

BRABOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council
Held at 7.00pm on Monday 19th March 2018
At Brabourne Village Hall

1. Present

Cllr Hickmott (Chairman), Cllr Mrs Bewick, Cllr Mrs Tanner, Cllr Mrs Young, Cllrs Mayland and Joules, and Mrs Wood (Clerk). Eight members of the public attended.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Spokes (prior commitment), Cllr Miss Martin and Cllr Howard (ward members).

The Chairman paid tribute to the late Ernie Willis, who was a stalwart at Parish Council meetings and made many valued contributions during the Open Sessions.

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 15th January 2018 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 Plumpton Lane. Fallen railings on the bridge and a pothole near the junction with Weekes Lane have been repaired.

5.1.3 A pothole blitz by KCC begins in April.

5.1.4 The Chairman thanked those who transferred salt from the tonne bag to the Manor Pound Lane salt bin. Thanks were also given to Cllr Joules for spreading salt at important junctions. Cllr Joules advised that KCC will provide him with 2 tonnes of salt next winter because he can offer storage, for use in topping-up the salt bins. Cllr Joules was thanked.

5.2 Local Needs Housing (LNH) The survey results are attached to the Minutes.

5.3 Village caretaker scheme The Caretaker Committee meets on March 27th; the caretaker's appraisal will be arranged for April.

5.4 Community Led Plan (CLP) The plan of The Warren is in hand; Clinton Johnson is willing to help. Drone aerial photos will be overlaid on the plan enabling the location of the footpath, memorial bench (to Maureen Darvell), and the gym to be plotted.

5.5 Finger post near The Five Bells The village caretaker will make the necessary repairs.

5.6 Broken drain in Pilgrims Way In hand with KCC.

5.7 Removal of diseased tree on the Warren The copper beech has been felled and will be replaced. A site meeting will be held with the Chairman, Village Caretaker and Clerk to agree the location for the replacement (the date to be confirmed). The tree sculptor has not yet responded to requests for an update.

5.8 Two-way radios An update is awaited from Jon Rose.

6. Report from PCSO

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	£
---------	---

Katherine Barnes (Village green inquiry)	378.00
J Noble (reimbursement – mower for use by the Allotment Society)	694.00
Katherine Barnes (Hospital field appeal)	23400.00
C&A Consulting Engineers Ltd (Hospital field appeal)	4060.20
Action with Communities in Rural Kent (subscription)	50.00
Miss Katherine Barnes (Hospital Field appeal)	300.00
Citizenship Award	100.00
The Great Outdoor Gym Company	11196.00
D Ansley (28.5 hrs @ £7.50/hr)	213.75
B&S Playing Field Association (donation)	1750.00
B&S Village Hall Association (donation)	1750.00
S Wood (salary)	510.33
S Wood (salary)	510.33
S Wood (expenses)	440.87

Receipts

Details	£
Allotment rentals	750.00
Lloyds Bank interest	0.53
ABC loan (Hospital field appeal)	15000.00
Community Led Plan	9330.00
UKPN Wayleave agreement	40.54

Balance £ 9920.64 (cheque and deposit accounts)

7.2 Grounds maintenance for 2018-1029

The Parish Council is in a 3-year contract with Harmer & Sons for mowing the village green.

8. War Memorial refurbishment project

Progress is being made and the fundraising Quiz Night raised over £600. Sponsorship is being sought for slabs on the paved area around the Memorial, at a minimum of £20/slab. Publicity in the Village Directory generated new donations, including one of £200. The Chairman suggested that the project be publicised on the community Facebook page, noting that this had resulted in success in fundraising for the Playing Field Association.

9. Planning Committee report

9.1 16/00303/AS Hospital Field – Planning appeal

The Chairman reported that the inquiry is being reopened in light of new evidence on the 5-year housing land supply. Difficulties in setting the date mean that this is unlikely to be earlier than September. This may be a disadvantage because the result of the Charing appeal may be known, and thus the Planning Inspectorate's view of ABC's 5-year housing land supply. In addition the new National Planning Policy Framework may increase the number of homes to be delivered in Ashford.

9.2 Planning applications

18/00287/AS Coombe House, Pilgrims Way Erection of replacement dwelling

The Parish Council had no objection to the application but regretted that some of the original façade was not to be retained. Planning permission was granted in late 2016 for an extension, thereby increasing the building's footprint. This application will have the same, extended footprint.

Approved by ABC:

17/01610/AS The Plough Inn

18/00001/OLE/AS Coombe Farm to Pilgrims Way

18/00002/OLE/AS Shabani to The Hall

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

17/01158/AS Knapwick Farm, Pilgrims Way

18/00063/AS 10 Knatchbull Way

18/00168/AS Hillside Limeworks, Pilgrims Way

Withdrawn:

18/00003/OLE/AS Church Barn

9.3 Diversion of footpaths AE308 and AE 309, and part extinguishment of AE308

A site meeting was held between the PROW office, KCC and the Clerk. The proposed diversion would route the footpath around the edge of the field, used for grazing horses. It was noted that retaining AE308 would not protect the land from development. It was suggested that it be diverted rather than extinguished; it was noted that the path is little used, if at all, however there is no fingerpost marking the footpath and there is an alternative route. One point is stopped up with barbed wire, and other obstructions were noted. The Chairman proposed that the Parish Council withdraws its objection to the extinguishment, noting that KCC will likely put in new fingerposts.

Resolved:

That the Parish Council withdraws its objection to the part extinguishment of AE308.

