

BRABOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council
Held at 7.00pm on Monday 29th March 2010
At Brabourne Baptist Church

1. Present

Cllr Clayton (Chairman), Cllr Ede (Vice-Chairman), Cllrs Mrs Bewick, Mrs Whitehead, Mrs Young, Spokes and Mrs S Wood (Clerk). Cllr Honey (borough councillor) also attended.
Five members of the public were present.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Hickmott (prior commitment), Cllr Wood (borough councillor) and Mr R Sinden (Community Warden).

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 25th January be approved and confirmed as a true record.

5. Matters Arising

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

See item 6.

- **Roads and footways**

- a) Complaints continue to be received about mud on the road in East Brabourne, thought to be from farm vehicles. The reports have been passed to Highways.
- b) Pothole repairs are being addressed under a new initiative: 'Find and Fix'. Teams are sent to a given area to fill all potholes. Initial reports indicate that this is not proving effective. KCC has made an additional £1,000,000 available for repairs.
- c) Cllr Mrs Bewick reported that the white lines in East Brabourne have recently been refreshed, but that the incorrect priority has not been amended, as requested.
- d) Improvements to bus stops are to be carried out, with the installation of raised kerbs and 'no stopping' restrictions. This should improve access for the disabled. Details of the stops affected are to be found on the parish website.
- e) The missing salt bin in Manor Pound has been replaced.
- f) The grant application by Cllr Wickham (county councillor) for traffic calming measures at Brabourne School has been approved and red topping is to be put in place. A speed limit review is to be carried out by Jacobs (on behalf of Kent Highways) in the Spring/Summer with the involvement of the Parish Council. Cllr Spokes said that monitoring of traffic flow and speed is required. Cllr Mrs Whitehead felt that the existing 60mph speed limit in The Street, East Brabourne, should be reduced. Cllr Spokes said that although there was housing on 1 side of the road only, there were precedents for a 30mph limit in these circumstances.
- g) Cllr Mrs Whitehead reported that a signpost in Weekes Lane has been knocked down – this is to be reported to Highways.
- h) Temporary repairs to potholes are to be carried out in Church Road, prior to resurfacing later in the year.

- **Church Road Footpath**

In hand with KCC.

6. Report from Community Warden

The Clerk read the Community Warden's report, in his absence.

Both Brett (support warden) and I have been highly visible in the Parish and in doing so were able to divert most of the school run around the flood in Church Road. However three cars did become victims of the water. We were able to contact KCC Highways and eventually they closed the road and brought in a water carrier to move the water elsewhere.

We have visited the coffee mornings at the Baptist Church on a Wednesday and have agreed to try to attend on the 1st Wednesday of the month as an informal surgery.

I have also written a letter of support towards funding for a new kitchen in the Baptist Church. I hope to be given keys for use as an alternate base as it is more central to the villages.

I have received a number of complaints about recent bonfires and have taken advice and obtained leaflets from the Borough Council. Contrary to popular belief there is no law that bonfires should only be lit between dusk and dawn. However the Borough Council encourages recycling whenever possible, and advises that only suitable materials should be burned on a bonfire - no plastics, rubber, foamed filled furnishings or wet material. The Council will respond to calls to 01233 331111 (Environmental Services) if a bonfire is causing a nuisance to neighbours by smoke, burning particles or odour.

Finally we have the youth van coming for the next few weeks thanks to the positive response to the first visit on 24th March.

The Chairman thanked the Community Warden for his efforts.

7. Financial Report

Resolved:

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

Payments

Details	£
Mr A Anderson (Citizenship Award)	100.00
Brabourne and Smeeth Playing Field Association	1100.00
Brabourne and Smeeth Village Hall Association	1500.00
Brabourne and Smeeth Footpaths Association	10.00
Mrs B Rich (salary) (to 5 th March)	104.40
S Wood (salary Oct – March)	1481.38
S Wood (expenses)*	94.33
Brabourne and Smeeth Village Hall Association (joint ACRK subscription)	32.50
KALC (annual subscription)	447.40
S Wood (refuse sacks)	22.85

Receipts

Details	£
Lloyds TSB interest	0.57
ABC – Street Cleansing Grant	862.80

Total balance £ 5770.17

To consider a donation to the Playing Field Association

The Clerk presented the accounts which had been received from the Association. It was noted that a drop in income was likely, but that the recycling initiative should raise revenue.

Resolved:

That the donation to the Playing Field Association be made in accordance with the Budget.

To consider a donation to the Kent Air Ambulance

Resolved:

That the donation to the Kent Air Ambulance be refused.

To consider a donation to CiLK

Resolved:

That the donation to the CiLK be refused.

To consider purchase of Standing Orders for Local Councils (2010)

Resolved:

That a copy be purchased for use by the Chairman, and a second for the Clerk. The latter cost to be partly shared by Smeeth and Westwell Parish Councils.

