

Brabourne Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 22nd March 2021 at 7.30pm virtually via Zoom.

To be actioned by

1.	Present	
	<p>Cllr Hickmott (Chairman), Cllrs Atkins, Harbottle, Spokes, Mrs Smith, Tanner and Mrs Block (Clerk). 3 members of the public were present.</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed the members of the public.</p>	
2.	Apologies	
	Apologies were received from Cllr Howard (ward member) and Cllr Mrs Young.	
3.	Declarations of Interest	
	There were no declarations of interest.	
4.	Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 25th January 2021	
	<p>Resolved: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 25th January 2021 be approved and confirmed as a true record.</p>	
5.	Matters Arising	
	<p>A question was received regarding the speed limit request by the School. This is still in hand.</p> <p>Tree work on the Warren – The low level work has been completed by the Village Caretaker. High level work has been completed by Inidica Forestry. The work close to power lines has been delayed by UK Power Networks and so the Parish Council is unable to meet their duty of care.</p> <p>Telephone box – in acceptable condition, a bit of rust at the bottom of the door which will need repair. There are some books in the phone box, Cllr Hickmott has been exchanging xbooks between Kennington, East Brabourne and Evegat. Some children's books have been deposited but have not been dumped, rather that they are being swapped.</p> <p>Citizenship Award – the Parish News and the Newsletter will have an article. Jon rose was very humbled to receive the award and he was very deserving.</p>	
6.	Borough councillor's report	
	<p>William Howard had sent a report, this had been circulated to the Councillors ahead of the meeting.</p> <p>A report for the newsletter from Cllr Howard has not been forthcoming.</p> <p>There was interest in the Amazon warehouse and the Netflix studios in Newtown.</p>	
7.	Financial Report	

	<p>1. To agree payments in accordance with the Budget</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="268 232 1152 721"> <tr> <td>David Ansley (Litter picker)</td> <td>£204.92</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tracey Block (February salary)</td> <td>£399.77</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tracey Block (March salary)</td> <td>£399.57</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td>£199.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clerk's half yearly expenses</td> <td>£97.28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Smeeth Parish Council (50% dog poo bags - £396/annum)</td> <td>£198.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>St Mary's Church, Brabourne</td> <td>£250.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brabourne and Smeeth Scouts and Guides</td> <td>£300.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J Rose (Citizenship award)</td> <td>£100.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Village Hall (donation as set out in budget)</td> <td>£1750.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Playing Field Assn (as set out in the budget)</td> <td>£2100.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>A copy of the Financial Statement and the Budget over Expenditure as of 28th February 2021.</p> <p>2. To note the Financial Position of the Parish Council The current bank balance is £36209.06 with no cheques outstanding.</p> <p>3. To review the donation to St Mary's Church, Brabourne There was a discussion regarding the upkeep of the Churchyard. Cllr Atkins suggested that an additional £250 could be provided. There was a discussion surrounding the exceptional circumstances due to fundraising not being possible due to COVID. Cllr Mrs Smith seconded this; all were in favour.</p> <p>Cllr Spokes asked that the groups we provide grants to provide evidence to back up their request. For example, providing a simple profit and loss. However, these are voluntary donations by the parish council and in many cases are not actually requests. Cllr Hickmott suggested that we state that any increases in these donations are due to the exceptional situation COVID has placed the whole country in. The donations will be reviewed annually in any event and the situation noted at that time.</p> <p>4. To review the donation to the Playing Fields Association This review is for Rush Community NOT the Playing Fields Association. The PFA donation has been agreed as per the budget, Cllr Hickmott proposed £300 to Rush Community, Cllr Mrs Tanner seconded this, all in favour. The Clerk will raise a cheque for this.</p>	David Ansley (Litter picker)	£204.92	Tracey Block (February salary)	£399.77	Tracey Block (March salary)	£399.57	HMRC	£199.80	Clerk's half yearly expenses	£97.28	Smeeth Parish Council (50% dog poo bags - £396/annum)	£198.00	St Mary's Church, Brabourne	£250.00	Brabourne and Smeeth Scouts and Guides	£300.00	J Rose (Citizenship award)	£100.00	Village Hall (donation as set out in budget)	£1750.00	Playing Field Assn (as set out in the budget)	£2100.00	
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8.	Planning report																							
	<p>8.1 To receive the report of the Planning Committee</p> <p>A copy of the Planning Committee report was circulated, and a copy is kept on file with these minutes.</p>																							

The Chairman advised that planning application **20/01336/AS (Smeeth Hill House, Smeeth)** has been refused.

