

**SMEETH PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2013**  
**at Brabourne Baptist Church**

**1. Present**

Cllr Herrick (Vice-chairman) (DH), Cllr Mrs Williams (MW), Cllr Hinchliffe (MH), Cllr Plowright (IP), Cllr Thorpe (GT), Cllr Turner (MT) and Mrs S Wood (Clerk ) (SW). Cllr Wickham (KCC ) also attended.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Howard (ward member).

**3. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Plowright (Other Significant Interest): agenda item 7.1.6, Plain Road closures during works for the National Grid.

**4. Election of the Chairman and Vice-chairman**

**Resolved:**

**That Cllr Herrick be elected as Chairman**

**Resolved:**

**That Cllr Thorpe be elected as Vice-chairman.**

**5. Declaration of Acceptance of Office**

The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed by the Chairman and received by the Proper Officer of the Council.

**6. Minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

**Resolved:**

**That the Minutes of the meeting be approved and signed as a true record.**

**7. Matters Arising**

**7.1 Footpaths and Highways**

**7.1.1** Church Road footpath has been added to the Definitive map.

**7.1.2** A20 footpath. Cllr Wickham advised that budget constraints and perceived lack of use of the footpath eastbound from Church Road mean that the requested works will not be carried out. Cllr Plowright noted that the bank has encroached on to the footway and asked if this could be cleared. Cllr Wickham agreed to ask for an exploratory dig to check the soundness of the underlying path.

**7.1.3** £6,000,000 was made available for resurfacing works by KCC Highways, for the county as a whole. Following support from Cllr Wickham, Church Road was included and will be resurfaced on 15<sup>th</sup> March.

**7.1.4** Find and Fix for potholes has been reintroduced.

**7.1.5** Drains at the entrance to Mersham le Hatch were reported to KCC Highways, as yet no action – Clerk to pursue.

**7.1.6** Footpath closures to allow for refurbishment of overhead power lines begin on 31<sup>st</sup> March. Cllr Plowright advised that he attended a meeting with National Grid and Stagecoach and work on the lines crossing Plain Road are scheduled to start on 9<sup>th</sup> April. Plain Road will be closed for the duration – up to 4 weeks. The PC and all residents will be notified. There will be changes to bus timetables and routes – these will be published in Parish News. No date has yet been fixed for the second stage of the works.

**7.1.7** Overgrown vegetation in Knatchbull Way: Cllr Thorpe to check.

**7.1.8** Damage to verges by buses at the Canterbury Road/Plain Road junction: raised by Cllr Plowright at the meeting in 7.1.6. KCC Highways is to be asked to install a safety barrier.

**7.1.9** Verge opposite Manor Leaze: damaged by turning cars. Graham Kingston (Community Warden) to be asked to monitor.

**7.1.10** Cllr Plowright queried liability if a bus collides with a car forced across the carriageway by overgrown vegetation. Cllr Plowright is to ask for data on

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SW/GK

passenger numbers in a Freedom of Information request.

Cllr Wickham noted that the Quality Bus Partnership between ABC and bus companies meets to discuss such concerns; ABC contacts are Paul Jackson (Member Services) and Ray Wilkinson.

- 7.1.11** Cllr Hinchliffe stated that many footpaths on the Ordnance Survey cannot be distinguished. The PROW office at Penstock Hall is to be asked for its policy/action re unmarked footpaths.

**7.2 Speeding in Smeeth** Cllr Plowright advised that there are now 9 fully trained volunteers, 1 having dropped out. Risk assessments have been carried out. A ward member community grant of £300 has been approved by Cllr Howard towards purchase of Speed Indicator equipment. Cllr Wickham stated that KCC elections are to be held in May, and therefore no applications for grants to KCC can be made until after the elections. Cllr Wickham suggested partnering with other parishes to use the equipment – this would strengthen the case for a grant. Cllrs Hinchliffe and Plowright stated that it is hoped to carry out Speedwatch 3 times per week and statistics show that this could lead to an 80% decrease in speeding.

**7.3 Parking in Sandy Place** Following discussion at the Annual Parish Meeting, nothing further to report.

**7.4 Land behind Fortescue Place** Following discussion at the Annual Parish Meeting, nothing further to report.

## 8. Community Warden's report

No report in Mr Kingston's absence.

Cllr Plowright advised that PC Laker is returning as the Neighbourhood Officer – this was welcomed.

