

Smeeth Parish Council
Minutes of a Meeting held on Wednesday 11th January 2017 at 7.00pm
Brabourne Baptist Church

1. Present

Cllr Herrick (Chairman) (DH), Cllr Thorpe (Vice-chairman) (GT), Cllr Mrs Morey (JM), Cllr Mrs Alford (HA) (who arrived during item 20), Cllr Mrs Nyssens (AN), Cllr Mrs Pereboom, Cllr MacPhee (CM) and Mrs Wood (Clerk) (SW). Twelve members of the public attended.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Miss Martin and Cllr Howard (ward members), and the Community Warden.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

4. Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 9th November 2016 be approved and confirmed as a true record.

5. Open Session

The meeting was suspended to allow members of the public present to raise matters of concern with the Parish Council.

Mr Ian Ruck reported that he has been in lengthy correspondence with KCC Highways re the removal of lighting on the A20 traffic islands and the failure to clean the 'keep left' signs, and stated that he disagrees with the inspector's report that there are no safety critical issues. Mr Ruck will continue to write, and a full report has been promised from Highways in answer to his concerns by 1st February.

Mr Michael Hinchliffe reported that the Community Led Plan group is refurbishing the pond in Church Road, but road safety signs are needed to ensure the safety of the volunteers working there. He has been unable to borrow the necessary signs, but they can be obtained for ~£90 + VAT. Mr Hinchliffe asked that the Parish Councils fund the purchase, the signs to be held by the village caretaker and loaned to the CLP group when needed. The Parish Council acceded to the request which will be put to the other parishes in the cluster.

Mr Hinchliffe advised that funding for the basketball hoop is in place.

Mr Barry Lightfoot noted that the Minutes of 9th November 2016 stated that, in respect of the discussion about the proposed Playing Field development, 'the field is agricultural, not greenbelt, and building is permitted on agricultural land'. He advised that this is not correct – development for general market housing is not permitted.

Mr Ruck stated that the Minutes of 9th November 2016 recorded that residents who live near the playing field objected to the development proposals, but noted that other residents (including those from Brabourne) objected.

The meeting was reconvened.

6. Matters Arising

See comments made in the Open Session.

Fordred's Charity: The payments have been distributed but two of the proposed recipients had died.

7. Report from Community Warden and PCSO

The Community Warden's report had been circulated and is attached to the Minutes.

8. Financial Report

8.1 To agree payments in accordance with the Budget**Resolved:****That the following payments be agreed in accordance with the Budget:****Payments**

Details	£	
FuelGenie (caretaker van fuel – Direct Debit September)	187.44	
FuelGenie (caretaker van fuel – Direct Debit October)	132.49	
KCC (Pension - P Rodway)	2627.85	
Lister Wilder	313.98	
T Denne & Sons	108.00	
S Wood (Fordred's Charity)	175.00	
P Rodway (salary)	1122.74	
HMRC (PAYE and NI – P Rodway)	274.55	
KCC (Pension - P Rodway – fee for actuarial report)	220.00	
T Denne & Sons	108.00	
HMRC (PAYE and NI – P Rodway)	242.55	
KCC (Pension - P Rodway)	328.48	
P Rodway (salary)	1154.74	
S Wood (salary)	303.17	
S Wood (salary)	303.17	
P Rodway (expenses and mobile phone allowance)	341.55	
SLCC (subscription)	29.50	
DVLA (12 months' vehicle tax – caretaker van)	230.00	
B Podd (15 hrs @ £7.20/hr)	108.00	
FuelGenie (caretaker van fuel – Direct Debit November)	50.00	
FuelGenie (caretaker van fuel – Direct Debit December)	89.26	
S Wood (expenses [stationery/black refuse sacks/ Green flag breakdown cover for caretaker van])	13.75	132.61
	25.86	
	93.00	

Receipts

Details	£
NatWest interest	1.76
Smeeth field rent	175.00
Fordred's Charity	175.00
VAT refund	466.42
Brabourne Parish Council *	1673.14
Brook Parish Council (caretaker pension)	287.38
Mersham & Sevington Parish Council (caretaker pension)	901.50

Balance £ 33624.26 (as at 11th January 2017)

The contribution of £8000 from KCC towards the caretaker scheme has not yet been paid.

