

SMEETH PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council
Held at 7.00pm on Wednesday, 10TH November 2010
At Brabourne Baptist Church

1. Present

Cllr Austen (Chairman), Cllrs Lilley, Plowright, Thorpe, Turner and Mrs S Wood (Clerk).
The Community Warden, the Neighbourhood Officer (who arrived during item 7, after another meeting) and two members of the public were in attendance.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Herrick (illness), and Cllrs Wood and Honey (borough councillors).

The Chairman informed the Council that the Vice-chairman (Cllr Missing) has stepped down from the Council with immediate effect, because of pressures of work. Cllr Missing felt that these prevented him serving the parish in the way that he would wish and the parish deserved. The Council received this news with great regret and thanked Cllr Missing for his efforts on behalf of the parish; all councillors hoped that he would be able to return at a future date.

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 22nd September be approved and confirmed as a true record.

5. Matters Arising

• **Footpaths and Highways**

- a) Parish councillors had a meeting with the Highways (KHS) Community Liaison Officer on 4th October, to discuss problems in the parish.
- b) A letter has been sent by ABC to non-residents regarding parking in Sandy Place, and cards will be placed on windscreens of offending vehicles. The Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation.
- c) KHS has advised that it has spare capacity for additional works before the onset of winter. Problems re loose kerbstones and vegetation overhanging the footpath on The Ridgeway are to be reported.
- d) Stock fencing has been erected on the field opposite Smeeth School, including the 'footpath' that is the subject of a PROW application. The land agent is to be contacted.
- e) Repairs to the footpath on the A20, scheduled to begin on 6th September, were postponed, but there was a failure to inform the Parish Council. An apology has been received and the works rescheduled for March/April 2011.

• **Speeding in Smeeth**

Cllr Plowright advised that the Neighbourhood Officer (PC Laker) will be carrying out speed checks, and that he is liaising with the Community Warden (Mr Sinden) regarding the implementation of Speedwatch. Mr Sinden stated that his training in use of the equipment has been delayed until after Christmas, as the

instructor has been injured in an accident while working. Mr Sinden also noted that he hopes to set up Speedwatch with local volunteers.

Reports of speeding in Canterbury Road have been received.

- **Recycling facilities**

Some reservations have been expressed about the possible siting of recycling skips on the playing field car park. It is hoped that a representative from the Parish Council will be able to attend the next meeting of the Playing Field Association. The Clerk advised that a grant bid for hardstanding for skips has gone through to the second round. If successful, this grant would be for 50% of the cost, and must be match-funded.

- **Litter collection on the playing field**

Kent Probation Service is willing to carry out the occasional litter pick as part of the Community Payback Scheme, but a shortage of supervisory staff means that no dates have yet been given. Cllrs Lilley and Plowright stated that littering had been less of a problem recently. The Chairman suggested that a spring clean next year might be an appropriate time to start.

- **Church Road Composting**

Reports of possible continued composting activities have been passed to KCC via the Planning Dept, ABC.

6. **Report from Community Warden**

Mr Sinden stated that his recent talk to the Guides was well received. He is now trained to teach 5-18 year olds and parents about internet safety, and has been accredited which enables him to access CEOP's (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre) downloads and teaching aids.

Mr Sinden spent a day with the Crime Scene Investigators learning how evidence is preserved, and what action should be taken if he is first at the scene of a crime.

All four villages were visited at Halloween, with a problem noted in only one area due to a lack of adult supervision. No problems were reported on Bonfire Night.

Mr Sinden is liaising with Sharon McDermott of the Caldecott Foundation regarding callouts to the Fire and Rescue Services, with particular reference to false alarms. It is hoped that more involvement by pupils and rewards such as football coaching may reduce the incidence.

Problems with tractors are frequently reported, eg speeding, unsafe loads, unsafe practices. Mr Sinden is researching possible solutions, which will be implemented in the Spring in conjunction with PC Laker.

Fishing tackle was stolen from an outbuilding in early November.

Mr Sinden described his recent experiences of traffic calming in Norfolk, viz white 'gates' on either side of the highway, bearing 20mph signs, at the entrance to villages. It was noted that these can also be seen in Petham and Hawkinge. The Clerk is to contact KHS, and Petham and Hawkinge Parish Councils for more information.

The Chairman thanked the Community Warden for his report and feedback, and expressed his appreciation of the Warden's efforts.

7. **Financial Report**

Resolved:

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

Payments

Details	£
Mrs B Podd (salary)	70.38
S Wood (paper and ink)	12.23
S Wood (Charity repayments)	183.00
Smeeth and Brabourne Football Club	100.00

Receipts

Details	£
Precept	3795.50
Concurrent Functions Grant	543.26
NatWest interest	1.42
Smeeth Field - rent	175.00

Balance £ 13529.19

A request has been received for financial support from Smeeth and Brabourne Football Club.

After debate:

Resolved:

That provision be made in the Budget for financial support.

The Clerk presented the draft Budget for 2011-2012.

After debate:

Resolved:

That the Budget for 2011-2012 be approved and that the Precept remains unchanged.

The Chairman invited PC Laker to present his report.

Two crimes were reported in October, involving theft of a metal gate and a case of criminal damage. Two thefts were reported in early November: a digger and fishing tackle. There have been reports about possible incidents of poaching and hare coursing.

PC Laker stated that he has regular meetings with the Caldecott Foundation

Regular speed checks are being carried out, at differing times and locations.

Cllr Lilley felt it encouraging that there are so few problems in the village.

8. To receive the report of the Planning Committee

Three applications have been received but comments not yet submitted. Three Decision notices have been issued, all to permit.

9. Report from KALC representative

Minutes of the last meeting, on 6th October, are in circulation. The AGM is on 13th November, and the meeting scheduled for 1st December has been cancelled because of an emergency meeting of the Parish Forum.

10. Organisation of the 2011 Summer Fete

Brabourne Parish Council has not held a meeting since the proposal (to hold a public meeting in January) was put forward by Smeeth Parish Council.

11. Dates for meetings in 2011

19th January, 9th March, 11th May, 13th July, 14th September, 9th November, 18th January 2012.

12. Any Other Business

- The Clerk advised that the Borough Council will post the notices advertising the casual vacancy arising from Cllr Missing's resignation. Cllr Turner noted that Cllr Missing's extensive local knowledge will be

missed. The council requested that the Clerk send a letter to Cllr Missing expressing their gratitude for his service.

- Elections for Vice-chairman and Chairman of the Planning Committee will take place at the next meeting.
- Cllr Plowright advised that he is unable to attend the Police Forum on 1st December due to a clash with the Parish Forum. Cllr Lilley hopes to attend.
- Consultations have been received on the licensing of street traders in the borough, and licensing sex shops and sexual entertainment venues. The Parish Council will respond to the former.

13. Resolution to exclude the public

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 14, namely Distribution of Fordred's Charity payments.

Although Mr Sinden, PC Laker and the member of the public had left the meeting, the Resolution was passed in order that other members of the public could be excluded if they joined the meeting.

14. Distribution of Fordred's Charity payments

Resolved:

That Cllrs Lilley and Thorpe distribute the payments as agreed.

15. Date and time of next meeting.

19th January 2011, at 7.00pm in Brabourne Baptist Church.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.