

**SMEETH PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council**  
**Held at 8.00pm on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2011**  
**At Brabourne Baptist Church**

**1. Present**

Cllr Austen (Chairman), Cllrs Herrick (Vice-chairman), Lilley, Plowright, Thorpe, Turner and Mrs S Wood (Clerk).

The Neighbourhood Officer (PC Darren Laker), the Community Warden (Mr Sinden) and two members of the public were in attendance.

**2. Apologies**

There were no Apologies.

**3. Declaration of Interest**

No Declarations of interest were received.

**4. Minutes**

**Resolved:**

**That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 19<sup>th</sup> January be approved and confirmed as a true record.**

**5. Matters Arising**

• **Footpaths and Highways**

- a) Church Road footpath: Cllr Thorpe reported that the PROW officer is interviewing witnesses for evidence of use, and that he has passed on more names of those willing to be interviewed.
- b) Cllr Plowright asked that he be notified of any Highways' issues, which he would raise at a meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> April with the Director of KHS (John Burr).
- c) KHS has stated that additional crews are working to repair damage caused by the winter weather, but priority is being given to those identified as 'safety critical'.
- d) Additional money has been made available for minor repairs by KHS.
- e) The footway on The Ridgeway has not yet been cleared, despite several requests.
- f) The footway in Church Road has become very muddy, thought to be due vehicles pulling over on to the pavement. KHS will be asked to clear it using money from (d).
- g) Mr Sinden suggested that the 30mph speed limit be extended towards the Church, but was advised that this had already been refused.
- h) A hedge on Woolpack Hill is encroaching on to the highway. The owner is to be asked to cut it back.

• **Speeding in Smeeth**

Speed checks are being carried out regularly, but there have, as yet, been no incidents of excessive speed. Cllr Turner expressed concerns about large agricultural vehicles, whose width and speed pose a significant hazard to cyclists. In late March/early April Mr Sinden will be issuing educational packs (highlighting residents' concerns) to the landowners and asking that these be passed on to the contractors.

• **Recycling facilities**

With the extension of the blue box scheme to Smeeth, Cllr Turner asked if a recycling facility is still needed. The Clerk is to write to the Borough Council to express the Parish Council's appreciation, and to seek advice on what can be recycled in addition to that already in place in the parish and the blue box. Cllr Honey is to be asked if cardboard can be included in the blue box scheme. The Clerk is to continue with a grant application for funding for a recycling facility.

• **Traffic Management Forum**

Cllr Plowright reported that at the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> February it was agreed that a survey on Highways' issues would be sent to each parish. This will be completed by the Clerk.

- **Summer fete 2011**

The Chairman advised that Mr Brian Sanders is the new Chairman of the Fete Committee, and the date of the fete has been changed to 18<sup>th</sup> June. Proceeds will go to the Scouts and Guides. PC Laker was asked to provide 30-40 cones. Insurance cover is now in place.

**6. Report from Community Warden**

Mr Sinden reported that he has received more complaints in the last 2 months than in the previous 9 years, and are all concerned with dog fouling. An article has been published in Parish News, and help sought from the Dog Wardens – one will patrol the parish regularly. A resident in Pound Lane asked if a dog bin could be provided, but this request was refused as the Borough Council is not installing extra bins. Mr Sinden is to produce a map showing the location of existing bins, and will be putting up posters reminding dog walkers to clear up after their dogs. He proposes to patrol at 7.30am and distribute bags to walkers.

The Chairman asked if help could be sought from responsible dog owners, and noted that a disabled resident in Pound Lane has offered to help if a litter picker could be provided. The Clerk is to seek advice as to legality and insurance position.

Mr Sinden asked if the playing field gate could be closed at night. Cllr Lilley stated that this used to be done by Mrs Marchesi but she has now stepped down from the Playing Field Association. He thought it unlikely that anyone else would be prepared to take on the commitment.

Mr Sinden stated that he has produced posters about litter being thrown from cars.

Scrap metal dealers have been removing items from front gardens, not necessarily with permission, and residents are warned to be vigilant.

Parishioners were reminded to complete the Census forms, due for delivery shortly.

The Chairman thanked the Warden and expressed the Council's appreciation of his efforts..

**7. Report from Neighbourhood Officer**

PC Laker's report was circulated to councillors.

He advised residents to ask to see scrap metal dealers' Waste Trade Licence, and if this could not be produced Kent Trading Standards should be contacted.

Heating oil thefts have been reported, notably soon after delivery.

PC Laker asked to be notified of any events being planned for the Royal Wedding, in order that Police resources can be scheduled.

He is giving a talk at Brabourne School on 16<sup>th</sup> March, and has been invited to the Smeeth School May Fair.