8.2 To consider the draft Budget for 2017-2018

The draft Budget was circulated. The Chairman noted significant additional expenditure on the village caretaker scheme and Village Protection Policy during 2016/17, leading to an increase in expenditure of ~£8000 more than expected - this has reduced the balance carried forward from ~£38000 to £29500. He stated that the caretaker scheme will continue but there will be no set-up costs in 2017-2018. Additional expenditure of £6850 is predicted for the coming year; the Chairman stated that the Precept could be held, which would lead to a further reduction in Reserves (to ~£22700), or the Precept be increased to cover the additional expenditure. Cllr MacPhee said an alternative is to cancel the caretaker project, however this project has been well received with positive feedback from all residents to whom he had spoken. Cllr Morey agreed and stated that it is important that the scheme continues; this was agreed. Any increase in the

<p>Precept could be phased in, eg an increase of £3300 would be a 20% rise but would cost each household approx £0.18/week; any increase would have to be justified to residents in Parish News.</p> <p>It was proposed that the Precept be increased by £6850, to £22376, and that the Concurrent Functions Grant and Council Tax Support Grant be claimed in addition.</p> <p>A vote was taken.</p> <p>Those in favour: Cllr Thorpe, Cllr Mrs Morey, Cllr Mrs Nyssens, Cllr Mrs Pereboom and Cllr MacPhee.</p> <p>There were no votes against and no abstentions</p> <p>Resolved:</p> <p>That the Precept be increased by £6850, to £22376, and that the Concurrent Functions Grant and Council Tax Support Grant be claimed in addition.</p>	SW
<p>8.3 To consider a contribution to the replacement Speed Indicator Device</p> <p>The Chairman advised that the replacement SID has been purchased, and that the Parish Councils will be asked for a contribution of £500 each. Cllr Mrs Pereboom asked what will be done with the previous SID, the Chairman stated that it is out of date and cannot be used. It was proposed that the Parish Council makes a contribution, subject to a similar contribution from Brabourne Parish Council.</p> <p>Resolved:</p> <p>That the Parish Council makes a contribution, subject to a similar contribution from Brabourne Parish Council.</p>	SW
<p>9. Cleaning/refurbishment of the Smeeth War Memorial</p> <p>The meeting was suspended and Mr George Taylor (chairman of the Royal British Legion) invited to address the Parish Council.</p> <p>Mr Taylor reported that the Smeeth War Memorial is in need of cleaning and re-leading of the names. Local stonemasons had quoted £1600 for the work but this is likely to have increased. Mr Taylor suggested that the Memorial be tidied up and the area cleared to make it more visible; it is hoped that this will be completed in time for the celebrations in 2018. The steps are also in need of repair and Mr Taylor suggested that a path be laid from the Church gate to the Memorial. As an alternative he suggested that the Memorial be moved to a location in the centre of the village where it would become a focal point, eg the village green at The Warren, but this would incur significant cost. Mr Taylor advised that funds are available from bodies such as the Lottery and the War Memorial Trust, and it is hoped to set up a group to raise the funds; he is willing to be the coordinator for fundraising. The RBL will contribute and the Parish Councils will be invited to make a contribution.</p> <p>In answer to a question from Cllr Mrs Pereboom, Mr Taylor advised that the Memorial is not shared, the Brabourne Memorial being located in St Mary's Church, Brabourne. However, it could be suggested that the Brabourne names be added during refurbishment so that it would then be the Brabourne and Smeeth Memorial.</p> <p>Cllr Mrs Morey asked if planning permission would be needed if the Memorial were moved.</p> <p>Mr Peter Clayton spoke in favour of moving the Memorial - were it to be, say, at a corner of The Warren it would become a 'destination', would not be overlooked and people could gather around it safely.</p> <p>The Chairman stated that up to date costings are needed before any decision is taken to proceed. Mr Taylor replied that he will bring costs of refurbishing, improving the existing site and relocation to a meeting.</p> <p>The project will also be discussed at the Brabourne Parish Council meeting.</p> <p>Mr Clayton asked that information be put on to the community Facebook page. This was agreed, and the Chairman stated that for those not online, notices should also be put up on the noticeboards, in the hall etc to raise awareness and interest.</p> <p>Mr Taylor was asked for the implications of a move on the Remembrance Sunday march. Mr Taylor replied that this march starts from the Oak Room, and on St George's Day from the village green, so a move to the green is ideally suited.</p> <p>Mr Ruck noted that the Police used to stop the traffic to allow a service at the Memorial, but this is no longer the case.</p>	SW

The meeting was reconvened.

10. Planning Committee report

10.1 Planning applications

Cllr Thorpe reported on 4 applications:

1 Ramstone Close, Smeeth Erection of a conservatory to side elevation. No objections

Glenoaks, Pound Lane, Smeeth Erection of shed and greenhouse (retrospective). No objections

8 Caroland Close, Smeeth Erection of replacement porch. No objections

Maid Morton Farm Shop, Hythe Road, Smeeth Change of use from Farm shop and agricultural land to non-residential educational facility to include the reciting of a stripped out mobile home to be used as a class room / dry area. Objection on grounds of highway safety

Old sandpit, Plain Hill, Smeeth Planning permission was granted to build industrial units. Residents are concerned that the site has been levelled and cleared.

11. Local Plan to 2030

The revised draft is due to be published by April. Comments will be invited on any changes to the first draft.

12. Village Protection Policy

Cllr Miss Martin is holding a Saxon Shore Planning Open Day in Aldington Village Hall on Saturday 21st January from 10am-2pm. It is hoped to set up the Saxon Shore DIG (Saxon Shore Development & Infrastructure Group), a strategy group comprised of residents.

