

**BRABOURNE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council**  
**Held at 7.00pm on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018**  
**At Brabourne Village Hall**

**1. Present**

Cllr Hickmott (Chairman), Cllr Mrs Tanner, Cllr Mrs Young, Cllrs Mayland, Joules and Spokes, and Mrs Wood (Clerk). Cllr Howard (ward member) and Mr Kingston (Community Warden) were present and five members of the public attended.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs Bewick (prior commitment).

**3. Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**4. Minutes****Resolved:**

**That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017 be approved and confirmed as a true record.**

**5. Matters Arising****5.1 Roads and Footways**

**5.1.1** Faulty lamppost in Prospect Way. In hand with Cllr Spokes.

**5.1.2** The fallen 30mph speed limit sign on Plain Hill. This has been replaced.

**5.1.3** Plumpton Lane. Fallen railings on the bridge and a pothole near the junction with Weekes Lane will be reported to Highways.

**5.1.4** J10. Overnight closures on the roundabout for 2 weeks from 15<sup>th</sup> January for resurfacing. Information is available on the Ashford Kent Today Facebook page.

**5.1.5** Tesco Crooksfoot petrol station. Closed from 15<sup>th</sup> January for a refit.

**5.2 Local Needs Housing (LNH)** No progress to report.

**5.3 Village caretaker scheme** Good feedback continues to be received; the leaning trees in Prospect Way have been removed.

**5.4 Community Led Plan (CLP)**

**5.4.1** Bulb planting: Thompsons (Stone Street) has donated more bulbs; additional sites for planting will be identified.

**5.4.2** Basketball hoop: The equipment will be ordered for installation when the weather improves. A schedule of works has been drawn up.

**5.4.3** LNH survey: Results showed that 46 residents wish to stay in the village; a number of older residents wish to downsize to bungalows. The final report will be sent to the Parish Councils and ACRK.

**5.4.4** Carol-singing: Organised by Nicki Allen. £460.60 was raised which has been given to the CLP towards the outdoor gym.

**5.4.5** Outdoor gym: £11,000 has been raised and an application submitted to Cllr Howard for a ward member grant. The CLP is proposing to lay a footpath on the green parallel with Bridge Road and has suggested that the gym be sited between the footpath and hedge. A site meeting will be held to decide the gym's location. The supplier is Faversham-based and will oversee the installation by the CLP group and sign it off. Installation will likely be in Spring 2018. It is hoped to buy equipment for children. The equipment will be owned, insured and maintained by the Parish Council. The equipment will have a lifespan of 25 years; the caretaker will be asked to make a monthly visual inspection. Cllr Howard asked if a multi-gym had been considered; Mr Michael Hincliffe replied that it had but ruled out for a number of reasons.

**5.5 Repairs to rabbit-proof fencing** This has been repaired with more robust higher steel fencing, like the playpark fencing. The wooden posts have been reset.

**5.6 Finger post near The Five Bells** Highways have inspected but it does not meet the criteria for replacement; the caretaker will be asked to effect repairs.

**5.7 Broken drain in Pilgrims Way** A scheduled road closure, it is thought to enable repairs to be carried out, did not take place.

- 5.8 Removal of diseased tree on the Warren** The tree has been taken down leaving a 6 ft stump. Surplus branches have been removed from the site. The felled trunk which is to be fashioned into a bench remains but no further contact has been made by the sculptor. A replacement copper beech tree will be sourced and planted in the Spring in conjunction with the other projects for the Warren - see item 12.
- 5.9 Two-way radios** The Clerk to contact Jon Rose.
- 5.10 Christmas activities** The advent calendar was well received.

## 6. Reports from Community Warden and PCSO

Mr Kingston reported a quiet Christmas and New Year. A break-in to a parked vehicle in Quarrington Lane was reported, residents are urged to keep valuables out of sight. Mr Kingston reported that he will be stepping down as Warden at the end of January and thanked residents and the Parish Councils for their support during his tenure. It is unknown if he will be replaced. The Chairman thanked Mr Kingston for his attendance and meetings and efforts on behalf of the community. No report has been received from the PCSO.