The North Weald Police Forum will meet on 16<sup>th</sup> March.

Cllr Lilley reported thefts of diesel.

PC Laker was thanked for his report.

**8. Financial Report**

**Resolved:**

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

**Payments**

<b>Details</b>	<b>£</b>
Mrs B Podd (salary)	71.16
S Wood (salary)	1160.00
S Wood (expenses) *	79.74
ACRK (annual subscription)	35.00
Brabourne and Smeeth Village Hall Association	700.00

Brabourne and Smeeth Village Hall Association (contribution to kitchen refurbishment)	500.00
Brabourne and Smeeth Footpaths' Association	10.00
Brabourne and Smeeth Playing Field Association	500.00

#### Receipts

Details	£
NatWest interest	0

**Balance £ 10516.73**

The Clerk advised that the Street Cleansing Grant of £531.99 will be paid on 15<sup>th</sup> March.

#### 9. To receive the report of the Planning Committee

The Chairman of the Planning Committee reported that one application had been received. This has been Approved by the Borough Council.

A case of possible non-compliance is to be raised.

It was reported that 4x4s are driving round the bollards to access Stock Lane, which should be used by agricultural vehicles only, having been closed to through traffic when the M20 was built.

The Vice-chairman advised that he will be submitting comments on the Draft Residential Space and Layout SPD. This sets out two standards, one enforceable and the other voluntary. The usefulness of the latter is unclear.

#### 10. Report from KALC representative

The Vice-chairman stated that he had been unable to attend the meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> February, but the Minutes were in circulation. The Clerk reported that the Chief Constable of Kent, Mr Ian Learmonth, had given a presentation on the implications to the Force of reduced funding. He emphasised that cuts would fall on office rather than front line staff.

The new formula for the Concurrent Functions' Grant had been discussed with a frank exchange of views, after which it had been agreed to review the formula later in 2011.

#### 11. Registration of Smeeth Parish Council with HMRC for PAYE

New guidance has been received from HMRC withdrawing the concession whereby Clerks could be paid gross and make tax payments outside the PAYE scheme. Parish Councils are now required to register as employers for PAYE.

An exception may only be made if a Clerk is paid below the PAYE threshold and has no other source of income.

The Clerk has sought advice from KALC, SLCC and HMRC, and determined that the Parish Council must register at the beginning of the next financial year. Payments to HMRC are to be made electronically and therefore arrangements need to be made for online banking; such payments can only be made by an authorised signatory, and monthly in order that employer's NIC contributions are not attracted.

**Resolved:**

**That Smeeth Parish Council register as an employer**

**Resolved:**

**That arrangements be made for online banking after the elections on May 5th**

#### 12. Any Other Business

- Cllr Turner asked for the procedure regarding the May elections, and was advised that nomination forms have not yet been received. They will be distributed as soon as they are issued by the Borough Council.

- Cllr Thorpe has received a complaint that the number 10 bus is failing to stop at the Pound Lane stop. Although there is a stop on one side of the road only, it is operative on both sides. This is similar to an earlier complaint regarding the stop outside Andrews' Garage. This is to be taken up with Stagecoach.
- The Parish Council is to accept the offer from the Borough Council of a Local Needs Housing Survey, to be carried out by ACRK.
- KCC has been approached by a film company seeking an independent petrol station: that at Stelling Minnis was suggested.

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

Following the passing of the Resolution, the Chairman suspended the public part of the meeting and the members of the public present left the meeting..

### **14. Review of Clerk's spinal column point**

After debate:

**Resolved:**

**That the Clerk's spinal column point be raised to 21 with immediate effect.**

### **15. Date and time of next meeting.**

The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council on Wednesday, 11th May at 7.00pm in Brabourne Baptist Church.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

## **KENT POLICE NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM**

The following report relates to the period of the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2011 to 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011 and covers all crime and relevant incidents in your area.

### **CRIME**

#### **BRABOURNE**

There is no reported crime for the area during this time.

#### **SMEETH**

There have been a couple of incidents at the Caldecott and the offender has been charged for these offences.

There has been one theft of motor vehicle and this was in Station Road. The vehicle was left in a field at the rear of the property, as it was not road worthy. It appears that the offenders have driven onto the field and taken the vehicle most likely for scrap value. Enquires to be made at local scrap yards.

### **ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

There have been a couple of reports of possible hare coursing in the area. Upon arrival the vehicle and the occupants have been located and spoken to but there has been no evidence to support a prosecution.

This has allowed police to obtain intelligence in regards to possible person's involved in poaching.

There is nothing else of note to report.

I will be arranging a couple more speed checks in the area. The last couple that I have done have not produced any driver's in excess of the speed limit.