

BRABOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council
Held at 7.00pm on Monday 18th July 2016
At Brabourne Village Hall

1. Present

Cllr Hickmott (Chairman) Cllr Mrs Tanner, Cllr Mrs Young, Cllr Joules, and Mrs Wood (Clerk). Mr Graham Kingston (Community Warden) was present and one member of the public attended.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Spokes and Mayland (prior commitments), Cllr Howard (ward member), and PCSO Hobbs.

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 16th May 2016 be approved and confirmed as a true record.

5. Matters Arising

5.1 Roads and Footways

5.1.1 Smeeth crossroads. The layby on the southern side of the A20 has been closed.

5.1.2 Plumpton Road has been repaired, Green Lane has been marked and gulleys marked in Bulltown Lane where water run-off was degrading the edge of the highway.

5.1.3 The signpost at the New Barn Hill/Pilgrims Way junction has not yet been replaced.

5.1.4 A request for bollards outside the shop has been received, and there were reports of parking across the dropped kerb. The Community Warden will monitor the latter. It was noted that a previous request for bollards had been refused because of the difficulty they would cause for delivery and postal vehicles. White-lining was suggested, (a bone), but this would need enforcing.

5.1.5 Foliage at Smeeth crossroads needs to be cut back – to be passed to the caretaker.

5.2 Local Needs Housing (LNH) Smeeth Parish Council has asked the Rural Housing Enabler (Tessa O’Sullivan) to renew contact with landowners of sites identified in the desktop survey, now that the draft Local Plan has been published. This was supported.

5.3 Emergency Plan Colin MacPhee has taken over the plan and is reviewing the data, much of which is now out of date. After this has been completed he will discuss the plan with Della Fackrell (Resilience Partnership Manager, ABC).

5.4 Village caretaker scheme After satisfactory completion of the 3-month probationary period, Mr Rodway’s appointment was confirmed. Good feedback has been received from residents in all 4 parishes in the cluster.

5.5 Village Protection Policy The Policy has not yet been taken to ABC Cabinet, Simon Cole (ABC Planning) having stated that all aspects in the policy are covered in the Local Plan. These comments were taken to a meeting attended by Cllr Miss Martin, the Clerk and Tim Allen (Peter Brett Associates), at which it was noted that the Local Plan is generalised but the Policy is bespoke. Cllr Miss Martin is to pursue.

6. Reports from Community Warden and PCSO

Mr Kingston reported a theft from a farm in East Brabourne and an incident involving a dog: in the latter case the owner had tried to break up a fight between his 2 dogs but was bitten in the attempt. The Police and Dog Warden had been called but no action will be taken because the incident was on private property. Neighbours had expressed concerns, which have been taken to ABC Housing Dept because the property is council-owned.

Mr Kingston advised that he had attended the fete and had received positive comments on the works at Smeeth crossroads [item 5.1.1]. A good turn-out was noted.

The 2 storage containers are now in situ on the playing field car park; Cllr Mrs Tanner advised that security fencing and anticlimb paint will be applied.

PCSO Hobbs’ report had been circulated and is attached.

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	£
S Wood (June salary)	505.28
S Wood (July salary)	505.28
S Wood (expenses)	21.73
D Ansley (30 hours @ £7.20/hr)	216.00
Information Commissioner (DPA renewal)	35.00
Harmer & Sons	396.60

Receipts

Details	£
Lloyds Bank interest	1.40
Allotment rental payments	33.34

Balance £ 21421.44 (cheque and deposit account)

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

7.2 To consider enrolment as an employer in the Local Government Pension Scheme The Clerk advised that the village caretaker must be enrolled in a pension scheme, this is a statutory requirement by virtue of his age and salary. The Clerk recommended that he be enrolled in the Local Govt Pension Scheme, which is managed by KCC on behalf of Parish Councils. All Parish Councils in the cluster must, however, pass a resolution that they enrol in the scheme as an employer; this will be followed by an actuary's report on all Parish Councils in the cluster. If a satisfactory report is received the caretaker will be enrolled in the scheme, backdated to the beginning of the financial year.

It was proposed that the Parish Council enrolls in the Local Government Pension Scheme as an employer.

Resolved:

That the Parish Council enrolls in the Local Government Pension Scheme as an employer.

7.3 To consider purchase of the flamstore from the Allotment Society

The Clerk advised that the Allotment Society had offered the unused flamstore for use by the caretaker, and had requested a contribution of £50. The caretaker had indicated that this would be of use to store materials for use in Brabourne. It was proposed that the flamstore be purchased from the Allotment Society.

Resolved:

That the flamstore be purchased from the Allotment Society at a cost of £50.

7.4 To consider a contribution towards a replacement van for the caretaker

The Clerk reported that the van currently used by the caretaker was purchased for £2000, but (to date), over £1600 has been spent on repairs and additional work costing nearly £1000 is needed. Advice from John Childs Garage was that the van is not fit for purpose and that more repair work would likely be needed. A possible replacement has been identified, with the benefit of service history and a current MOT. Cllr Howard has offered a grant towards the purchase, and it may be possible to sell-on the current van.

John Childs Garage will provide a written inspection report on the possible replacement at a nominal cost. The replacement van has not been budgeted for in the caretaker scheme therefore all parishes in the cluster will have to contribute. It is likely that any purchase will be funded by Smeeth Parish Council in the first instance, to be reimbursed by the other 3 parishes pro rata.

