

BRABOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council
Held at 7.30pm on Monday 20th March 2017
At Brabourne Village Hall

1. Present

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

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from PCSO Hobbs and Mr Peter Clayton.

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 January 2017 be approved and confirmed as a true record.

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

5.1.1 Smeeth crossroads. The works have been completed. Mr Ian Ruck has stated that he feels he has achieved all he could, but not all bollards are lit.

5.1.2 The faulty lamppost in Prospect Way has not yet been repaired, the Clerk to follow-up.

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

5.3 Emergency Plan The appeal for a coordinator in Parish News elicited no responses. Cllr MacPhee (Smeeth Parish Council) had noted that the information on volunteers is out of date, and that a relaunch of the Emergency Plan may be needed.

5.4 Village caretaker scheme See Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 20th March 2017.

5.5 Village Protection Policy See Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 20th March 2017.

5.6 War Memorial Estimates for cleaning/releading/repainting range from £800-£2,000. The War Memorials Trust has counselled against a move. A garden designer has been asked to quote for the following: improving the existing site, including removing bushes and the shrubbery; installing paving and a bench, these to facilitate holding services on site. In answer to a question from the Chairman, the Parish Council was advised that no decision has been made on the move, and any such decision would not be forthcoming until after a village meeting to discuss the proposal; costs would also be a factor, given that they may be up to £10,000. In similar circumstances, however, the Royal Engineers had treated it as an exercise, so may be amenable to an approach for help.

6. Reports from Community Warden and PCSO

Mr Kingston reported that Lees Road had been closed twice for repairs and drainage works. He noted that the bollards are illuminated at Smeeth crossroads (see 5.1.1), the Chairman noted that Mr Ruck was referring to bollards along Hythe Road and not just at the crossroads – those outside Wyevale Garden Centre are unlit. Thefts from unlocked motor vehicles parked on driveways in Lees Road were reported (including a diabetes blood testing kit, later found behind Orpins Store), Mr Kingston advised residents to be cautious. A young girl was assaulted in Plain Road, an arrest has been made. Irish travellers based in Elham have been canvassing for work in Lees Road, Mr Kingston asked to be alerted if 'Topline Driveways' were seen in the area.

The PCSO's report 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.

Details	£
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S Wood (February salary)	505.28
S Wood (March salary)	505.28
S Wood (expenses)	170.74
Charles Associates Consulting Engineering Ltd (Hospital Field appeal – traffic expert witness)	1328.95
Ashford Borough Council (printing – Village Green application)	39.25
Brabourne and Smeeth Village Hall Association (donation)	1750.00
Brabourne and Smeeth Playing Field Association (donation)	1750.00
R Ashman (Citizenship Award)	100.00
D Ansley (39 hours @ £7.20)	280.80

Receipts

Details	£
Lloyds Bank interest	1.37
Allotment rental	807.50
VAT refund	498.80
UKPN wayleave agreement	39.83

Balance £ 14067.01 (cheque and deposit account)
£ 334.00 (No. 2 account for CLP and EP group)

7.2 To consider a 3-year contract with Harmer & Son

The Clerk reported that the village caretaker has indicated that he has the capacity to take over mowing of the village green, however the contract has been placed with Harmer & Son for the year. It was agreed that the Parish Council will not enter a 3-year contract and will review the situation on expiry of the contract. The high standard of work by Harmer & Son was praised.

7.3 To agree the contribution to the replacement Speed Indicator Device of £600

The Clerk reported that VAT is not recoverable because the order was invoiced to Graham Snazelle, he had, however, obtained it at a significant discount from KCC which was only offered to the first 20 applicants. The effectiveness of Speedwatch was questioned, given a lack of enforceability. It was proposed that the Parish Council increases its agreed contribution to £600 take account of the VAT element. A vote was taken: Cllrs Spokes and Mayland abstained, there were 5 votes in favour and none against.

Resolved:

That the Parish Council contributes £600 towards the cost of the SID.

7.4 To consider a donation to Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance

The Chairman advised that it is not the practice of the Parish Council to give donations of this type, the request was therefore refused.

8. Planning Committee report

Planning applications received

Approved by ABC:

16/01001/AS Church Barn, The Street

16/01346/AS Mill House, Mill Lane (Lawful Development Certificate - the use would be lawful)

17/00019/AS 2 Hope Cottage, Canterbury Road

17/00071/AS Court Lodge Barn, The Street

17/00149/AS 2 Hope Cottage, Canterbury Road (Lawful Development Certificate - the use would be lawful)

Decision from ABC awaited:

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

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

16/01871/AS & 16/01872/AS Little Foord, Bulltown Lane

Withdrawn:

16/01796/AS Stowting Paddock

17/00306/AS Bankside, Scots Lane, East Brabourne

Conversion of existing stable block to 2 x one bedroom holiday lets

There were concerns at the lack of detail, including a landscape plan and site access plan. Discussion was deferred pending neighbours' comments.

9. KALC report

The Minutes of the January meeting had been circulated. The next meeting is on March 22nd and will include presentations on unauthorised gypsy and traveller encampments, and the consultation on the electoral review.

10. Allotments project

Rental for all plots has been received. One plot holder did not renew, the plot has been let to another applicant. The Allotment Society is considering purchase of additional equipment, and will likely approach the Parish Council for funding.

11. Electoral Review of Ashford: draft recommendations – consultation

The chairman advised that the review has proposed that Saxon Shore ward be divided into 2, each with a single ward member. Brabourne would be in the new ward of Bircholt, with Smeeth, Brook and Hastingleigh; the ward name is a revival of the mediaeval Bircholt Hundred. It was proposed that the recommendations be supported.

Resolved:

That the recommendations be supported.

12. Correspondence

12.1 Email regarding litter picking in East Brabourne: Wendy Holt has been voluntarily picking up litter on a regular basis between Manor Pound Lane and the Five Bells, Stocks Lane and on to Pilgrims Way, but can no longer continue. The parish litter picker will be asked to take over the route.

13. Open Session

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

13.1 Mr Willis asked why the streetlights in Mountbatten Way and Prospect Way are different from those in The Warren; it was thought that these are in different ownership. The Clerk to follow-up.

The meeting was reconvened.

14. Any other business

14.1 A request was put to Smeeth Parish Council that local organisations be invited to give reports at its Annual Parish Meeting (APM), as is the practice in some other parishes. It was noted that Brabourne Parish Council had attempted this in former years, but there had been a lack of interest. The Parish Council will monitor the response to Smeeth Parish Council's discussions on broadening the reach of the APM.

16. Date and time of next meeting: Monday 15th May 2017 in Brabourne Village Hall, at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Agenda item 6: PCSO's report

The search on the website will give crime details for the whole ward not just Brabourne, on the plus side it will give you an idea of the crimes in the surrounding villages. When I do a report I won't give figure but will mention anything urgent to Smeeth.

No reported ASB in the area

On 7/3/17 a young female was assaulted on Plain Rd, Smeeth. Male has been arrested and currently awaiting court.

In the last month there have been a few thefts from motor vehicles in the area. **Please make sure your vehicles are secure and valuables are taken out.**

Please ask residents to secure their properties and take valuables out of their vehicles due to Burglaries in surrounding areas.

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