

**SMEETH PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council**  
**Held at 7.00pm on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> July 2010**  
**At Brabourne Baptist Church**

**1. Present**

Cllr Austen (Chairman), Cllrs Missing (Vice-chairman), Herrick, Plowright and Mrs S Wood (Clerk).  
The Community Warden and one member of the public were in attendance.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Lilley, Thorpe and Turner (prior commitments) and Cllrs Honey and Wood.

**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 19<sup>th</sup> May be approved and confirmed as a true record.**

**5. Matters Arising**

- **Church Road Footpath**

In hand with KCC.

- **Provision for young people**

The Community Warden reported that the Youth Van is now visiting Aldington weekly, with an attendance of over 30. It is thought that the lack of interest from Smeeth is due to changing demographics, and the situation will be reviewed in about 6 months' time.

- **Footpaths and Highways**

- a) The following are to be taken up with Highways: remaining potholes in Church Road; lack of progress in repairs to A20 footpath; poor state of repair of the A20 at Smeeth compared with areas elsewhere in the UK (as reported by Cllr Thorpe); drains on the A20 between Mer sham Le Hatch and The Ridgeway may be silted up, as evidenced by plant growth.

- b) Lodge House footpath: in hand with the PROW office.

- c) Bus stop improvements: a complaint has been received that the stop In Plain Road near John Childs' garage was not included in the programme. Photographs have been sent to Highways and it is understood that the borough council had objected to the works, as the stop is on the green. Highways are investigating.

- d) Parking in Sandy Place: a response is still awaited from the borough council. It is thought unlikely that the borough would be able to fund any works, and self help would not be possible on Health and Safety grounds. The Community Warden suggested that permission be sought from the borough council to drive across the grass verge and so park in gardens, and will discuss this with Carole Winder and draft a letter to this effect for residents. The Chairman felt that a site meeting would be useful, the Clerk is to liaise with Tracy Kerly (Head of Housing).

- e) The Footpaths' Association is to follow up a complaint that has been received about an obstruction on a path in Hatch Park, although it is unclear if it is an official footpath.

- **Speeding in Smeeth**

Cllr Plowright reported that It had not been possible to discuss this at the last Police Forum, due to extended discussion on other topics, but Cllr Lilley is to pursue it with Insp Frayne at the Police Forum sub-committee meeting. Cllr Plowright further reported that Speedwatch equipment is now available for use by parishes. The Community Warden advised that he is to undergo the relevant training.

- **Recycling facilities**

Cllr Plowright stated that the Clerk had passed the specifications for the concrete base to Cllr Lilley, and quotes are now being sought from contractors, on receipt of which Grant applications will be submitted. The Vice-chairman described a small recycling site in Lenham, and is to bring further information to the next meeting.

- **Litter collection on the playing field**

The Community Payback project has been contacted re the possibility of regular litter picking on the field, and a reply is awaited.

- **Circulation of correspondence via email**

This is thought to be working well, and will be reviewed again after a longer period.

## 6. **Report from Community Warden**

The Community Warden advised that the Support Warden has now taken a post with Sure Start, and this enables him to be more flexible vis-à-vis working hours, as the Support Warden was not allowed to work in the evening. He reported that he had attended the Village Fete, had been a guest speaker at the Monday Club and had been involved in the 2 week programme 'Ashford's Safety in Action'. During the latter he had taught Road Safety to about 1600 children.

Car sales on the A20 verges appeared to have ceased.

The Warden stated that he would not be working full weeks until the end of August, because of leave and forthcoming dentistry.

He reported various crime incidents, including the theft of a van, carp-fishing equipment and satellite navigation equipment.

The Vice-chairman stated that when the Custody Suite closed, rural areas had been promised that Police vehicles would return to Ashford from Folkestone via the villages, thus increasing Police presence. This did not appear to be happening and there was a suggestion that the necessary instruction had not been given. The Warden is to pursue the matter.

## 7. **Financial Report**

### **Resolved:**

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

#### Payments

Details	£
Mrs B Podd (salary)	104.40
Information Commissioner (DPA renewal)	35.00
S Wood (mechanical litter picker)	18.39
Audit Commission (audit fee)	141.00
S Wood (paper and envelopes)	6.19
Ashford Borough Council (repayment of unused portion of Concurrent Functions Grant)	275.61

#### Receipts

Details	£
NatWest interest	1.34

HMRC – VAT refund	113.73
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Balance: £ 11313.47

**To consider a donation to the Playing Field Association**

The Chairman advised that the accounts for the year to March 2010 are still awaited, and discussion will be held over until such time as they have been received.

