

BRABOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council
Held at 7.00pm on Monday 28th January 2013
At Brabourne Village Hall

1. Present

Cllr Hickmott (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Mrs Bewick and Cllr Mayland, and Mrs Wood (Clerk). Mr O Pendred (National Grid) and a colleague from Balfour Beatty, Cllr Howard (ward member) and the Community Warden (Graham Kingston) attended. Eight members of the public were present.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs Young and Cllrs Ede and Spokes (prior commitments) and Cllr Wood (ward member).

In the absence of Cllr Ede, Cllr Hickmott took the chair.

3. Declarations of Interest

Other Significant Interest: Cllr Hickmott re planning application 12/01308/AS (agenda item 9).

4. Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 19th November be approved and confirmed as a true record.

5. Matters Arising

5.1 Roads and Footways

5.1.1 The Church Road footpath has been added to the Definitive Map of Footpaths following receipt of the Planning Inspector's report.

5.1.2 The following will be reported to Highways:

Potholes: in The Street (East Brabourne); at the junction with the A20 and The Ridgeway; and in Church Road near the War Memorial, it was noted that resurfacing of Church Road is to be carried out in the Spring.

White lines in Brabourne Lees and East Brabourne need refreshing.

5.2 Speedwatch At the meeting on 24th January the Parish Council agreed to fund purchase of Speedwatch equipment jointly with Smeeth Parish Council, and an application for a member community grant will be submitted. Cllr Mayland noted that all volunteers are from Smeeth but will monitor sites in Brabourne.

5.3 30mph speed limit in The Street A reply is awaited from Cllr Wickham. [Post-meeting note: Cllr Wickham advised that this could not be included as it requires a Traffic Regulation Order, and could not therefore meet the funding deadline.]

5.4 Disabled parking bay in Canterbury Road This has been removed, following representations from the Community Warden.

6. Community Warden's report

Mr Kingston's report is attached. Mr Kingston distributed sample 'fat traps' – given out by Southern Water to encourage residents not to pour fat into the drains.

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	£
Parish Online subscription	48.00
S Wood (Fordred's reimbursement)	168.00
HMRC PAYE Q3	178.00
S Wood (net salary December)	269.45

S Wood (net salary January)	269.45
D Ansley (salary)	145.47
S Wood (refuse sacks)	25.08
SLCC (annual subscription)	44.13

Receipts

Details	£
Lloyds TSB interest	0.71
Fordred's Charity	168.00
Ward member grant (new noticeboard)	350.00
Allotment rentals	1310.00

Balance: £ 15871.58

Allotment Society contribution to sheds due: £1335

The Chairman advised that the Precept had been set at an emergency meeting of the Parish Council on 24th January, due to postponement of the scheduled meeting on 21st January. It is regretted that it will not be possible to hold the Precept, this is due to maintenance costs of The Warren, withdrawal of grants from the Borough Council and the probability of capping: the Kent Association of Local Councils advised that Parish Councils set the Precept so as to make good funding shortfalls before introduction of the cap.

8.2 Valentine Knott Charity

The Clerk advised that the account was declared dormant by NatWest bank in 2001. To close the account and release the funds documentary evidence of the signing instructions and signatories must be certified at a branch of NatWest, together with proof of identity. The mandate was that the signatories should be 2 councillors and the Clerk: Cllr Hickmott and Cllr Mrs Bewick were on the Council when the signing instructions were issued but Mr Scotton had since retired as Clerk.

Resolved:

That Mrs Wood be a signatory for the Valentine Knott account with Cllr Mrs Bewick and Cllr Hickmott.

Resolved:

That instructions be given to NatWest bank to close the Valentine Knott account.

Resolved:

That the released funds be added to the Fordred Charity payments.

9 Planning Committee report

The Chairman reported on nine planning applications. Of these one was disposed of as undetermined – the Parish Council had objected to this application. Four applications were supported, objections made to three and had no objections to one. Of these, two were permitted by the Borough Council and decisions are awaited on the remainder.

Enforcement action is to be taken on a case of non-compliance.

