

**SMEETH PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council**  
**Held at 7.00pm on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2010**  
**At Brabourne Baptist Church**

**1. Present**

Cllr Austen (Chairman), Cllrs Plowright, Thorpe, Turner and Mrs S Wood (Clerk).  
Cllr Honey (borough councillor) and seven members of the public were in attendance.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Missing (Vice-chairman) (illness), Herrick and Lilley (prior commitments), and the Community Warden.

**3. Declaration of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**4. Minutes**

Cllr Thorpe advised that under Matters Arising (Footpaths and Highways), item e) should read 'although it is unclear if it is a registered footpath', and not 'an official footpath'.

**Resolved:**

**That, subject to this amendment, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 14<sup>th</sup> July be approved and confirmed as a true record.**

**5. Matters Arising**

**• Footpaths and Highways**

- a) The Community Liaison Officer (Kent Highways) will meet Councillors on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> October, 9.30am at Brabourne Baptist Church, to discuss problems in the parish.
- b) Parking by non-residents in Sandy Place continues to cause problems and distress to residents. In a recent incident an ambulance was unable to reach a property. A site meeting was held with the Supported Housing Area Manager on 21<sup>st</sup> July, at which several proposals were put forward, but the Parish Council has been advised that because of financial constraints no new scheme can be introduced at present. The Parish Council will continue to press for action, particularly given the demographics of Sandy Place.
- c) Cllr Thorpe praised the quality of repairs on the A20 near Mersham le Hatch. It was, however, noted that these were confined to 1 carriageway, and a deep rut remains on the other side. Cllr Turner noted that this is hazardous to cyclists. Repairs in Church Road were welcomed.

**• Speeding in Smeeth**

The Chairman stated that this is still a problem. Cllr Plowright is to liaise with the Community Warden re implementing Speedwatch, concentrating on the school run. In answer to a query from the Clerk, Cllr Plowright said that insurance cover is provided by the Police.

**• Recycling facilities**

Cllr Plowright said that 2 quotes have been received to provide the concrete base, including repairing the entrance to the site, and are for £2075 and £3150. A third is awaited. The Clerk is to check the availability of grants. Cllr Honey noted that in any grant application emphasis should be placed on the lack of facilities and the need. If grants are not forthcoming it may be possible to borrow against the revenue from the scheme. Concerns have been expressed by Mr P Dawson (Chairman of the Playing Field Association and Headteacher, Smeeth School) about the safety of glass recycling and possibility of vandalism.

- **Litter collection on the playing field**

The Community Payback project has agreed to litter pick on the field on an occasional basis. This is to be further investigated on behalf of the Playing Field Association.

- **Traffic Management Forum**

Cllr Plowright reported that the Forum met on September 14<sup>th</sup> in Brabourne Village Hall. The Motion from KALC to reduce the speed limit from 60mph to 50mph on rural roads has attracted countywide support and continues to generate interest.

- **Composting Operation, Church Road**

Cllr Thorpe asked if there had been any progress on reinstating the site, and Cllr Plowright informed him that there had not. This is to be taken up with Cllr Wickham (county councillor).

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

As the Community Warden was to give a talk to the Guides during the evening of the meeting his report was read by The Clerk.

The Community Warden advised that due to holidays and for medical reasons he had worked for 8 days only during a 5 week period over the summer. He participated in the September Ashford Community Safety Unit survey carried out in the urban areas – it is hoped to extend this to the parishes in due course. The Warden stated that he attends the coffee morning at Brabourne Baptist Church on a regular basis, and has had positive feedback from his article in the Parish News on the telephone preference service.

The Chairman and Cllr Thorpe both stated that the Warden's presence at the coffee mornings is proving very useful.

## 7. **Financial Report**

### **Resolved:**

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

### **Payments**

<b>Details</b>	<b>£</b>
Mrs B Podd (salary)	104.40
S Wood (salary April – September)	1160.00
S Wood (expenses April - September)	84.45

### **Receipts**

<b>Details</b>	<b>£</b>
Bedingfield Educational Endowment	15.00

**Balance £ 9979.62**

The Clerk advised that the balance of the Precept and Concurrent Functions' Grant is due to be paid at the end of September.

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

#### **Resolved:**

**That a donation of £600 be made to the Brabourne and Smeeth Playing Field Association.**

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

The Clerk advised that 3 planning applications had been received. Decisions are awaited on 2 and the third (for tree surgery) has been approved.

**9. Report from KALC representative**

The Clerk reported that the Motion to reduce the speed limit on rural roads was discussed. The Chief Constable has been invite to a meeting of the Ashford Area Committee.

**10. Any Other Business**

- Cllr Thorpe stated that he has walked many of the footpaths in Hatch Park and found nothing untoward (see Minutes of 14<sup>th</sup> July 2010). It is, however, unclear which footpath is the subject of the complaint.
- Brabourne Parish Council has proposed a joint meeting with the Parish Council in October or November to raise awareness of the need for an organizer for the 2011 Summer Fete. This was supported and the use of Brabourne Baptist Church hall agreed. It was felt that the event should be heavily promoted, eg by a leaflet drop, but should take place in January to maximize attendance.
- Cllrs Plowright and Lilley (via the Clerk) asked if a Welcome Pack is available for newcomers to the area, listing useful information such as contacts and facilities. The Chairman and Cllr Thorpe confirmed that such a pack is distributed by Brabourne Baptist Church, when notified by word of mouth of anyone new to the area.
- Cllr Lilley is to be invited to lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council at the Remembrance Day Service on 14<sup>th</sup> November.
- The Clerk reminded councillors that Fordred's Charity distribution will be discussed at the next meeting.
- KCC is repeating the Kent Free Trees Scheme. This is being publicised on the parish website.
- Dates of meetings for 2011 will be discussed at the next meeting.

The Chairman invited Cllr Honey to address the meeting.

Cllr Honey reported:

- The Inspector's report on the Tenterden and Rural Sites Development Plan has been received but its contents are not yet known. It is likely to be adopted by the end of 2010. Revision of the Core Strategy may be brought forward because of the change of government and abolition of SEERA and RSS. The Leader of ABC (Cllr Bartlett) stated that the emphasis should be on larger, better quality buildings with bigger gardens, rather than numbers.
- Parish Councils are now being notified of Certificates of Lawful Development, by the Planning Dept.
- Improvements have been made to the online planning system to enable a wider range of searches to be made.
- Complaints about confusion of numbering in Fortescue Place and Calland have been raised with the officers responsible for street signing. Discussions are continuing.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Honey for his efforts on behalf of the parish.

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

Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00pm in Brabourne Baptist Church (Budget meeting).

The meeting closed at 8.42pm.