

BRABOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council
Held at 7.00pm on Monday 21st September 2009
At Brabourne Village Hall

1. Present

Cllr Ede (Vice-Chairman), Cllrs Mrs Bewick, Mrs Whitehead, Mrs Young, Spokes and Mrs S Wood (Clerk). Cllr Honey (borough councillor) and Mr R Sinden (Community Warden) also attended. Three members of the public were present.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Clayton (Chairman, illness) and Cllr Hickmott (holiday).

3. Declaration of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

4. Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 20th July 2009 be approved and confirmed as a true record.

5. Matters Arising

• **Skateboard Facility**

The Community Warden reported that cycling seems to be gaining in popularity at the expense of skateboarding. He has asked that visits by the Youth and Community van continue, and he will then more easily be able to canvas the young people regarding what facilities they would like in Brabourne. Alternatively face-to-face meetings would be held, although this would take longer. In answer to a question the Warden advised that the van visits for as long as a need is seen.

• **Roads and footways**

- a) The Clerk reported that no date has yet been fixed for the visit from Community Liaison Officer for Highways. Councillors will be notified of the date as soon as it has been arranged. Cllr Honey is to contact Highways re the visit.
- b) Highways has said that no further works are due to be carried out in Pilgrim's Way, in spite of the Parish Council's concerns about the sharp drop from the verge, parts of which are crumbling. It was suggested that the Clerk send photographs as evidence of the unsatisfactory state of the road.
- c) Some minor repairs have been carried out but potholes along Canterbury Road and Church Road have not been repaired. Deep cracks in Pound Lane were reported – their width and depth mean that they pose a hazard to cyclists.
- d) Cllr Wickham (KCC) had hoped to attend a meeting of the Parish Council to discuss possible funding for traffic calming at Brabourne School, but was unable to do so because of a clash of Council meetings. The Clerk is to contact Cllr Wickham re the possibility of meeting on a date to be decided before the November meeting.
- e) In answer to Cllr Mrs Whitehead, the Clerk advised that street sweeping is carried out monthly in the villages, but only in the kerbed areas. This has led to accumulations of detritus near regularly parked cars. The Clerk is to ascertain the schedule and alert residents, so that cars can be moved and the debris removed.

f) White lines painted outside The Five Bells in 2004 give priority to the wrong route. In spite of assurances these have not been corrected – the Clerk is to press Highways.

- **Church Road Footpath**

Smeech Parish Council is progressing an application to register the footpath as a PROW, following a meeting with the Brabourne Estates Land Agent. The Parish Council is grateful for Her Ladyship's support over the recent closure.

- **Parish Website**

The website is now running. The Vice Chairmen thanked the clerk for all the work she has done on the website and Mrs V Thorpe was thanked for sending information re events and local news to the Clerk for uploading on to the site. The website address is to be put in The Village Directory, and on the parish noticeboards.

- **Proposed closure of Ashford Police Station Custody Suite**

Cllr Honey advised that a decision re closure was due on 7th October by the Chief Constable. He further advised that Chief Supt Hogben had given a presentation to the Borough Council, in which it was stated that money saved by the closure would be used to employ more civilian staff, thus freeing up Police Officers.

Of the 3 stations in the area, the Suite at Dover Police Station is necessary because of the Port, Folkestone is 'in the middle' and Ashford is the most expensive per prisoner. It was also stated that policing in east Kent would improve as police vehicles would travel through the area when returning from Folkestone. Cllr Honey said that the Borough Council was not convinced by the arguments, but had the impression that the Police would not be swayed by arguments to the contrary.

Cllr Spokes said that were the closure to go ahead it had been estimated that handover time of prisoners should reduce from an average of 72 minutes to a claimed 20 minutes. Any reduction was to be welcomed particularly as the figure of 72 minutes was, in practice, often higher. He stated that facilities at Folkestone were of a higher standard than at Ashford.

Cllr Honey stated that he had been informed that the Magistrates' Court would remain for 18 months, but commitment to a longer term had not been given.

Cllr Spokes felt that the effects of the closure should be measured were it to take place.

The Community Warden stated that there were now 16 fewer Police Officers in Ashford than 5 years ago – officers are deployed where there is the greatest need and Ashford has the lowest crime rate in our police area.

The Vice-Chairman concluded by saying that the Parish Council would await the decision.

6. **Report from Community Warden**

The Warden reported that he had been on annual leave in August, and had covered the area over 9 days and 2 Saturdays. Brabourne continues to be quiet. He had attended the Kent Finals of the Wardens' Area Football Tournament, and hoped to enter a team from the villages next year. He had also been giving advice to visitors to the Kent Fire and Rescue Open Day at Ashford Fire Station.

The Warden reported that he had written an article about bogus callers for the parish magazine.

He informed the Council that PC Darren Laker would be taking over from PC Alison Barney. He noted the concerns of the Parish Council as to the size of the area covered but stated that it was a low crime area.

The Vice-Chairman asked about the Mobile Police Station and was informed that this would, in future, be manned by Police Support Officers, to reduce the pressure on Police Officers.

7. **To receive the Report of the Planning Committee**

Brought forward from item 8 with the Vice-Chairman's permission.

The Vice-Chairman read the report of the Planning Committee. Of 4 applications received, 2 had been permitted, 1 refused (09/00819/AS Clovelly) and a decision on the fourth awaited.

The following application was discussed:

09/01055/AS Ivy Cottage, Canterbury Road, Brabourne TN25 5LL

The Vice-Chairman suspended the meeting at 7.50pm to allow the applicants, who were present at the meeting, to address the Parish Council with regard to the application.

The meeting reconvened at 8.05pm and after debate:

Resolved:

That the Parish Council support the application.

8. Financial Report

Resolved:

That the following payments be agreed in accordance with the Budget.