Cllr Mayland reported on application 12/01308/AS, Clovelly, Canterbury Road: the Parish Council objected to the application.

The Chairman suspended the meeting to allow Mr Oliver Pendred (Community Relations Officer, National Grid) to give a presentation on the refurbishment project for the overhead power lines between Sellindge and Canterbury.

Mr Pendred advised that this will be carried out between March and October 2013 and there will be no interruption to local power supplies. Traffic signs will be put in place for the duration of the works but will be repositioned if found to be causing an obstruction. Temporary roadways will be laid to allow access to the pylons; these will require a security presence and accompanying facilities, including cabins, power and lighting. In answer to a question from Cllr Mayland, Mr Pendred stated that farmers will be reimbursed for loss of crops and hedges replaced where removal is necessary to access pylons. All works and the timetable have been agreed with the landowners.

To enable work to be carried out safely Stowting Hill and Plain Road will be closed for 2 periods of up to 4 weeks each – dates for the closures are not yet known, but National Grid is liaising with the bus companies and KCC Highways. Some footpaths will also be closed temporarily. All residents will be notified.

Cllr Howard thanked Mr Pendred for good communication.

Mr Clayton urged Mr Pendred to ensure that bus services are maintained during the road closures as the service was withdrawn under similar circumstances. Mr Pendred agreed and undertook to notify residents of the bus companies' plans.

Mr Pendred asked that residents report any problems, eg mud on the road, contact details are in the information leaflet.

Cllr Mayland asked if National Grid would consider sponsoring the village fete; Mr Pendred agreed to submit the request but noted that the company is supporting Brabourne and Smeeth Primary Schools' 'Mad Science' Day.

Cllr Mayland advised that local traffic will use Canterbury Road when Stowting Hill is closed, but it is in a poor state of repair. Mr Pendred's colleague stated that signed diversions must be via a route of a higher standard than that closed, and this precludes Canterbury Road. Mr Pendred asked for feedback on traffic flow.

Mr Pendred was thanked for his presentation.

The Chairman asked members of the public present if they had any comments on planning application 12/01439/AS, land north east and adjacent, 5 Manse Field.

The Chairman advised that Smeeth Parish Council had commented on the application, its comments can be viewed on the borough council's website.

Questions were raised as to the choice of site and whether the alternative of the site fronting Plain Road had been considered. This was ruled out by the planners on a number of grounds, including: space criteria could not be met; the site would encroach on to the green; the open aspect of the green would be affected; access from Plain Road would be difficult.

Parking problems were reported, as many as 11 cars are parked on the street and there are regularly 7 or 8. The dustcart encounters problems when collecting from properties because of parked cars. The Chairman stated that 6 parking spaces are provided in the application, with parking for 3 more outside. Residents disagreed that this is sufficient; the Chairman and Cllr Honey noted that the plans could be amended to create additional spaces. Cllr Mayland suggested that the planners be asked how parking can be increased to benefit residents in existing and the proposed homes.

Cllr Howard stated that parking problems in Manse Field are a separate issue which need to be addressed.

It was thought that cars entering the parking bays would cause a light nuisance to occupants in the bungalows and screening requested.

Cllr Howard stated that The Warren is part of the borough council's land housing bank, and a transfer to the Parish Council with the concomitant development would protect the green. Residents disagreed and thought that an application for village green status should, instead be sought. Mr Clayton (former Parish Council chairman) stated that previous applications for village green status had been unsuccessful.

In answer to a question Cllr Howard stated that it is permitted to build affordable homes in areas of private housing, and that this is a requirement for new developments.

It was suggested that the footpath be diverted to run along the rear of the parking bays, enabling car users to unload safely, the Chairman noted that this would allow for the provision of an additional bay.

The Chairman stated that the application is flawed and should be resubmitted. Cllr Howard said that he will ask that the application be determined by the Planning Committee and not delegated to a Planning officer.

Mr Clayton asked if the transfer of The Warren would be delayed by the problems thus far identified, and was reassured by Cllr Howard that it would not.

The Chairman thanked all present for their comments and reconvened the meeting.