8. Report from the Planning Committee

The Chairman presented the report on behalf of the Chairman of the Planning Committee. 8 applications have been received. 1 has been supported by the Parish Council and objections made to 2. Comments were submitted on 1 other application and no objections raised to 2. A further 2 applications are under consideration.

9. Report from KALC Representative

Neither the Chairman nor the Clerk was able to attend.

10. Memorial to Cllr Moreton

The Clerk reported that the Headteacher welcomes the proposals. Cllr Spokes was thanked by the Chairman for his efforts.

11. Report from the Tree Warden

- The Tree Warden (Cllr Mrs Whitehead) stated that she had submitted the 'Orchards for Everyone' survey.
- 3 replacements for the felled Whitebeam have been planted on the green.

12. Paper recycling

The Scouts and Guides have reported a significant drop in the amount of paper collected for recycling.

Resolved:

That the paper collection should be promoted via Parish News, the parish website and the Village Directory.

13. To consider offering support to the project to refurbish the kitchen in Brabourne Baptist Church

The Chairman stated that the Baptist Church is not seeking financial assistance from the Council, rather a letter of support to accompany grant applications. He noted that the kitchen is used for the benefit of the community and not just the Church, and that the kitchen is a fundamental part of the work done for the community. It is a major project with likely costs of £20,000.

Resolved:

That the Parish Council write in support of the kitchen refurbishment project in Brabourne Baptist Church.

14. Any other business

The Chairman invited Cllr Honey to give a report.

Cllr Honey said that he has written in support of the Baptist Church kitchen project.

He advised that the problems re mud on the road from farm vehicles be raised with Cllr Wickham. Cllr Honey stated that after he had made representations, the Borough Council's officers had accepted that the blue box scheme should be extended to the built-up areas of Brabourne and Smeeth. The financial crisis has meant that there is no funding available, but he will continue to press for the scheme when the situation eases.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Honey for his efforts, and for ensuring that paper collection should continue to be done by the Scouts and Guides. Cllr Honey stated that a review of the waste strategy may be carried out before the end of the year, but that the recycling initiative with the Playing Field Association may mean that the blue box scheme is no longer wanted.

Cllr Mrs Whitehead asked if plastics could be recycled, but was told that this is unlikely. An environmental impact assessment after the recent Borough Council 2 year trial showed adverse consequences of collection.

Cllr Mrs Whitehead asked for implications for Brabourne of the Lydd Airport expansion plans. Cllr Honey replied that although planning permission had been granted by Shepway, a Holding Direction has been placed by the Secretary of State while consideration is given to the possible need for a Public Enquiry. Cllr Honey noted that the Borough Council had objected to the expansion plans.

- Cllr Mrs Whitehead reported litter in Kingsmill Down Lane at the viewing point, and asked where responsibility lay for litter collection here. The Chairman and Vice-chairman advised that the parish boundary is unclear. A letter is to be sent to the Borough Council, copy to the Parish Clerk in Hastingleigh.
- Cllr Mrs Young stated that dog fouling continues to be a problem on the village green. The Clerk advised that an additional Dog Warden has been employed by the Borough council, and £50 fines are being imposed. The Vice-chairman said that this should be placed in the Parish News, and the information passed to the Community Warden.
- The Vice-chairman reported a faulty street light opposite John Child's garage.
- Cllr Spokes announced the death of David Padgham, and paid tribute to his work as Vice-chairman of Smeeth and Brabourne Football Club. Condolences were extended to Mrs Padgham and her children. A sponsored walk is being held on 18th April, starting at 10.00am from The Woolpack, in aid of the Melanoma Research Association. Cllr Spokes said that Mr Padgham had been a qualified coach, but that his work would continue: the Parish Council's donation to the Club has paid for 2 more to be trained. He said that there are now about 70 children in the Club, and was thanked and congratulated by the Chairman. Cllr Spokes reported that Brabourne School has won the Small Schools Football Tournament for the fourth time in five years. The School was congratulated by the Parish Council.
- Action with Communities in Rural Kent is running a 'Retailer of the Year' competition. The Parish Council is to support the nomination of Orpins Stores.
- The Clerk reported that questionnaires have been sent to every household by ABC: 'Have Your Say, It's Your Borough'. These are to determine householders' views with regard to prioritising future expenditure by the Borough Council.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9.00pm and invited members of the public present to raise items of concern. The results of recent speed checks in Church Road were sought. The Chairman said that these are not known, and advised that the checks had been carried out by the Community Warden. Offenders are warned, and further action taken for persistent offenders.

15. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council, Monday 17th May at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

16. 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 17, Clerk's Salary Review

After the Resolution in item 16 was passed, the Chairman suspended the public part of the meeting to enable item 17 to be debated. The members of the public present left the meeting.

17. Clerk's salary review

After debate:

Resolved:

That the Clerk's salary be raised to Spinal Point 21, and that the contract be amended to 7 hours per week to reflect the increasing workload.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.