The Chairman advised that there was no further news on planning application **20/00955/AS (Missingham Farm)**.

Planning Application 21/00464/AS & Listed Building Consent Application 21/00465/AS)

- The Oast House, 4 The Malthouses, Canterbury Road - Replacement of 3 no. existing 1990's windows (like for like).

It was felt that the proposals would help to maintain the fabric of a listed building. It was proposed that the Parish Council support the application.

Resolved:

That the Parish Council support the application.

Planning Application 21/00357/AS - Five Bells, The Street - External detached bar to rear garden of Public House.

The meeting was suspended to allow members of the public to address the Council.

It was highlighted that the application appears to make no mention of lighting or music and it was considered that an outside bar might cause noise issues. The new owners are neighbourly. Concern was expressed regarding the number of planning applications at this property over the years. There was concern that the paving may require permission and whether restrictions could be imposed to minimise congregating around the bar.

The meeting was reconvened.

It was noted that the Environmental Officer has commented on the potential adverse effects on the residential amenity of neighbouring properties.

It was queried whether the proposals would affect the commercial capacity of the premises. Previously there has been a gazebo in the car park and this caused problems with customer parking. There have been issues on this site and it was noted that it has changed much in recent times.

It was noted that the pub is an important local business and community asset. It was further noted that the residential amenity issues as detailed by the Environmental Officer will need to be addressed for the proposals to be considered acceptable.

Cllr Harbottle will circulate a response. It was proposed that a general comment be submitted.

Resolved:

That the Parish Council make a general comment on the application.

9.	Highways Improvement Plan and other Highways Issues	
	<p>Smeeth Parish Council are to have a Highways Improvement Plan (HIP). KCC do not support joint HIPs for more than one Parish Council. Cllr Hickmott suggested that the HIPs points raised are dovetailed to both Parish Councils.</p> <p>There will be possible confusion regarding some matters. If any improvement is required KCC will have to approve and the Parish Council is like to have to fund these improvements, although ABC and KCC councillor grants may be available to assist this.</p> <p>There was a question from a member of the public asking about a speed limit installation at East Brabourne. The Street in the past was deemed inappropriate for a 30 mile limit. This could be implemented under the HIP There is now a working vineyard at this sit but this may not make a difference. A speed limit check was undertaken 2 years ago and the speeds on The Street were averaging below 30 miles an hour and KCC decided there was no justification for a speed limit. The last straight by Penstock is a position where people speed. This could be added to the HIP.</p> <p>Potholes in Prospect way have been filled. Cllr Hickmott and Cllr Mrs Smith will report some additional potholes.</p>	
10.	PCSO's Report	
	The latest PCSO report had been circulated.	
11.	Village Caretaker Scheme	
	<p>The Caretaker Scheme continues to do well.</p> <p>A broken slat on a bench on the Warren has been repaired by the Caretaker.</p> <p>There will be a sale of logs/chippings, this will be placed in the newsletter and on the local Facebook page.</p>	MH
12.	Newsletter	
	The figures have been circulated. There is a good open rate and subscribers have crept up to 337.	
13.	Correspondence:	
	The Clerk reported that the A20 is to be resurfaced in the spring.	
14.	Open session	
	The members of public had no further comments to make.	
15.	Any Other Business	
	<p>The model design code (MHCLG) was questioned, the Ashford Area KALC Committee will be responding.</p> <p>Smeeth have a centenarian in the village. Cllr Hickmott suggested that a tree might be planted. RBL and the Centenarian are all keen to plant a flowering cherry on The Warren. It was agreed that this was permissible.</p>	

	<p>KALC Community Awards Scheme was notified late and it was suggested that we put together a joint nomination with Smeeth PC. This has been submitted, detail to be circulated by Cllr Hickmott.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Parish should thank Mike Donk Keeley for lighting the beacon week on week. A formal vote of thanks is to be sent to him. Cllr Mrs Tanner said that George Jessel would like to open his land up for a celebration when COVID is all over.</p>	
16.	Date and time of next meeting	
	Monday, 24 th May 2021 at 7.30pm, probably by Zoom.	
	The meeting closed at 9.01 pm	