

**BRABOURNE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council**  
**Held at 7.00pm on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017**  
**At Brabourne Village Hall**

**1. Present**

Cllr Hickmott (Chairman) Cllr Mrs Bewick, Cllr Mrs Tanner, Cllr Mrs Young, Cllrs Mayland and Spokes, and Mrs Wood (Clerk). Mr Graham Kingston (Community Warden) was present and sixteen members of the public attended.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Joules (indisposed), and Cllr Miss Martin and Cllr Howard (ward members).

**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 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016 be approved and confirmed as a true record.**

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

**5.1.1** Smeeth crossroads. Mr Ian Ruck is in correspondence with KCC Highways re the lack of illumination of bollards on the A20.

**5.1.2** The signpost at the New Barn Hill/Pilgrims Way junction has been removed but a replacement is not required.

**5.1.3** A faulty lamppost in Prospect Way will be reported to KCC Highways.

**5.2 Local Needs Housing (LNH)** On hold pending the publication of the Local Plan and site allocation.

**5.3 Emergency Plan** An appeal for a coordinator will be put in Parish News.

**5.4 Village caretaker scheme** Weekly timesheets are submitted and good feedback continues to be received.

**5.5 Village Protection Policy** Nothing further to report; core elements of the Policy are being included in the Local Plan.

**6. Reports from Community Warden and PCSO**

Mr Kingston wished all present a Happy New Year. He reported that the Christmas and New Year period had been quiet, but there had been a theft of cigarettes from Orpins Stores; new security measures have been put in place. The offenders were caught on CCTV but could not be identified. In an incident in Lees Road a dog attacked another dog and bit the latter's owner; this has been reported to the Police and dog warden. Concerns were expressed for the welfare of occupiers of a house in Canterbury Road, when the lights were left on for a number of days; on investigation all was well. Mr Kingston asked all residents to be aware of possible thefts of fuel and coal.

**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 (December salary)	505.28
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D Ansley (30 hours @ £7.20)	216.00
SLCC (subscription)	49.17
ACRK (subscription)	50.00
S Wood (stationery)	21.47
Charles & Associates Consulting Engineers (Hospital Field appeal –	1115.04

Parish Council's traffic consultant)	
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## Receipts

Details	£
Lloyds Bank interest	1.40
Allotment rental	900.00

Balance £ 19029.81 (cheque and deposit account)

£ 334.00 (No. 2 account for CLP and EP group)

## 7.2 To consider the draft Budget for 2017-18

The draft Budget was circulated. The Chairman advised that the loan from ABC to meet the costs of representation at the appeal had been secured, repayable over 3 years and repaid through an increase in the Precept. It may not be necessary to draw down all of the agreed £40,000, and repayment would only be of funds drawn down (plus nominal interest). After the loan has been repaid the Precept will be reduced. In answer to a question from Cllr Mayland, the likely cost per household per year of this increase would be ~£35. [Post-meeting note, the cost would be ~£24 per household per year.]

Quotes for grass-cutting on the village green for 2017-18 were given:

Countrywise Grounds Maintenance (£1808)

Harmer & Sons (£1280)

Aspire (£1600)

It was proposed that the quote from Harmer & Sons be accepted.

**Resolved:**

**That the quote from Harmer & Sons of £1280 to carry out mowing on the village green for the year 2017-18 be accepted.**

Provision should also be made for costs incurred by the village caretaker scheme.

The Clerk advised that the Council Tax Support Grant (£530) and Concurrent Functions Grant (£530) could be claimed.

The Chairman proposed that the Precept be increased to £34,000, and the Council Tax Support Grant and Concurrent Functions Grant be claimed in addition.

