

BRABOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council
Held at 7.00pm on Monday 22nd November 2010
At Brabourne Village Hall

1. Present

Cllr Ede (Chairman), Cllr Hickmott (Vice-Chairman), Cllrs Mrs Bewick, Mrs Whitehead, Spokes and Mrs S Wood (Clerk). Cllr Honey (borough councillor), Mr R Sinden (Community Warden) and PC Laker (Neighbourhood Officer) also attended.

Four members of the public were present.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs Beavers and Mrs Young, (prior commitments).

3. Declaration of Interest

A Declaration of Interest was received from Cllr Spokes re Consideration of a contribution to Smeeth and Brabourne Football Club (item 7) (prejudicial).

4. Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 20th September be approved and confirmed as a true record.

5. Matters Arising

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

Nothing to report.

• **Roads and footways**

a) The Chairman reported that white lining and repairs were carried out during mid November.

b) Cllr Mrs Bewick stated that not all potholes near Church Barn, The Street, East Brabourne have been repaired – this may be due to migration of stones from the Church Barn drive masking the potholes.

c) The Chairman advised that all grit bins have been replaced and refilled. It is not yet known if the parish has been included in the bagged salt/sand trial to be carried out by Kent Highways Services (KHS).

• **Church Road Footpath**

Nothing to report.

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

Smeeth Parish Council has supported the proposal to hold a public meeting to raise awareness of the need for a new organiser. This is to be held on a Saturday morning in January, probably in Brabourne Baptist Church. The Clerk is to check availability and invite members of the previous committee.

• **Village Lottery**

Mrs Marchesi has indicated that she is to step down as organiser of the lottery. It is hoped that a volunteer will come forward.

6. Report from Community Warden

Mr Sinden reported that he is now trained to teach 5-18 year olds or parents about safety online, and has access to CEOP's (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre) downloads and teaching materials.

He spent a day with Crime Scene Investigators to see how evidence is preserved and what action should be taken if he is first at the scene of a crime.

Mr Sinden stated that he was in the parish on Halloween and Bonfire Night; most participants were well behaved but some boisterous behaviour was noted.

Speed checks are being carried out in the parish by PC Laker, the latest on 22nd November.

Mr Sinden was thanked for his help in clearing a resident's garden of polystyrene pieces, which had blown in from the road.

Mr Sinden stated that he is working to resolve problems caused by tractors – PC Laker will be visiting local farms with an information pack for contractors.

The Dog Warden has been contacted regarding fouling on The Warren.

Mr Sinden is visiting the Caldecott Foundation at least fortnightly to try to reduce the number of callouts arising from false alarms to the Police and Fire Rescue services.

The Chairman thanked Mr Sinden for his work in the parish.

7. Report from Neighbourhood Officer

PC Laker reported that there were no calls to the Police at Halloween – he was on duty in Park Farm. Fishing tackle has been stolen from a garage, and there has been a theft from a vehicle on The Ridgeway – it is possible that this vehicle had been targeted.

He has monthly meetings with the Caldecott Foundation.

Speed checks are being carried out at various times and in different places in the parish – it is acknowledged that speeding is a problem, but these should have a deterrent effect.

There have been reports of hare coursing locally.

The Chairman thanked PC Laker for his efforts.

In answer to a question from Cllr Mrs Bewick, PC Laker advised that checks could be carried out in East Brabourne to monitor, eg the wearing of seat belts, rather than speed checks as the limit here is 60mph.

Cllr Honey was invited to present a report.

He stated that the Borough Council has secured an additional funding of £300,000 to expand the blue box scheme from 2011, and that he is pressing for the inclusion of Brabourne and Smeeth parishes. It is not clear how many areas will be covered.

8. Financial Report

Resolved:

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

Payments

Details	£
se water (survey fee)	102.00
Mrs B Rich (salary)	159.72
St Mary Brabourne PCC	500.00
Smeeth and Brabourne Football Club	300.00
Shepherd Neame (allotment rental)	400.00
S Wood (Fordred's Charity reimbursement)	168.00
S Wood (paper and ink)	17.13
Brabourne Baptist Church (hall hire)	45.00
A Whitehead (tree guards)	10.00

Receipts

Details	£
Lloyds TSB interest	0.71

Precept	4625.00
Concurrent Functions Grant	711.36

Balance: £11512.25

To consider purchase of tree guards for tree whips on The Warren.

After debate:

Resolved:

That tree guards be purchased for the tree whips to be planted on The Warren.

The Clerk presented the draft Budget. Cllr Spokes withdrew following his Declaration of Interest.

After debate:

Resolved:

That the Budget for 2011 -2012 be approved.

9. To receive the Report of the Planning Committee

The Chairman of the Planning Committee reported that 7 applications have been received: 5 were supported and no comments submitted on 2. Decisions by ABC on 2 applications from The Five Bells are still awaited. ABC has refused 1 application, approved 2 and raised no objection to 1. One case of non-compliance is in hand with ABC.

10. Report from KALC Representative

The Clerk had been unable to attend either the last meeting on 7th October or the AGM on 14th November. The motion re a reduction to 50mph in the 60mph speed limit on rural roads was supported at the AGM, and now goes forward for consideration at NALC.

