

BRABOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council
Held at 7.00pm on Monday 25th January 2010
At Brabourne Baptist Church

1. Present

Cllr Clayton (Chairman), Cllr Ede (Vice-Chairman), Cllrs Mrs Bewick, Mrs Whitehead, Mrs Young, Hickmott, Spokes and Mrs S Wood (Clerk). Cllr Honey (borough councillor) and Mr R Sinden (Community Warden) also attended.

Four members of the public were present.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Wood (borough councillor).

3. Declaration of Interest

A Declaration of Interest was received from Cllr Mrs Young re item 13.

4. Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 23rd November be approved and confirmed as a true record.

5. Matters Arising

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

See item 6.

• **Roads and footways**

- a) Potholes along the entire stretch of Canterbury Road, from East Brabourne to Manor Pound Lane, have been reported to Highways. Repairs are scheduled for February.
- b) Highways has been notified of potholes along The Ridgeway and in Church Road.
- c) Carriageway repairs on the A20 carried out to an unsatisfactory standard have been rectified.
- d) A blocked gully was reported adjacent to Stable Cottage – this is to be reported to Highways.
- e) Cllr Spokes thanked operators of gritters and snowploughs for their recent efforts clearing roads in the parish during the recent bad weather.
- f) The salt bin in Manor Pound has disappeared – a replacement is to be requested.
- g) Investigations into possible traffic calming measures at Brabourne School are to be carried out by the Transportation Team from Highways.
- h) A new scheme is being introduced for residents when they apply for white lining to prevent obstructions to private access. Fees on application and for maintenance will be payable.
- i) Complaints about mud on the road in East Brabourne and damage to verges, possibly from agricultural vehicles, have been received and reported to Highways.

• **Church Road Footpath**

In hand with KCC.

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

Official notification of the closure has been received by the Parish Council. The Suite will close on 6th April 2010, after which those at Folkestone and Dover will be used.

• **Recycling facilities**

Smeeth Parish Council is discussing the possibility of installing recycling banks with the Playing Field Association, which will benefit from revenue raised. Cllr Wickham (county councillor) is to press for additional facilities when he meets Mr Bunnnett (CEO, ABC). Mr Ruck has noted a continuing decline in the amount of newspaper recycled; together with the closure of Rainbows this has led to a drop in funds

for the Scouts and Guides. Promotion of the paper collection was discussed. The outcome of the Smeeth Parish Council initiative is awaited.

6. Report from Community Warden

The Warden reported that the Youth and Community Van had been due to visit on 13th January, although the time and date had not been confirmed by the service until the day before. This did not allow for adequate promotion of the visit, which was rescheduled for 20th January. For reasons as yet unknown the Van did not return. The Community Warden is to ask for 3 visits in April/May, which will be advertised, and if there is insufficient support from the young people subsequent visits will be cancelled.

Following expressions of support for a Community Day from both Parish Councils, the Warden is to ask for ideas via the Parish News and Roundabout which will be put to the Councils. Residents will be asked to contact the Warden or the Clerk.

Untaxed cars are to be targeted in February.

Lead thefts are increasing.

The Warden is to participate in ABC's 'Operation Nutmeg' - an emergency exercise re flooding – and will present a report at the next Council meeting.

An incident of superglued car locks was reported at Christmas.

In answer to a question from the Chairman, the Warden confirmed that he had been contacted by PC Laker (neighbourhood officer).

The Chairman requested that 'Hawkeye' be present at the village fete on 12th June, and that 'No Waiting' and 'No Parking' signs be made available for the event.

The Warden reported complaints regarding use of shotguns.

7. Financial Report

Resolved:

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

Payments

Details	£
Mrs B Rich (salary)	139.20
Staples (ink and paper)	14.83
S Wood (ink and paper)	14.24
SLCC (annual subscription)	33.71

Receipts

Details	£
Lloyds TSB interest	0.65

Total balance: £ 9799.66

To consider a donation to the Village Hall Committee for kitchen refurbishment

The Chairman stated that the project was for kitchen improvements, to increase the available storage and conversion to provide a small meetings room. Likely costs are £20 – 25000, and an application is being made to the Colyer-Fergusson Fund for a grant. If approved the Fund would make a grant of 75% of the costs up to a maximum of £15000, and applications that could demonstrate community support are preferred. A one-off payment for the capital project is proposed, in addition to the annual payment towards revenue costs.

The Clerk advised that there were sufficient funds for an additional contribution.

In answer to a question from the Vice-chairman, the Chairman confirmed that considerable other fund-raising is taking place.

The Chairman proposed that a contribution of £1500 be made. A vote was taken and carried unanimously.