## 9. Financial Report

### 7.1 To agree payments in accordance with the Budget.

**Resolved:**

**That the following payments be made in accordance with the Budget.**

#### Payments

Details	£
WW Electrical (flamstore)(Allotment Society)	100.00
S Wood (net salary February)	212.15
S Wood (net salary March)	212.15
S Wood (expenses Oct-March)	125.37
ACRK (annual subscription)	35.00
Playing Field Association (donation)	600.00
Footpaths Association (donation)	10.00
Village Hall Association (donation)	700.00
Barbara Podd (salary)	74.28

#### Receipts

Details	£
NatWest interest	2.43
Street cleansing grant	619.71
ABC Member Community Grant (Speedwatch)	300.00

**Balance: £ 16580.05**

## 10. Planning Committee report

Cllr Thorpe (Planning Committee Chairman) reported on 3 applications:

Meadows, Church Road. Internal alterations to cellar.

No objections were raised but concerns expressed as to the apparent lack of ventilation.

Evegate Business Park. Solar panel array.

Larger panels than permitted under a previous application. No objections but a recommendation was made that the area be screened by a hedge for the visual amenity of neighbouring properties.

Manse Field. 2 semi-detached properties.

Numerous objections were made following which the plans were withdrawn and

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resubmitted. This application will be determined by the Planning Committee, ABC.

#### **11. KALC**

Cllr Herrick advised that the next meeting is on 20<sup>th</sup> March. Minutes of the meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> January have been circulated. A Planning Conference will be held on 23rd March.

#### **12. Emergency and Community Led Plans**

**10.1 Emergency Plan** Cllr Hinchliffe advised that the meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> March was postponed due to lack of a quorum. The future of the plan will therefore be discussed at a meeting in late March by Rev Simpson, Mr Graham and Cllrs Plowright and Hinchliffe.

**10.2 Community Led Plan** Cllr Plowright suggested that another village meeting be held to promote both plans and the consequences if these plans are not in place. Cllr Thorpe asked if other members could be co-opted, but this was thought unlikely due to apparent apathy for this and other village initiatives. Cllrs Hinchliffe, Plowright and Turner agreed that the Community Led Plan would be important in demonstrating evidence of need to guard against unwanted development. Brabourne Parish Council's Emergency Plan Cttee member had to drop out because of work commitments and has not been replaced, but Brabourne PC continues to support the Community Led Plan.

#### **13. Any Other Business**

**13.1** The Chairman will represent the Parish Council at the St George's day Parade.

**13.2** Biffa Waste has offered to attend a meeting to answer questions on the new waste contract; an invitation to attend the September meeting will be sent.

**13.3** There has been no response to Cllr Hinchliffe's submission on the Police Crime Plan.

**13.4** Comments on the Community Safety Assessment have been sent.

**13.5** Grants are being sought to fund improvements on the playing field football pitch.

**13.6** The Chairman advised that a large number of consultations have been received:

**13.6.1** Streamlining the planning process

**13.6.2** Modelling devolution (the Chairman to circulate)

**13.6.3** Local Needs Housing Review (noted that this is for parishes which have not yet undertaken the survey)

**13.6.4** Junction 10A scoping consultation – comments were submitted. Cllr Wickham noted that J10A will have to be funded by developers; there are concerns re the proposed layout which is felt to be inadequate. Cheeseman's Green improvements are dependent on J10A going ahead.

**13.7** Efforts are being made to resurrect the Police Forum, currently in abeyance.

**13.8** KALC Learning and Development Programme (the Chairman to circulate).

**13.9** Invitation to the 5<sup>th</sup> Rail Summit.

**13.10** Cllr Thorpe reported problems in Canterbury Road: a pothole and a tree overhanging the highway.

#### **14. County Councillor's report**

Cllr Wickham advised that the Operation Stack lorry park is unlikely to go ahead: a scheme has been proposed for a county wide network of smaller lorry parks to deal with the problem of overnight parking by HGVs, of more immediate concern than intermittent problems at the Channel ports. It should, however, be noted that the lorry park scheme has not been formally shelved.

KCC has held its council tax.

Cllr Wickham recommended that highway faults be reported via the Portal.

Contrary to the popular perception that pothole repairs are effected by the simple expedient of pouring tarmac into the hole and compressing it with a shovel, these are temporary repairs in an emergency. The team returns to carry out a permanent repair.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Wickham for his report and support.

#### **15. Resolution to exclude the public**

It is proposed 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 discussion of item 16, namely review of the Clerk's spinal column point.

**Resolved:**

**That the public and press be excluded during discussion of item 16, namely review of the Clerk's spinal column point.**

Following passing of the Resolution, Cllr Wickham left the meeting.

**16. Review of Clerk's spinal column point**

**Resolved:**

**That the Clerk's spinal column point be increased to 23.**

**17. Date and time of next meeting**

15<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00pm (the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council).

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.