Chairman noted that no one has yet come forward to take over organisation of the fete, which raises £3000 - £4000 annually for the Playing Field and Village Hall Associations. A joint public meeting with Smeeth Parish Council was proposed – this is to be raised by the Clerk at the next meeting of Smeeth Parish Council. It is hoped that a few volunteers may be willing to form a team to take over the event.

6. Report from Community Warden

The Community Warden advised that he had been away for much of August due to holidays and for medical reasons. He participated in the September Ashford Community Safety Unit survey carried out in the urban areas – it is hoped to extend this to the parishes in due course. He will be giving a

talk to the Guides on 22nd September. The Warden stated that he attends the coffee morning at Brabourne Baptist Church on a regular basis, and has had positive feedback from his article in the Parish News on the telephone preference service. In answer to a question from the Chairman, the Warden advised that crime goes down in the villages during the autumn and winter, but rises in the urban areas.

7. Financial Report

Resolved:

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

Payments

Details	£
Mrs B Rich (salary)	156.60
S Wood (salary April – September)	1809.26
S Wood (expenses)*	110.13
Audit Commission (audit fee)	158.63
Mrs A McCormack (John Moreton prize)	49.99

Receipts

Details	£
Lloyds TSB interest	0.66

Balance £ 7877.00

The Clerk advised that the balance of the Precept and Concurrent Functions Grant is due to be paid by 30th September.

8. Report from the Planning Committee

The Chairman of the Planning Committee presented his report.

9 applications have been received: 4 have been supported by the Parish Council; no comments were submitted on 3 applications; 1 application is under consideration. Objections were raised to 1 application, but after amendments the application was supported. One case of possible non-compliance has been referred to the Planning Compliance Team.

9. Report from KALC Representative

The KALC motion regarding the reduction in the speed limit on C class and unclassified roads, from 60mph to 50mph, has attracted support from most parishes in the borough, together with parishes elsewhere in Kent. If passed at the AGM it will be put forward at the NALC conference. Cllr Spokes noted that enforcement would be a problem.

10. Report from the Tree Warden

Cllr Mrs Whitehead (Tree Warden) has passed details of the KCC Free Trees Scheme to the Clerk.

These are to be forwarded to Brabourne and Smeeth schools and the landlady of The Plough Inn, for information. Cllr Mrs Whitehead is to be asked to apply for free trees for The Warren.

11. To elect an additional member to the Planning Committee

Resolved:

That Cllr Spokes be elected to the Planning Committee.

12. Review of speed limits in Brabourne Parish

Using the Pluckley Parish Council Action Plan as a model (circulated to all councillors), the Chairman and Vice-chairman are to produce a report on existing speed limits in the parish. It is hoped that this will be completed before the next Parish Council meeting.

13. Provision of allotments on land behind the Plough Inn

The Clerk reported that considerable interest has been shown, with 20 residents having applied; there is now a waiting list. The Chairman stated that access to the site and a water supply need to be provided, and a quote is awaited from Shepherd Neame's preferred contractor. On receipt of this an application for a grant will be made. A survey must be carried out by SE Water for connection to the mains supply, at a cost of £102 (deducted from the cost of connection). After debate:

Resolved:

That SE Water be asked to carry out the necessary survey.

The Vice-chairman suggested that part of the site be used for grazing, although this has not yet been discussed with Shepherd Neame. It was noted that the landlady of The Plough is very supportive, and has put forward proposals re the access.

A site meeting will be arranged with Shepherd Neame and the Allotments' Society to discuss progress and seek advice.

Cllr Honey stated that advice should be sought from the borough council regarding planning permission for the proposed change of use and the access. The Vice-chairman noted that the access would be over grass, with reinforcing mesh laid down, no type 1 aggregate, kerbing or drains being proposed.

14. Registration of The Warren as a village green

The Chairman stated that this had been raised by members of the public at the last meeting, and the Parish Council is anxious to preserve this valuable village facility, currently part of the borough council's housing land bank. It was noted that The Warren has been used by villagers for well over 20 years. A meeting will be sought with Miss Tracey Kerly (Head of Housing, ABC) to discuss options.

The Chairman invited Cllr Honey to present a report, and the ward member made the following points:

- Parish Councils are now notified about Lawful Development Certificate applications.
- Planning enforcement actions are now being prioritised, to enable officers to concentrate on the most serious breaches in the first instance.
- The Inspector's report on the Tenterden and Rural Sites Development Plan has been received but not yet made public. It is likely to be adopted by the end of 2010.
- Damian Collins MP is holding a surgery on 24th September at Brabourne Baptist Church, from 3.30 – 4.15pm. It is hoped to repeat this on a monthly basis.
- The Chairman asked about proposals to close Ashford's Court, but was advised that while consultation had now closed, no decision has yet been taken.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Honey for his report.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8.15pm and invited members of the public present to raise items of concern. Among matters raised were the lack of recycling compared to other areas; it was suggested that gaps in the hedgerow at the churchyard of St Mary, Brabourne, could be filled using the free trees (see Item 10). The Clerk is to forward details to Rev le Rossignol.

The meeting reconvened at 8.20pm.

15. Any other business

- Cllr Spokes asked that the Parish Council consider a donation to the Smeeth and Brabourne Football Club. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Cllr Mrs Bewick noted that she had been contacted by residents concerned at the application to vary the Premises licence at the Five Bells, particularly the extension to opening hours. The Chairman stated that, unlike planning applications, the Parish Council is not a consultee.
- The Vice-chairman reported complaints about a hedge in Lees Road that is growing out over the highway.
- The Vice-chairman advised that Japanese knotweed in Lees Road has been cut back but not sprayed or dug out. It is to be monitored.
- Cllr Mrs Young stated that the footpath by the Baptist Church is overgrown – this is to be reported to Highways.
- The Clerk reminded councillors that Fordred's Charity distribution will be discussed at the next meeting.
- A presentation on the Code of Conduct is to be arranged for January 2011.
- Sarm Orgar was congratulated on her success in the ACRK Rural Retailer of the Year competition. Orpins Stores was Runner up from a large entry, and at the Awards' evening in Lenham on 15th September Sarm was presented with a Certificate and a cheque for £250, to be spent on the shop or in the community as she sees fit.
- Cllr Wickham (county councillor) has awarded a grant of £4700 to the Village Hall kitchen improvements' project. This followed discussions between the Chairman and Councillor Wickham at a recent event in Aldington. Cllr Wickham was thanked for the grant.

16. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 22nd November at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.