The meeting scheduled for 1st December has been cancelled, because of a special Parish Forum meeting.

11. Report from the Tree Warden

The Tree Warden (Cllr Mrs Whitehead) advised that she has ordered 25 tree whips under the KCC Free Trees scheme, plus tree guards.

12. Review of speed limits in Brabourne Parish

The Chairman and Vice-chairman have carried out a review of speed limits throughout the parish and proposed lower limits in East Brabourne, Mountbatten Way, Prospect Way, Knatchbull Way and Lees Road (from Mountbatten Way to Bridge Road).

Other traffic calming measures were discussed. It was agreed that speed bumps are impractical because of the noise nuisance that would arise when tractors drive over them. Chicanes were proposed, but Cllr Spokes advised that these can only be put in place in kerbed areas. He felt that enforcement of new limits would be difficult, and that education would be more useful. The Chairman is to ask PC Laker to talk to local schools about the dangers of excessive speed – it is hoped this will feed back to parents.

Resolved:

That Kent Highways Services be asked for a reduction in speed limits: from 60mph to 30mph in The Street, East Brabourne and Canterbury Road (from the Five Bells to Penstock Hall); and from 30mph to 20mph throughout the built-up areas.

13. Provision of allotments on land behind The Plough Inn

The Vice-chairman reported that about 40 attended the public meeting on 30th October, including some children. 22 plots have so far been requested. Shepherd Neame will not allow a Type 1 or tarmac surface for the access; grass mesh is permitted to stabilize the turf and maintain the green appearance. The lease

and plan have been received and were signed by the Chairman and Clerk. The Vice-chairman will draw up a draft agreement for allotment holders. 19 residents are interested in forming an Allotment Society. An evening meeting is to be arranged between allotment holders and Mr Peter Neame (area representative of the National Allotment Society), in Brabourne Baptist Church (venue to be confirmed).

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8.00pm for a comfort break.

After reconvening the meeting at 8.05pm, 4 quotations for laying on a water supply to the site were discussed.

Resolved:

That the quote from AJ Fortescue and Son Ltd be accepted.

The Clerk advised that se water has surveyed the site but the connection costs are not yet known. On receipt of this information a grant application will be made to Awards for All.

Cllr Mrs Bewick is to obtain quotes re mowing. After an initial cut responsibility for mowing the site and clearing the boundary will be passed to the Allotment Society.

14. Registration of The Warren as a village green

The Head of Housing, ABC (Mrs Tracey Kerly) has advised that if the Parish Council submits a request to take ownership of The Warren, the Borough Council is likely to transfer the land to the Parish Council.

Resolved:

That the Parish Council submits a formal request to the Borough Council to take ownership of the land at The Warren.

15. Emergency plan for Brabourne Parish

The Chairman attended a KCC training day on Emergency Plans. Such a plan identifies buildings which could be used as rest centres if an evacuation were necessary, eg village halls, schools, and volunteers who would provide tea, coffee etc. The speaker is to be invited to make a presentation to the Parish Council at the January meeting.

16. Undergrounding of power lines in the parish in the North Downs AONB

The Vice-chairman reported that some power lines in the Kent Downs AONB have been relaid underground and suggested that the parish apply. The Clerk is to contact Mr N Johanssen (Kent Downs AONB) and Cllr Plowright (Smeeth Parish Council and the National Grid).

17. Any other business

Brought forward from item 19 with the Chairman's permission.

- Cllr Spokes advised that the hedge in Lees Road has been cut back.
- Cllr Spokes thanked the Parish Council for its continuing support of the Smeeth and Brabourne Football Club. The contribution will be used for training new, young coaches from the community.
- Cllr Mrs Whitehead stated that she is to stand down from the Parish Council with immediate effect, having moved out of the area. This was received with regret by the whole Council, and Cllr Mrs Whitehead was thanked for her contribution to the Council and her efforts as Tree Warden. The Clerk advised that as elections are due in May, the vacancy will not be advertised and the Council may co-opt if it chooses.
- The Clerk is to submit comments on consultations received from ABC, viz Policy on Street Trading in the Borough and Policy on Licensing sex shops and similar establishments.
- Cllr Honey said that a draft landscape character consultation is due out shortly – this may have implications for Brabourne.

- Mrs Scotton has asked if signs stating 'No Cold Callers' could be put up on the approaches to the parish, as found elsewhere. Cllr Spokes said that the Crime Reduction Unit can advise – the Clerk is to contact PC Laker.
- Details of ABC's 'Active Tour Project', which promotes exercise and physical activity, will be passed to the fete organisers.

18. Resolution to exclude the public

Resolved:

That 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 the following, namely item 19, Distribution of Fordred's Charity payments.

Following the passing of the Resolution, the Chairman suspended the public part of the meeting and members of the public present left the meeting.

19. Distribution of Fordred's Charity payments

After debate:

Resolved:

That the payments be distributed as agreed.

20. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday, 17th January 2011 at 7.00pm in Brabourne Village Hall, following a presentation at 6.30pm on the Code of Conduct by the Head of Legal Services, ABC.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.