Payments

Details	£
Clerk (salary April – September)	1481.38
Clerk (use of home allowance July – August)	7.42
Clerk (office and travel expenses)	43.66
KALC (purchase of Arnold-Baker)	16.85
Westwell Parish Council (contribution to submission to NALC – Power of Well Being)	4.29
Mrs B Rich (salary)	137.52

Receipts

Details	£
Lloyds TSB interest	0.36

Balance: £ 5477.92

To consider a request for a contribution to the Kent Tree and Pond Warden Schemes.

After debate:

Resolved:

That the request for a donation to the schemes be refused.

The Vice-Chairman thanked the Tree Warden for her work on behalf of the parish and asked that the Parish Council's appreciation be recorded.

A request for a donation from Marie Curie Cancer Care was received.

Resolved:

That the request be refused but that an appeal on the charity's behalf be placed on the village noticeboard.

Distribution of Fordred's Charity payments

Councillors were advised that distribution will be discussed at the next meeting.

The Clerk advised that the balance of the Precept and Concurrent Functions Grant was due at the end of September.

The Vice-Chairman Invited Cllr Honey to present a report.

Cllr Honey stated that the new Chief Executive for Ashford Borough Council is to meet borough councillors in each ward to discuss local concerns. Cllr Honey reported that he would raise the Lorry Park and poor recycling facilities in the parish.

9. Retention of Planning Applications

Applications submitted to Ashford Borough Council from 1984 on are now available on its website.

Resolved:

That planning applications Permitted by the Borough Council need not be retained by the Parish Council, but can be disposed of immediately.

The Clerk advised that following consultation with Mr Oliver Peel, Senior Planning Officer Ashford Borough Council, as applications are in the public domain they can be disposed of without the need for special precautions such as shredding.

Further resolved:

That planning applications Refused by the Borough Council be retained.

Further resolved:

That planning applications Permitted by the Borough Council but thought to be controversial be retained.

10. Report from KALC Representative

New Standing Orders are to be issued by NALC next year.

11. Memorial to Cllr Moreton

In the absence of the Chairman, discussion is held over until the next meeting. Cllr Spokes reported that the Scout Hall had been renamed the Moreton Hall.

12. Report from the Tree Warden

- The Tree Warden advised that the replacement for the accidentally felled memorial tree would be a smaller tree because of budget constraints. It was felt that the smaller tree would suffer from competition with the established birches, and may be vulnerable to vandalism. Councillors asked if there was an insurance liability, given that the tree was felled by a contractor. The Tree Warden noted that there may be practical difficulties planting a larger tree. Planting on a different plot was discussed but ruled out.

Resolved:

That the Clerk write to the Landscape Officer, Mr P Cook, stating that a smaller tree would not be an acceptable replacement, and that a similar sized tree to that felled should be planted.

- News articles by the Tree Warden are on the parish website.
- An inventory of ancient woodlands in the borough has been published, and is available on the Borough Council website.
- The fungus on the green at The Warren was identified and found not to be poisonous. It will die back in winter.

13. Frequency of Grass Cutting on the green at The Warren

The grass is cut monthly, but a complaint had been received that the area was unkempt. The Clerk presented a quote from the contractors for additional cuts on the green at The Warren.

After debate:

Resolved:

That additional cuts are unnecessary at present.

14. Recycling Facilities

A letter has been received from the Kent Air Ambulance inviting the Parish Council to have a textile recycling bank. Possible location on the Playing Field or at the Village Hall was discussed, but permission would have to be sought from the Management Committees of both associations as they are not Parish Council property.

Cllr Spokes noted that the newspaper collection was from the Playing Field, and it may be possible to site a textile bank here. Glass recycling would not be permitted on safety grounds.

Cllr Honey advised that extension of the blue box scheme to Brabourne had been postponed because of financial restraints. In answer to a question from the Vice-Chairman, Cllr Honey was unsure if the borough's recycling targets were being met. Discussions are taking place over the borough's Waste Strategy, and consideration is being given to cooperating with other councils when tendering waste contract - Canterbury, Dover and Thanet act together.

The Vice-Chairman noted that the blue box scheme had been extended to Aldington.

Resolved:

That the Clerk write to Ashford Borough Council asking that Brabourne be included in the blue box scheme.

15. Policing in Brabourne Parish

The Parish Council had received a reply to its request under the Freedom of Information Act re the area covered by the neighbourhood officer, and concern was expressed as to its extent. Cllr Spokes advised that while these officers were frontline they were not responsive - officers from Ashford or Folkestone would respond to emergency calls. Neighbourhood officers would 'follow up'.

PC Laker is to be invited to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

16. Wreath Laying at the Service of Remembrance

The Vice-Chairman is to lay the wreath at the service on 8th November.

17. Any Other Business

- Cllr Mrs Bewick reported a minor accident to an elderly walker on the footpath near St Mary's Brabourne. This is to be passed to the Footpaths' Officer.
- Cllr Spokes thanked the Parish Council for its past support for the Brabourne and Smeeth Football Club, and expressed the wish that it continue. He reported that there were now 60 children in 5 age groups and the Club is continuing to grow. A request for a further donation to the club is to be put on the next meetings agenda. The Vice-Chairman thanked Cllr Spokes for his hard work at the Club.
- The Clerk reported that the public phone service at East Brabourne is to be retained.
- The Clerk advised that the Kent Minerals and Waste Development Framework Sustainability Appraisal is out for consultation.
- The first review of the draft Statement of Community Involvement is out for consultation and is to be circulated to all Councillors for comment.
- Nominations for the Citizenship Award are invited, and should be submitted to the Parish Council before the meeting in January.

18. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 23rd November (Budget meeting) at 7.00pm in Brabourne Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