He advised that the comments will be collated and a response submitted, and the Parish Council will suggest that the plans be deferred to enable changes to be made.

10 Report from KALC representative

The Clerk reported that Mr Paul Jackson (Head, Environmental Services) gave a presentation on the new waste contract at the meeting on 9th January. A borough-wide survey was carried out to assess the suitability of properties for the proposed containers: a container for food waste (to be collected weekly), a container for recyclables and a container (likely to be a wheelie bin) for residual waste. The latter two will be collected on alternate weeks. The bins will remain the property of the borough council.

Cllr Howard stated that the new scheme will operate in conjunction with Shepway and Maidstone, and will improve recycling rates. Cardboard and plastics can be recycled in the new scheme.

The Chairman queried the practicality of storing wheelie bins, Cllr Howard said that this would be covered by the survey and help offered to elderly and infirm residents.

A green waste collection will be reintroduced, at a cost of £20-£30 per year for subscribers. Waste will be taken to a new waste transfer station in Ashford, thereby avoiding journeys to Allington; this would save fuel costs and time, thereby enabling crews to help vulnerable residents. Details are yet to be finalised but residents will be kept informed and all changes phased in.

11 Allotments project

The Chairman advised that concerns re groundworks at The Plough Inn have been passed to the borough council's Planning Dept. This and other issues are to be raised at a site meeting with a Shepherd Neame representative, this had been arranged for 22nd January but was postponed because of the snow.

The Parish Council has been advised by the borough council that planning permission would be required for stationing of caravans at The Plough.

A grant of £8500 has been awarded by Awards for All for fencing on site.

2 allotment rentals have yet to be paid – the Parish Council is considering eviction of these tenants.

12 Proposed transfer of land at The Warren

Resolved:

That the Deed of Transfer be signed by the Chairman and Vice-chairman.

After completion of the transfer the Chairman advised that an application for village green status will be submitted. Ryan Booth was thanked for his help regarding the Transfer Deed.

13 Community Led Plan and Emergency Plan

Powerpoint presentations on both plans have been prepared and will be given to village organisations and at a public meeting in the village hall. The groups will be represented at the fete. Cllr Howard noted that these Plans while supported by the Parish Council are community and not Parish Council led.

The Chairman suspended the meeting to allow residents to raise matters of concern.

14 Open Session

14.1 Mr Willis asked who would repair the hedge in Bridge Road, damaged by a road accident. The Chairman replied that this will be carried out by the Green Team, at no charge.

14.2 The Chairman stated that maintenance costs of The Warren will be the responsibility of the Parish Council after the transfer.

14.3 Mrs Scotton asked if salt in the salt bins was for private use; the Chairman replied that it is for use on the highway and footpaths only.

14.4 Cllr Howard asked that the Member Community Grant application form for Speedwatch be submitted as soon as possible.

15 Any Other Business

15.1 Damaged signposts near St Mary Brabourne and at Weekes Lane will be reported to KCC Highways.

15.2 A blocked drain outside Orpins Stores will be reported to the Drainage Team.

15.3 Cabling works near the Weekes Lane/Crow Corner junction have resulted in degradation of the banks. Reinstatement is to be requested.

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 16, namely the Citizenship Award.

17 Citizenship Award

Resolved:

That the Award be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting.

18 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday, 18th March 2013, in Brabourne Village Hall, immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting which begins at 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Community Warden's Report

Mr Kingston wished all present a Happy New Year.

Following the last meeting I can confirm that the debris from the vehicle fire on Bridge Road has been removed. I also contacted Ashford Borough Council regarding the disabled parking bay in Canterbury Road and was advised that it is not enforceable and is only advisory.

There has been a report of criminal damage to a vehicle outside The Plough public house.

I would invite anyone with concerns about elderly and infirm residents to speak to me regarding a Winter Intervention Support Kent (WISK) programme that is available.

The Community Wardens are highlighting the nuisance caused by people tipping fat down their drains, with the accompanying nuisance and expense of blockages.

Thefts of Land Rovers have been reported county-wide, but none in the parish.

Graham Kingston