A vote was taken. Those in favour: Cllr Hickmott, Cllr Mrs Bewick, Cllr Mrs Tanner, Cllr Mrs Young, Cllrs Mayland and Spokes. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

**Resolved:**

**That the Precept be increased to £34,000, and the Council Tax Support Grant and Concurrent Functions Grant be claimed in addition.**

## 7.3 To consider a contribution to the Speed Indicator Device

The Chairman reported that the 'old' SID was obsolete with no cash or trade-in value. The Speedwatch group had obtained a new device from KCC at a heavily-discounted price (offered only to the first 20 applicants) of £1100 + VAT. The new SID has a greater range, longer battery life and can report results directly via a roadside computer. The cost would be shared by Brabourne and Smeeth Parish Councils, the latter having agreed a contribution at its meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> January.

It was proposed that the Parish Council contributes 50% of the cost of the SID. The Clerk will seek clarification re recovery of the VAT.

**Resolved:**

**That the Parish Council contributes 50% of the cost of the SID.**

## 8. Planning Committee report

### Planning applications received

16/01796/AS Land known as Stowting Paddock, Scots Lane, Brabourne  
Proposed new stable building (resubmission of 16/01228/AS)

The meeting was suspended to take comments from the floor.

It was stated that the proposal is inadequate for the keeping of 3 horses; the site is approx 0.5 acre (less that occupied by the stable block) and would not comply with the Defra and British Horse Society guidelines of at least 1.5 acres/horse. Concerns were expressed re the welfare of horses on site and resulting degradation of the land due to the inadequate size of the site.

The design of the building was thought to be inappropriate: the use of Kent peg tiles would require footings because of their weight.

It was noted that the North Downs Way crosses the paddock.

It was stated that an application should be submitted for change of use of the land for the keeping of horses; this is needed to give permission for the feeding of fodder and hay, unless the intention is to stable the horses overnight and graze elsewhere - this was thought unlikely given that the applicant lives 22 miles from the site.

There is no provision for on-site vehicle parking: those visiting the site (including delivery vehicles) could not park on the road because it is a one track road with passing places. There is no provision for emergency vehicle access (such as fire engines, an important consideration given the combustibility of compressed hay). There are no details re disposal of manure, and the potential for contamination of a nearby water source was noted. Inaccuracies were noted in the application, eg the site was wrongly described as not being in the AONB.

Inaccuracies in the previous application (16/01228/AS), which was withdrawn, have not been corrected.

The applicant does not have permission for an access.

The North Downs Way runs along the side of the site, on the roadside, and vehicles would have to cross this to enter/exit the site.

The meeting was reconvened.

The Chairman advised that the case officer is looking into the issues of access, but felt that these rendered the application invalid. If the application were permitted, it could not be delivered because there is no access to the site. He noted that there were 15 objection comments on the ABC website and that Stowting Parish Meeting had also objected. Kent Downs National Trail, the PROW office, and Kent Downs AONB had all commented on the application. They stated that there should be no disturbance to the surface of the North Downs Way arising from the development.

Difficulties and costs incurred in an application to move the footpath were noted.

The Chairman noted that management of manure and water run-off would be dealt with by conditions.

The Chairman proposed that an objection be made to the application, with comments.

**Resolved:**

**That an objection be made to the application, with comments.**

Given the location of the application site on the boundary between Brabourne and Stowting, it was agreed that the Parish Council and Stowting Parish Meeting will liaise on applications that affect both parishes.

16/01871/AS & 16/01872/AS Little Foord, Bulltown Lane Revision to glazed link dimensions, previously approved

It was proposed that no objection be made to the application.

**Resolved:**

**That no objection be made to the application.**

Approved by ABC:

16/01492/AS 45 Prospect Way

16/01610/AS 12 The Warren

Decision from ABC awaited:

16/00633/AS & 16/00634/AS Church Farmhouse, The Street

16/01001/AS Church Barn, The Street

16/01346/AS Mill House, Mill Lane

16/01374/AS & 16/01375/AS The Hall, Weekes Lane

The Chairman reported that a well-attended joint meeting had been held with Smeeth Parish Council on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017 re the omissions site – the playing field (ALP/2497). The Parish Councils would be formulating comments on the draft Local Plan, including objections to the omissions site and the site on Church Road (S38). Comments will be invited by ABC on any changes to the revised draft when it is published.