It was proposed that Brabourne Parish Council makes a contribution to Smeeth Parish Council for purchase of a replacement van for the village caretaker on receipt of a satisfactory written report from John Childs Garage.

Resolved:

That Brabourne Parish Council makes a contribution to Smeeth Parish Council for purchase of a replacement van for the village caretaker.

8. Planning Committee report

Planning applications received

The Planning Committee Chairman reported on the following applications:

Hillside Lime Works: The Parish Council had no objections and this was approved by the Planning Committee of ABC after 2 site visits.

Land between Lees Road and Canterbury Road ('hospital field'): The Parish Council objected to the application, which is on the agenda for the ABC Planning Committee for 20th July. The developer (Gladman Developments Ltd) has appealed to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on the grounds of non-determination within the statutory period of 13 weeks, therefore ABC cannot make a decision on the application. It can, however, record what it would have decided. The Chairman and a resident will speak at the meeting, and their comments have been circulated to members of the Planning Committee. This has also been sent to the Kentish Express, and a reporter will be at the meeting. The Parish Council intends to be represented at the PINS appeal and will employ its own barrister, separate from that of ABC; to this end the Chairman and Clerk will meet the Head of Finance (ABC) to discuss a loan to meet these costs. ABC's argument that it had a 5-year housing supply was dismissed by PINS at an appeal for a site in Tenterden (Tilden Gill), this will affect the arguments against the application.

ABC Planning has now written to KCC with regard to the village green application, and the Parish Council has resent its representations that there was no valid planning application on hospital field when the application was submitted. The village green application should therefore be regarded as valid. The Chairman noted that the Local Plan states that housing should primarily be in the urban areas of Ashford (tier 1), and should then cascade down to Tenterden (tier 2); Brabourne is in tier 3 but has not been identified as a village where any form of significant development will take place.

Missingham Farm, Pilgrims Way: The Parish Council objected to the application, which was approved by ABC.

Luxway, Manor Pound Lane: The Parish Council had no objections to the application, which was approved by ABC.

The Hall, Weekes Lane: The Parish Council had no objections to the application, which was approved by ABC.

Five Bells, East Brabourne: The Parish Council had no objections to the application, a decision is awaited from ABC.

Parks Corner Cottage, Canterbury Road: The Parish Council objected to the application, which was approved by ABC.

The Alders, Weekes Lane: The Parish Council had objected to the application which was refused by ABC, but arising from delays in enforcement a Lawful Development Certificate was sought by the occupier and granted, therefore the alterations are lawful.

Conley Barn, Bulltown Lane: Prior approval of change of use was not required.

Church Farmhouse, East Brabourne: The Parish Council had no objections to the 3 applications, a decision is awaited from ABC.

Church Barn, East Brabourne: The Parish Council had no objections to the application, a decision is awaited from ABC.

19 The Warren: An application under the extension to permitted development rights, the Parish Council is not consulted on the application.

45 Prospect Way: Application for tree works, granted by ABC.

9. KALC report

The new chairman of the Ashford Area Committee (Alison Breese) had proposed that the format of the meetings be changed to include workshops, this was welcomed by representatives to the Committee. At the most recent meeting on July 13th a presentation on the Local Plan was given by Simon Cole. The next meeting will be on 21st September and will be a workshop on Neighbourhood Plans.

10. Allotments project

The Clerk reported that a request has been received from the Allotment Society for a contribution towards the purchase of a tough grass cutter, at a cost of £674 (a discounted price). The Clerk advised that the project was intended to be revenue neutral, and any net surplus from plot rentals would be ring-fenced for capital expenditure on the allotments. It was proposed that the Parish Council agrees to give £674 to the Allotment Society for purchase of the grass cutter.

Resolved:

That the Parish Council agrees to give £674 to the Allotment Society for purchase of the grass cutter.

11. Rural speed limits

Complaints have been received with regard to speed and use of mobile phones by drivers of agricultural vehicles; Cllr Joules advised that this is a sackable offence and asked for registration numbers of the offenders. Speedwatch has been asked to pay particular attention to agricultural traffic, but it was thought that it is perceived rather than actual speed, due to the size of the vehicles.

12. Local Plan to 2030 – consultation

No sites were put forward in the parish in the call for sites, and none has been included in the draft Local Plan; however a site for housing in Church Road, Smeeth is in the Plan. A drop-in session will be held at the village hall on July 22nd from 3.30-7pm, at which copies of the Plan will be available and ABC officers present to answer questions.

13. Community Led Plan proposal for decorative village signs

These were thought to be impractical because of the geography and layout of the 2 villages and the course of the boundary, which in places is very irregular.

14. Correspondence

All correspondence has been circulated.

15. Open session

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

No matters were raised.

The meeting was reconvened.

16. Any other business

16.1 Cllr Mrs Young suggested that a dog waste bin be installed in Pound Lane, this will be taken to Smeeth Parish Council.

16.2 The headteacher at Brabourne CEP School, Mr Vincent Chan, is to retire in December.

17. Date and time of next meeting: Monday 19th September 2016 at 7.00pm in Brabourne Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Brabourne Parish Council
PCSO Report

Figures for Brabourne Parish meeting from 16/5/16 to 15/7/16

3 Burglaries other than dwelling (outbuildings/ sheds/garages). Security advice given.

1 Criminal damage. Domestic related.

No reported antisocial behaviour in the area

Patrols continue to be carried out in the area, but report any concerns to police by dialling 101 regarding any suspicious persons or vehicles seen in the area.

The area has suffered break-ins to garages and sheds, security information will be published in Parish News.