## 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.**

Details	£
S Wood (salary)	510.33
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S Wood (expenses)	57.59
Indica Environmental Ltd (tree surgery)	240.00
Society for Local Council Clerks (subscription)	51.39
Miss Katherine Barnes (fees – planning appeal)	420.00
Miss Katherine Barnes (fees – village green application)	150.00
D Ansley	225.00
M Hickmott (expenses)	140.84
Brabourne and Smeeth CLP	128.80
Brabourne and Smeeth CLP	334.00

### Receipts

Details	£
Allotment rentals	450.00
Lloyds Bank interest	1.01
Fordreds Charity	175.00
VAT refund	1271.76
Cancelled cheque	128.80

Balance £ 25666.96 (cheque and deposit accounts)

The Parish Council will be reimbursed from the No. 2 account for the £334.00 paid to the CLP.

### 7.2 Draft budget for 2018-19

The draft budget was circulated. The Concurrent Functions Grant and Council Tax Support Grants have been confirmed. Cllr Howard advised that there is to be only a small increase in the Borough Council's tax, but KCC is to impose a higher increase which includes an additional increase for social care. The Chairman proposed that the Precept be increased to £35,000 and that the Concurrent Functions Grant (£530) and Council Tax Support Grant (£390) be claimed in addition.

A vote was taken. Cllr Hickmott, Cllr Mrs Tanner, Cllr Mrs Young, Cllrs Joules, Mayland and Stokes voted in favour. There were no abstentions and no votes against.

**Resolved:**

**That the Precept be increased to £35,000 and that the Concurrent Functions Grant of £530 and Council Tax Support Grant of £390 be claimed in addition.**

**8. War Memorial refurbishment project**

The War Memorial Trust has asked George Taylor for another estimate for the works and written permission from Smeeth Parish Council as the body responsible for the Memorial. Mr Taylor will be applying to Cllr Howard for a ward member grant.

**9. Planning Committee report****9.1 16/00303/AS Hospital Field – Planning appeal**

The Chairman's update is attached to the Minutes.

**9.2 Planning applications**

Approved by ABC:

17/01587/AS Waterside Farm, West Brabourne

17/01621/AS The Hall, Weekes Lane, West Brabourne

The Planning Committee had no objection to the following applications and a decision from ABC is awaited:

17/01158/AS Knapwick Farm, Pilgrims Way

17/0002/OLE/AS Shabani, East Brabourne to The Hall, West Brabourne

The Planning Committee supported the following application and a decision from ABC is awaited:

17/01610/AS The Plough Inn, Lees Road

Prior approval given:

17/01470/AS Agricultural building east of Oaktree Cottage, Manor Pound Lane

Lawful Development Certificate granted:

17/01673/AS 9 Prospect Way

Withdrawn:

17/01841/AS Park Farm, Pound Lane, Smeeth

17/00263/TP 34 Prospect Way, Brabourne

Pollard all (9) trees

It was proposed that the Parish Council has no objection to the application.

**Resolved:**

**That the Parish Council has no objection to the application.**

**10. KALC report**

The next meeting is on 17<sup>th</sup> January. The agenda includes an update by Simon Cole on the Local Plan, but he cannot attend due to commitments involving the Hospital Field planning appeal.

**11. Allotments project**

Quotes are still awaited from the Allotment Society chairman for a number of projects. Renewal payments are now due and are being received, with a number paying by BACS transfer.

**12. Correspondence**

All correspondence has been circulated.

Memorial bench to Maureen Darvell: The Parish Council gave permission at the November meeting for the bench to be placed on the Warren; Mark Young will be asked to install it when the location has been agreed. It was suggested that it be sited near the outdoor gym.

Cllr Howard recommended drawing-up a Master Plan (cf that for Victoria Park) for the Warren given the number of initiatives planned, which include: the footpath, outdoor gym, tree carving, replacement beech tree, memorial bench. This will be an Agenda item for the March meeting.

