

BRABOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council
Held at 7.00pm on Monday 23rd November 2009
At Brabourne Village Hall

1. Present

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

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Honey and Wood (borough councillors).

3. Declaration of Interest

A Declaration of Interest was received from Cllr Spokes re Consideration of a contribution to Smeeth and Brabourne Football Club (item 7) (personal).

4. Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 21st September be approved and confirmed as a true record.

5. Matters Arising

• **Provision for young people/skateboard Facility**

The Community Warden reported that the Community 'Outreach' Van would not be visiting until early 2010 due to budget restraints and staff cuts. 3 previous visits had been unsuccessful as the organizers had failed to publicise the events or notify the Warden. He will promote the visits when the dates are known and will take the opportunity to engage with the young people as to facilities they would like to see.

• **Roads and footways**

- a) The Community Liaison officer met the Clerk on 5th October and complaints about Pilgrims Way were passed on.
- b) Smeeth Parish Council has been advised that Church Road and Pound Lane are now in such a poor state of repair that resurfacing is required.
- c) Cllr Wickham (KCC) has submitted a request for funding traffic calming measures at Brabourne School.
- d) The street cleaning schedule is being circulated via the Kentish Express, parish magazine and website in order that parked cars be moved to enable a proper clean.
- e) The priority change, caused when white lines were painted in the wrong place at the East Brabourne junction, has been raised again with Highways.
- f) The footbridge near St Mary's Church has been repaired.
- g) The Chairman is to attend the Highways seminar on 25th November.
- h) KCC is to introduce a scheme in 2010 under which contractors have to obtain a permit before commencing work. It is hoped that this will expedite repairs and reduce inconvenience.
- i) The Chairman is to participate in the annual Highways Tracking Survey.
- j) Flooding near Brabourne and Smeeth Schools is to be reported to Highways.

• **Church Road Footpath**

An application to designate the path a Public Right of Way has been submitted by Smeeth Parish Council.

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

The Clerk advised that the Chief Constable is to take the decision in late November. Cllr Wickham (county councillor) has reported that all comments have been passed to Mr Fuller.

- **Recycling facilities**

Mr P Jackson (Head, Environmental Services ABC) has said that budget constraints mean that the blue box scheme cannot be extended to Brabourne at present. There is to be a review in 2010.

6. Report from Community Warden

The Warden reported that Halloween was quiet. An initial straw poll of teenagers has indicated that they would use the Community Van, and that support for a skateboard facility has declined. He was seconded to Wye for 2 weeks to support the Warden; the Chairman asked that he be informed if the Warden is recalled to Wye.

Following the success of 2 'community days' in Aldington, the Parish Council accepted the Warden's offer to organize similar events in Brabourne. It is likely that these will be joint community projects with Smeeth and suggestions are invited.

The Warden has assisted the Aldington PCSO with the speed indicator and the Parish Council is to press that this be repeated in Brabourne.

An article on seasonal crime prevention has been written for the parish magazine.

Complaints have been received about vehicles parking on pavements, although it is recognized that it is not always possible to avoid this where there is no off-road parking along narrow roads. A request for considerate parking was not published by the Kentish Express, and therefore other ways of promoting this are being considered.

Operation Reflect will come to the parish in January/February: Police will be canvassing the opinion of householders re policing.

7. Financial Report

Resolved:

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

Payments

Details	£
S Wood (Fordred's Charity reimbursement)	165.00
Mrs B Rich (salary)	156.39
Smeeth and Brabourne Football Club	300.00
St Mary PCC	500.00

Receipts

Details	£
Lloyds TSB interest	0.54
Ashford Borough Council (Precept and Concurrent Functions Grant)	5475.92
Fordred's Charity	168.00

Total balance: £10000.99

To consider a request for a contribution to the Smeeth and Brabourne Football Club.

After debate:

Resolved:

That a contribution of £300 be made to the Football Club.

To consider a request for a donation to Victim Support.

After debate:

Resolved:

That the request be refused.

To consider a request for a donation to Kent Air Ambulance Trust.

After debate:

Resolved:

That the request be refused.

The Clerk presented the draft Budget.

After debate:

Resolved:

That the Budget for 2010-2011 be approved (copy attached).

8. Memorial to Cllr Moreton

Brought forward from item 11 with the Chairman's permission.