13. KALC representative report

Cllr Mrs Morey reported that she had not been able to attend the AGM, but had been at the November meeting of the Ashford Area Committee. Discussion included the borough-wide review of provision of dog bins; dog and litter bins will be replaced by 1 bin taking all waste. By replacing 2 bins with 1 some areas may see a reduction in the number of bins – parishes are asked to contact ABC if they would like ‘lost’ bins to be replaced, but this may incur a cost to the parish to supply and empty. Maps are to be sent to Parish Councils, to populate with the location of all bins plus information on who is responsible for emptying them, ie the Parish Council or Biffa. The village caretaker will be asked to mark up the maps.

The agenda also included the village caretaker scheme, of which only 3 are running: Wittersham, Smeeth and Tenterden. Kingsnorth applied but was turned down because it was deemed to be ‘too big’.

A report was given on a meeting to merge 5 local authorities (Shepway, Canterbury, Dover, Thanet and Ashford).

The next meeting is on 18th January 2017.

14. Update on J10A Working Group

Cllr Mrs Pereboom noted that she had not been at the last meeting. The working group is looking at Barrey Road and Highfield Road, Mersham (there are fears of rat-running through the latter).

The planning application has not yet been formally submitted.

Work begins in January 2018.

15. Footpaths and Highways

15.1 Sandy Place parking There has been no response from the planning officer or tree officer; Cllr Howard has been asked to follow-up.

15.2 Bridleways In hand with Cllr Mrs Nyssens, who is liaising with the Countryside Access Group.

15.3 Broken stiles on footpath In hand with Cllr Thorpe.

15.4 Potholes Mrs Waller was thanked for her efforts reporting potholes in the parish.

16. Parking at Smeeth School

The Clerk advised that ABC is pressing KCC to address the problems. The Headteacher is drawing up a Travel Plan with the support of the governors, who are aware of the problem. The Parish Council’s request for bollards was refused, because the resulting width of the footway would not comply with Highways’ standards.

WH

AN

GT

<p>17. Community Led Plan and Emergency Plan Community Led Plan: see the Open Session. Emergency Plan: An item regarding the need for a coordinator will be placed in Parish News.</p>	SW
<p>18. Village caretaker scheme Cllr Mrs Morey reported that the contribution of £8000 from KCC is still awaited. The caretaker submits weekly timesheets which are circulated to the caretaker committee. Recent work carried out includes hedgecutting and pruning, including Calland and the pond in Church Road. A meeting of the caretaker committee will be arranged, in particular to discuss lone working.</p>	SW
<p>19. Speedwatch The Chairman reported that one new volunteer has been recruited but more are needed. An appeal will be placed in Parish News, with contact details of the Clerk and coordinator. The new SID has been received and requires an online training exercise, this must be passed before attending on-site training (the latter to be arranged). It is hoped that Speedwatch sessions will be carried out in February (weather permitting).</p>	SW
<p>20. Local Needs Housing This is on hold pending the outcome of the review of the Local Plan. The Chairman stressed the need for those interested to be on the ABC Housing Register. It was noted that work has begun on the construction in Calland of 4 Local Needs houses.</p>	
<p>21. Playing fields The Chairman reported that a joint meeting with Brabourne Parish Council was held on 10th January, chaired by Cllr Thorpe. Cllr MacPhee noted the need for a meeting of the PFA to address issues of concern to residents. It was agreed that the Parish Council asks the PFA Chairman to hold a meeting as soon as possible of all relevant parties.</p>	SW
<p>22. Correspondence 22.1 Invitation to the Lord Lieutenant's annual Civic Service. 22.1 Thank you letters from recipients of Fordred's Charity distribution.</p>	
<p>23. Any other business 23.1 Cllr Mrs Morey advised that work has begun at Calland, security fencing has been put up and trees cleared, but no start date for construction given. Residents have also expressed concerns re parking provision. The Clerk to ask Giles Holloway (ABC) to contact residents with the required information. 23.2 Cllr Mrs Nyssens reported that rubbish and grass cuttings from the allotments have been thrown into the ditch adjoining Pemsey Farm; Cllr MacPhee to contact allotment holders. 23.3 Cllr MacPhee circulated a report on the Otterpool development prior to the meeting.</p>	SW CM
<p>24. Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 15th March 2017 at 7.00pm in Brabourne Baptist Church (the Annual Parish meeting). The Parish Council meeting will follow immediately after. The meeting closed at 8.25pm.</p>	
<hr/> <p>Community Warden's report Orpins shop was burgled shortly before Christmas (theft of cigarettes), all caught on CCTV but unable to ID offenders. Security has now been enhanced in an attempt to prevent further occurrences. There was an incident attended by Police and RSPCA where two dogs were taken away from an address in Sandy Place, and over new year there was flytipping of builders' waste in Station Road which was reported by me to ABC and has now been cleared, otherwise a quiet festive season as</p>	

far as I am aware.	
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