The Clerk to ask the CLP for an update and drawing of the proposed footpath.

It was suggested that Clinton Johnson (a local surveyor) be asked to draw up the Master Plan.

**13. Open Session**

The meeting was suspended to allow residents to raise matters of concern with the Council.

William Harbottle reported the following:

Footpath AE303 is to be diverted and not extinguished (see the Minutes of the November 2017 meeting), with all access points maintained.

An incident of flytipping on the North Downs Way, this has been reported.

A stile at Stowting Paddock has been replaced by a gate, it is unclear by whom but facilitates access on to the site. A No Entry sign is now in place, but does not appear to be an authorised road traffic sign.

Sue Bartholomew noted that the door to the telephone box by The Five Bells will not shut; the caretaker will be asked to carry out the repairs.

Flyposting was reported by Sue Bartholomew and asked if it is permitted, however she thought it only a problem when the posters are not removed after the event has taken place. Peter Clayton replied that flyposting is not permitted but the Borough Council takes a relaxed view, Cllr Howard agreed but only provided the posters are removed post-event. KCC will remove any posters affixed to KCC property, eg streetlights.

The meeting was reconvened.

#### **14. Any other business**

##### **14.1** Cllr Howard reported on a number of projects:

Work will start on J10A, the inconvenience during the works is acknowledged.

Expansion of the Designer Outlet has begun: it will extend to Ashford International Station and the coach park will be relocated next to Asda.

Developments in Victoria Way are underway, including the microbrewery and Aldi supermarket.

The cinema complex is under construction, the target date for completion is December 2018.

Cllr Mrs Tanner expressed concerns at the perceived failure to deliver improvements in infrastructure, eg at the William Harvey Hospital.

#### **15. Resolution 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.**

#### **16. Citizenship Award**

Nominations received were discussed.

**Resolved:**

**That the Award be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting.**

#### **17. Date and time of next meeting: Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018 in Brabourne Village Hall, immediately after the Annual Parish Meeting, which begins at 7.00pm.**

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

### **Agenda item 9.1: HOSPITAL FIELD PLANNING APPEAL UPDATE**

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January saw the start of the planning appeal into Gladman Developments Ltd application to build up to 125 houses on Hospital Field adjoining Mountbatten Way. After the opening statements, Ashford Borough Council (ABC) gave their evidence for 2 1/2 days. Gladman's barrister tore into their evidence but ABCs' experts were resilient.

On Thursday and Friday the evidence of Brabourne Parish Council (BPC) was presented, led by our barrister, Katherine Barnes. Our traffic expert, John Wilde, did a splendid job correcting Gladman's barrister on various traffic and road safety issues. He was preceded and superseded by our Fab 5 witnesses: Allison

Nyssens, Kay Bellwood, Cllr Sylvia Tanner, Pat Thornby and Tony Dolding. Each had a diverse but specific topic to deal with, covering horse riding, landscape, social and economic pressures, schools, health services, historical interest, recreational use, the Village Green Application (VGA), traffic, transport and road safety for pedestrians, cycling, horse riders and vehicle users.

Although our lay witnesses did not have to read out their proofs of evidence at the inquiry they were examined and cross examined by Katherine and Gladman's barrister. All did superbly well, answering questions, parrying misconceptions and untruths, putting the case for villagers against the proposals very firmly in the inspector's view. Our Clerk, Sue Wood, then gave evidence on affordable housing and the VGA. She was grilled a little harder by Gladman's barrister but dealt with his cross examination in the professional and accurate manner we have all come to respect her for. Thank you to our Fab 5 and Sue! Three local residents also spoke giving some specific views to the inspector.

Today (Monday 15<sup>th</sup>) the inspector carried out his accompanied site visit, viewing the appeal site; walking through the village, seeing the shops, Smeeth School, traffic and parking; walking the footpaths; and visiting the more recently built houses and proposed housing sites in the villages. He had already made an unaccompanied visit on the previous Thursday and Friday.