The Clerk advised that the Annual Return is now complete having been approved by the Audit Commission.

**8. To receive the report of the Planning Committee**

The Chairman of the Planning Committee reported that no applications have been received. Earthworks at Walnut Tree Farm will be monitored.

**9. Report from KALC representative**

Cllr Herrick reported that he attended the meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, and the Minutes are in circulation. The next meeting is 21<sup>st</sup> July and a meeting is also to be held between Insp Frayne and parish councillors to discuss Policing.

**10. Report on Traffic Management Forum**

Cllr Plowright stated that Cllrs Lilley, Plowright and the Clerk had held a site meeting with a Highways' representative in September 2009 to discuss changing the Church Road speed limit, but had been advised to await the outcome of the Jacobs' speed limit review. However, there was no mention of Smeeth in the published report. Similar views were expressed at the first Traffic Management Forum arranged by ACRK in April. At the second Forum it was agreed that a letter be sent to parishes inviting support for a Motion to KALC, for submission to NALC (for discussion at its annual conference), viz that the speed limit on rural roads be reduced from 60mph to 50mph (copy attached).

The Motion was circulated by Cllr Plowright .

After debate:

**Resolved:**

**That the Parish Council support the Motion that the parishes of Ashford Borough propose that KALC petition NALC to make representations to the UK Government that the speed limit for the UK's rural (ie 'C' class and unclassified) roads be reduced from the present figure of 60mph to 50mph.**

**11. Any Other Business**

- The Vice-chairman asked for an update on action taken to reinstate the land used in the Church Road composting operation following the withdrawal of the planning application. The Clerk is to liaise with Cllr Wood.
- The Chairman reported that he had accompanied the borough council officer, together with the Clerk, during the recent audit of the play area, and noted the officer's very positive reactions. Her report is awaited.
- ACRK is holding a Council meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> July, at Lenham Community Centre, to discuss a change in the legal structure from unincorporated charity to charitable company limited by guarantee. The Vice-chairman and the Clerk are to attend.
- Assurances have been received from the Chief Executive, Shepway District Council, that the confusion regarding missing Registers of Electors at the General Election on 6<sup>th</sup> May will not be repeated.

- A request has been received from Klingsfords Solicitors for a link to the parish website.
- KCC is consulting on new sites for minerals and waste facilities.

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

Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 7.00pm in Brabourne Baptist Church.

The meeting closed at 8.08 pm.

**(NAME) PARISH COUNCIL**

*Mrs Judith Batt  
Secretary, Ashford Area Committee KALC  
Keg Barn  
Hornash Lane  
Shadoxhurst  
Kent TN26 1HX*

(date)

Dear Judith,

**Motion for Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) AGM**

At a recent meeting of the Traffic Management Forum, organised by Action with Communities in Rural Kent, the members agreed to ask their Parish Councils to express their support for the following motion to be presented at the KALC AGM by the Area Committee.

(Name) Parish Council supports the motion and asks that it be presented to National Association for Local Councils (NALC) action as soon as possible:

*The Parishes of Ashford Borough propose that KALC petition NALC to make representations to the UK Government that the speed limit for the UK's rural (ie "C" class & unclassified) roads be reduced from the present figure of 60mph to 50mph.*

*The reasoning behind this motion is as follows:*

- 1) The safety of all people in rural areas will be improved.*
- 2) The numbers of deaths & serious injuries from accidents on rural roads will be reduced. DfT figures indicate that 60% of all in car deaths occur on single carriageway roads and that for every 1mph reduction in average speed the accident frequency drops by 5%. The proposed 10mph reduction would, therefore, lead to a significant reduction in the number of deaths in the order of up to 50%.*
- 3) The reduction in accidents will ease the burden on the Emergency Services at a time when the present Government's austerity measures will impact on these resources also.*
- 4) The CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from vehicles will be reduced.*
- 5) The present confusion between the speed limits for cars and light commercial vehicles will be removed.*

We hope that the County Executive places this motion on the Agenda for debate at the KALC Annual General Meeting and would strongly support its adoption.

Yours Sincerely,

Cc Mrs Kathy Bugden (Action with Communities in Rural Kent)  
Ashford Borough Council ward member