Resolved:

That a contribution of £1500 be made to the Village Hall committee for kitchen refurbishment.

To consider a donation to the Playing Field Association.

The Chairman stated that, after many years raising funds for the Association, Mrs Marchesi is to take a less active role – this could lead to a reduction in income. This may, however, be offset by possible income from the recycling initiative. This is to be further discussed when more information is available.

At the Chairman's invitation, Cllr Honey presented a report. He had met Mr J Bunnett at which they discussed recycling: ABC is trying to set up a joint recycling scheme with 3 other Kent authorities, which would be more economic. ABC is planning a waste separator station near Ashford. Cllr Honey offered support for the recycling initiative on the playing field.

A Freedom of Information Request for the list of alternative sites to the lorry park had been made by Cllr Honey and the Kentish Express. The Information Commissioner upheld an appeal against KCC's refusal to release the information, and unredacted reports had been sent to Cllr Honey and the newspaper. Having regard to the blight caused to the area and potential blight to the others involved, Cllr Honey stated that he would not at present be making the list public. He noted, however, that the list highlighted the lack of adequate analysis of the other sites. Opposition to the park is increasing, and includes the majority of local politicians.

A public meeting with the prospective Parliamentary Conservative candidate is to be held on 15th March in the village hall.

8. Report from the Planning Committee

The Chairman of the Planning Committee reported on 11 applications. 6 had been supported by the Parish Council and an objection made to 1. Comments were submitted on 2 others.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8.05pm to allow members of the public present to raise any concerns. An increase in dog fouling was reported. The Dog Warden and Community Warden are to be notified. Dog owners were reminded that it is an offence not to clear up after their animals, and dog bags are available free of charge from John Childs' garage. It was noted that Shepherd Neame has rented land to allotment holders in other areas, and the Parish Council was asked if a similar scheme was operating in Brabourne. This is to be followed up with the brewery.

9. Report from KALC Representative

The Chairman and Clerk attended. The Chair of the Kent Police Authority (Mrs Ann Barnes), the Chief Constable and 2 senior officers were guest speakers at the meeting. Disappointment was expressed that a presentation on the proposed closure of the Ashford Custody Suite was given rather than the expected question and answer session.

10. Memorial to Cllr Moreton

The Chairman asked if a figure for the book prize had been established. The Vice-chairman proposed that the value of the prize should be not more than £50. A vote was taken and carried unanimously.

Resolved:

That a book prize of up to £50 be awarded.

A book plate is to be designed, bearing the inscription 'The John Moreton Memorial Prize for an Outstanding Contribution to School Life. Presented to (name) in July (year) by Brabourne Parish Council. Signed (Chairman)'.

The school is to be asked to make the decision as to who should receive the prize, and to purchase an appropriate reference book. The school will be reimbursed by the Parish Council and the prize presented by a representative from the Council. The first award will be in July 2010.

The Clerk is to write to the Head seeking his agreement to the proposals and inviting comments.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8.20pm for a 5 minute comfort break.

11. Report from the Tree Warden

- The Tree Warden stated that there was nothing to report from Brabourne.
- 2 incidents of tree felling were reported in Smeeth. 1 did not involve protected trees and the other is being investigated by the Tree Officer, ABC.

12. Circulation of correspondence

Following discussion of the current procedure, it was agreed that the Clerk would continue to circulate correspondence of interest. It was further agreed that fewer items be bundled together before being sent round, and that the circulation list be amended.

13. Brabourne Post Office – Government consultation re banking at the PO

The Government is consulting on the future of banking at the Post Office. It was agreed that any service that promoted the strength and longevity of the local PO is to be welcomed. The Clerk is to submit the views of the Parish Council. Residents are encouraged to express their own views; the consultation is being publicised at the PO, in Parish News and on the parish website.

14. Any other business

- Cllr Mrs Bewick reiterated the problems with potholes on roads throughout the parish.
- The Chairman announced, with regret, that he would be standing down from the Parish Council in May, for personal reasons. This was received with great regret by all present, who wished him well in his retirement.
- The Clerk advised that a public meeting on Council Tax is being held by The Local Board on 10th February, 7.15pm in Civic Centre, Ashford.
- A questionnaire on potential sites for orchards and existing, has been received. Passed to Cllr Mrs Whitehead.

15. Date and Time of Next Meeting

29th March, immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting which begins at 7.00pm, at Brabourne Baptist Church.

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, Citizenship Award..

After the Resolution in item 16 was passed, the Chairman suspended the public part of the meeting to enable item 17 to be debated. The members of the public present left the meeting.

17. Citizenship Award

The 5 nominations received were discussed. The Award is to be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.