9.4 Listing of the Plough Inn

The Plough Inn is being sold by Shepherd Neame for commercial reasons. The Chairman noted that it is not a listed building, despite its eighteenth century origins; the Parish Council had previously considered applying for listing, but this was not pursued at the time. The Chairman felt that the pub should be protected against substantial alterations and demolition, noting that anyone can submit an application for listing but this must be justified. Information as to the historical associations of the pub will be sought from Pat Thornby and John Hammon, the sale details record it as having been used as an officers' mess during the Napoleonic wars. Cllr Mayland suggested that the façade be listed because the rear of the pub is of no architectural significance. The Chairman to follow-up the process and bring information to the next meeting.

10 KALC report

The March meeting was attended by Tim Naylor (ABC Head of Planning and Development) and Simon Cole, who gave an update on the Local Plan and the Gypsy & Traveller Issues Development Plan Document consultation.

11 Allotments project

The Allotment Society Chairman gave an update on the allotments at the Annual Parish Meeting on March 7th. The PC has funded purchase of a mower and will meet the cost of compost bins and repairs to the shed roof. A request for an additional standpipe was made, the Clerk will arrange a site meeting with Fortescues to discuss this.

12 Commemoration of the centenary of the end of WWI

Cllr Mayland reported that George Jessel has confirmed that a beacon will be lit on the Trig point, but there will not be an event at the beacon itself due to a lack of facilities; Cllr Mayland to follow-up. The event has been registered as part of the nationwide commemorations.

13 The Warren: Masterplan for management of projects

See Matters Arising. Installation of the bench is likely in the summer, and the gym in late April. The proposed footpath is in hand with Ian Ruck.

14 Correspondence

All correspondence has been circulated.

15 Presentation of the Citizenship Award

The Chairman stated that the Citizenship Award is presented by Brabourne Parish Council in memory of Chris Goodall, a former parish councillor who was also involved in many other village organisations and events. It is fair to say that Chris was a model citizen for the village and we are pleased that his wife, Marion, is here again tonight. The recipient of the award is chosen by the Parish Council from nominations made by our parishioners. This year's recipient is a person who a lot of people know and have seen about the village over the years. He has been apraised and thanked for some of his contributions to our villages but many are unaware of his other activities, mainly in Smeeth but he is a Brabourne resident.

The Chairman noted that he first met the recipient at the Grammar School in Ashford – now the Norton Knatchbull, but were not generally in the same classes. A sportsman, he went on to train as a teacher himself whilst still pursuing his interests in sport. He has been a major player in the Brabourne and Smeeth Playing Field Association management committee for as long as anyone can remember, he is now chairman. I believe he is also chairman of Ashford Hockey Club. He is one of 3 people who saw through the recent refurbishment project of the football pitch. He went over and above his role as a teacher and head teacher by organising out-of-school sporting events such as the small schools football tournaments. At times he singlehandedly made and repaired some of the Playing Field play park equipment. As someone has recently told me – he's a jolly good egg!
To loud applause, the award was presented to Paul Dawson.

16 Open Session

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

16.1 Sue Bartholomew thanked KCC for its rapid response to faults reported, and its follow-up phone calls.

16.2 A printed screen-grab of comments relating to the village shop on the Community Facebook page was distributed, which included a number of critical comments from the Chairman.

Cllr Hickmott relinquished the Chair, and Cllr Mayland chaired the subsequent discussion.

The difficulties facing village stores were drawn to the Parish Council's attention by Mr Pospisil, following a number of comments relating to the shop on the community Facebook page; Mr Pospisil noted the lack of support comments from the Parish Council. Cllr Mayland stated that the Parish Council does not comment on posts on Facebook; any comments made by Cllr Hickmott were made in a private capacity and not on behalf of the Parish Council. It was agreed that Chairmanship of the Parish Council conferred some responsibility. The other councillors unanimously stated that the comments did not reflect their opinion. It was recognised that the shop is there for the good of the community and is a hub, particularly for the elderly. Anyone having an issue with the shop was asked to contact the proprietors directly.

Cllr Hickmott returned to the Chair and the meeting was reconvened.

17 Any other business

No other business was raised.

18 Date and time of next meeting: Monday 21st May at 7.00pm in Brabourne Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Agenda item 5.2 Local Needs Housing Survey data CLP group 8 housing questionnaire responses

1. are you currently looking for a home to buy or rent?	buy = 15	rent = 35	other / no = 59	
2. if yes, how many bedrooms?	1 room = 2	2 rooms = 13	3 rooms = 23	4 rooms = 9
	rent = 1 buy = 1	rent = 7 buy = 6	rent = 12 buy = 11	rent = 4 buy = 9
3. do you think there should be more LNH/affordable housing here?	yes = 71	no = 19		

4a. should there be more open market residential properties?	yes = 95	no = 29		
4b. if yes, maximum for each site?	up to 20 = 41	up to 70 = 15	up to 125 = 22	other = 17
5a. are you looking to move into rural LNH?	yes = 46	no = 69		
5b. if yes, how many bedrooms?	1 room = 2	2 rooms = 17	3 rooms = 21	4 rooms = 6
6. in favour of small clusters of houses?	yes = 93	no = 25	other = 2	
7a. prepared to move to smaller residence?	yes = 19	no = 42	n/a = 59	
7b. move to bungalow?	yes = 16	no = 42 n/a = 62		

Please note that not all the respondents to the questionnaire responded to every question.