Cllr Miss Martin will hold a planning information day at Aldington Village Hall on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January from 10am-2pm.

#### **9. Cleaning/refurbishment of the Smeeth War Memorial**

Brought forward with the Chairman's permission.

The meeting was suspended to allow Mr George Taylor (Chairman, Royal British Legion branch) to address the Parish Council.

Mr Taylor stated that the Memorial is in need of cleaning and re-leading, the steps need to be repaired and the surrounding area cleared. (The project was also raised at the meeting of Smeeth Parish Council.) Mr Taylor advised that a quote for cleaning received in 2015 was for £1600. It is hoped that it would be completed by 2018 to mark the centenary of the end of World War 1. He also proposed that the Memorial be moved to a more central location, such as the village green at The Warren, because the current site is not thought to be suitable. Mr Taylor asked if the Parish Council would consider the possibility of moving the Memorial to the village green, but acknowledged that this would cost a considerable sum. Mr Taylor noted that the Brabourne War memorial is in Brabourne Church, but suggested that the names be added to the Smeeth Memorial – making it the Brabourne and Smeeth War Memorial. Mr Taylor would obtain costings for the project, and noted a positive response to the initial proposals from residents. In answer to a question from Cllr Mayland, Mr Taylor thought that the most appropriate site on the green would be opposite John Childs Garage, from here it would be seen by users of Plain Road and Bridge Road and would be close to the Smeeth parish boundary. He noted that the St George's Day parades are from the green to Brabourne Baptist Church.

Councillors welcomed Mr Taylor's proposals.

Mr Peter Clayton supported Mr Taylor's initiative, and suggested that part of the green be jointly owned to counter possible opposition from Smeeth, although this would add to the project's costs.

Cllr Spokes felt that if the names on the Memorial were from both parishes, it would be recognised as a community Memorial and this may reduce opposition to the project.

In answer to a question from the Chairman, Mr Taylor advised that the land on which the Memorial currently stands is not owned by the Church or Parish Council, and the Memorial is owned by the village (having been funded by public subscription).

Mr Taylor thanked the Parish Council for its support and advised that he would contact the War Memorial Trust and other possible funders.

The meeting was reconvened.

The Clerk advised that Cllr Miss Martin had indicated that she would be willing to make a ward member grant when the project was first mooted.

The Clerk will ask if planning permission would be needed to place the Memorial on the village green.

Cllr Mrs Tanner recommended that the schools be involved in the project.

#### **10. KALC report**

The Ashford Area Committee met on 16<sup>th</sup> November, the agenda included an update on the provision of dog bins in the borough. The next meeting is on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

#### **11. Allotments project**

Rental for the year was reduced to £30/plot. One plot holder had indicated that she did not wish to renew, the plot is to be offered to a potential plot holder. An incident of a gas canister being thrown on to a bonfire in the garden of The Plough Inn will be reported to Shepherd Neame.

#### **12. Correspondence**

**12.1** Invitation to the Lord Lieutenant's annual civic service.

#### **13. Open Session**

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

**13.1** Mr Willis asked that stickers be put on litter bins stating that dog waste should not be placed in the bins. The Clerk advised that both types of waste go into the same disposal stream and therefore it is permitted to dispose of dog waste in these bins; ABC is proposing to replace existing bins with dual purpose bins, taking both litter and dog waste.

- 13.2** Mr Clayton asked if, after the review, there may be a reduction in the number of bins in the parish.  
The Clerk replied that this was a possibility but Parish Councils would be consulted after the review.

The meeting was reconvened.

**14. Any other business**

**14.1** Potholes in Lees Road were reported.

**14.2** Pilgrims Way: road edges are degrading in the pull-ins, particularly near Brabourne House.

**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 Citizenship Award.**

**16. Citizenship Award**

**Resolved:**

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

- 17. Date and time of next meeting: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017 in Brabourne Village Hall, immediately after the Annual Parish meeting, which begins at 7.00pm.**

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.