The Chairman reported that, following discussions with the Headteacher of Brabourne School and with Mrs Moreton, this is to be an award to a Year 6 pupil for an 'Outstanding Contribution to School Life'. The award is likely to be a book prize to the value of £30-£50, but the choice would be made by the school. The Vice-chairman asked who would nominate the winner – the Chairman advised that discussions were ongoing but it would probably be the school. He noted that he and Mrs Clayton had presented the 'Endeavour Cup' for a child who had 'tried hard', and the criteria for the Moreton Award would be similar. Cllr Spokes noted that the new award would complement the existing 4 or 5 cups. A bookplate would need to be designed for inclusion on the flyleaf of the prize. Cllr Mrs Whitehead asked for how many years the award would continue to be made, and the Chairman replied that this would be for a future council to decide. The Vice-chairman suggested that any money left over from the purchase of the prize in a given year could be carried forward. Cllr Spokes welcomed the continuing association of the late Cllr Moreton with the school and felt that this award would accord with his wishes.

The Chairman suspended the meeting at 8.07pm for a comfort break. The meeting recommenced at 8.12pm.

9. To receive the Report of the Planning Committee

The Chairman of the Planning Committee reported that 6 applications had been received. 3 were supported, objections raised to 1 and no comment to 1. Comments have yet to be submitted for the 6th.

10. Retention of Planning Applications

See item 9 of the meeting of 21st September.

11. Report from KALC Representative

The Clerk had been unable to attend either the last meeting on 7th October or the AGM on 14th November. The next meeting is on 2nd December at which Mrs Anne Barnes (Chair of the Police Authority) will speak and take questions. The Ashford Area has offered support re traffic calming at Brabourne School – this was welcomed.

12. Report from the Tree Warden

- The Tree Warden advised that she gave a talk to the Horticultural Society in September.
- She has given advice on tree matters to 3 members of the public. 1 concerned trees affected by building work: as a result of this the Tree Officer is to liaise with the Planning Officer.
- A site meeting was held on The Warren regarding the replacement for the memorial tree. 3 sorbus trees are to be planted before the end of the year. 2 plaques will be put up, including the original. It is hoped to have a planting ceremony, to which Mrs M Fortescue will be invited (given that the original had been planted by the late Cllr Fortescue). The Tree Warden is to liaise with the Chairman and the Clerk re organisation. The Kentish Express will be invited.
- A request for support for the BTCV Kent Heritage Trees Project has been received. The Council's help in promoting the project is sought, together with an invitation for community groups to become involved. These are to be passed to the school and to the Scouts.

13. To adopt the Service Level Agreement between Ashford Borough Council and local councils

After debate:

Resolved:

That Brabourne Parish Council adopt the Service Level Agreement with Ashford Borough Council.

14. Any other business

- Cllr Mrs Bewick asked about the provision of disabled parking in the parish, and was advised that applications should be made via ABC.
- Cllr Mrs Bewick noted that the phone kiosk is dilapidated – the Clerk advised that this has been raised with BT and will be painted in 2010.
- Cllr Spokes reported potholes in Hythe Road near the Caldecott Foundation – Highways are to be notified.
- The Chairman noted that Rev Simpson has received information about a Channel 4 documentary to be made about English villages. Brabourne's details have been submitted by the Chairman.
- A request has been received from Smeeth Parish Council regarding the possibility of joining the Brabourne website. The Parish Council welcomes the approach, which is to be further explored.
- A & C Play Consultants have offered their services as fundraisers. This is to be declined.
- KCC have produced an online guide to creating wildlife habitats – this is to be passed to the school.
- Kent Downs and Marshes Leader Scheme has circulated information re funding, but there are not thought to be any qualifying projects in the parish.

15. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Brought forward from item 17 with the Chairman's permission.

Monday, January 25th 2010 at 7.00pm in Brabourne Village Hall.

Thereafter: 29th March (after the Annual Parish Meeting), 17th May (Annual Meeting of the Parish Council), 12th July, 20th September and 22nd November.

The Chairman suspended the meeting at 8.55pm to allow members of the public to raise any concerns. Trees on the verge near Court Lodge Barn are thought to need attention – this is to be passed to Highways.

16. Resolution to exclude the public

Resolved:

That 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 the following, namely item 17, Distribution of Fordred's Charity payments.

Following the passing of the Resolution in item 16, the Chairman suspended the public part of the meeting to allow item 17 to be debated. The four members of the public present then left the meeting.

Before departing, Mr P Scotton (former Clerk) again thanked the Parish Council for his retirement gifts.

17. Distribution of Fordred's Charity payments

After debate:

Resolved:

That the payments be distributed as agreed.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.