

Smeeth Parish Council
Minutes of a Meeting held on Wednesday 10th January 2018 at 7.00pm
Brabourne Baptist Church

1. Present

Cllr Herrick (Chairman) (DH), Cllr Thorpe (Vice-chairman) (GT), Cllr Mrs Alford (HA), Cllr Mrs Morey (JM), Cllr Mrs Pereboom (VP) and Cllr MacPhee (CM, and Mrs Wood (Clerk) (SW). Mr Kingston (Community Warden) was present. Ten members of the public attended.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Howard (WH) (ward member).

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

4. Minutes

Minute 9.1 (page 559): 'Cllr Howard advised that the Parish Council must judge the current proposals; if an amended were'. 'Application' should be inserted after amended'.

Resolved:

That subject to this amendment, that the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 16th November 2017 be approved and confirmed as a true record.

5. Open Session

The meeting was suspended to allow members of the public present to comment on items other than those on the agenda.

The Parish Council was asked its view of the Hospital Field planning application (16/00303/AS); the Chairman replied that the Parish Council objected to the application.

There were concerns that there was no mention of the Church Road proposals or traffic using The Ridgeway; the Chairman noted that these will be covered by John Wilde's evidence (Brabourne Parish Council's traffic expert witness).

The village caretaker was congratulated on his work on the parish footpaths.

The definition of a windfall site was requested; the Chairman advised that this is used to refer to those sites which become available for development unexpectedly and are therefore not included as allocated land in the Local Plan. Anyone can submit an application on any site in addition to those in the Local Plan; any such application would be considered by the Parish and Borough Councils but the Borough Council would look more favourably on sites in the Local Plan.

The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council stood by its withdrawal of comments on the playing field proposals. Revised comments on the Church Road site, particularly with regard to traffic, had been submitted and these still stand.

It was confirmed that the Caldecott site had been withdrawn from the Local Plan.

It was reported that Richard Honey is collating a list of all sites for which planning permission has been granted but not yet built. The Chairman acknowledged that this is a problem which has given rise to the shortfall in housing numbers being delivered in the borough; there is, however, no penalty on such builders. It was noted that the shortfall results in new sites having to be put forward.

The meeting was reconvened.

16 Emergency Plan and Community Led Plan (CLP)

(Brought forward with the permission of the Chairman)

Mr Hinchliffe reported on the Community Led Plan's current projects:

- 1) Carol-singing organised by Nicki Allen raised £460.60, which was donated to the outdoor gym project.
- 2) Bulb planting: More bulbs will be planted by Smeeth WI, 30 bags of bulbs having been donated by Thompsons and more having been given by a resident. Additional sites for

<p>planting will be identified. The CLP group has obtained 20 signs which will be put in showing that the bulbs had been planted by the WI and acknowledging the support of the garden centres.</p> <p>3) Outdoor gym: The gym will be supplied by Great Outdoors, a Faversham-based company and the equipment made in Britain. It is hoped that it will be installed when the weather improves and will be for use by all age groups.</p> <p>4) Basketball hoop: A schedule of works for its installation has been drawn up.</p> <p>5) Housing needs survey: Data analysis indicates that 46 respondents would like to live in the village if affordable housing were on offer. A number of respondents wish to downsize to bungalows. A summary will be prepared and sent to the Parish Councils and ACRK.</p> <p>6. Matters Arising</p> <p>6.1 Andrews Garage: No planning application has yet been submitted.</p> <p>6.2 Cherry Hill bungalow: The planning application has been approved despite concerns that it would result in overdevelopment.</p> <p>6.3 War Memorial: The Parish Council was advised that the War Memorials Trust requires another estimate for the works and written permission from the Parish Council. A fundraising quiz will be held on 18th February at the village hall, organised by Peter Clayton.</p> <p>6.4 Calland: Work began on 7th January, residents having been notified of the start date.</p> <p>6.5 Horse and rider safety initiative: In hand with Cllr Mrs Nyssens.</p> <p>6.6 Dog fouling: An item has been published in Parish News.</p> <p>6.7 Fordred's Charity: The replacement cheques were received in December. The payments were distributed before Christmas; one potential recipient had moved but two others identified for consideration in 2018.</p> <p>6.8 Smeeth Field rent: Information from the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board showed that the rent paid is fair. It was recommended that it be reviewed every five years, this to be incorporated into the new agreement.</p> <p>7. Report from Community Warden and PCSO</p> <p>Community Warden: Mr Kingston reported that the rabbit-proof fencing on the playing field has been repaired; the car park has reopened and the wooden posts replaced. All was quiet over the holiday period. Cllr Mrs Pereboom reported the theft of beekeeping equipment from a resident's garden. Mr Kingston advised that he will be stepping down at the end of January but will leave contact details for the Community Warden's service. The Chairman thanked Mr Kingston for his efforts on behalf of the community during his term as Warden.</p> <p>PCSO: No report in the PCSO's absence.</p> <p>8. Financial Report</p> <p>8.1 To agree payments in accordance with the Budget</p> <p>Resolved:</p> <p>That the following payments be agreed in accordance with the Budget:</p> <p>Payments</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Details</th> <th>£</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>P Rodway (allowance for mobile phone Q2)</td> <td>25.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P Rodway</td> <td>1156.64</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td>255.01</td> </tr> <tr> <td>KCC re Kent Pension Fund</td> <td>372.19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lister Wilder (caretaker)</td> <td>46.03</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FuelGenie</td> <td>161.68</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P Rodway</td> <td>1156.64</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td>255.01</td> </tr> <tr> <td>KCC re Kent Pension Fund</td> <td>372.19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lister Wilder (caretaker)</td> <td>19.82</td> </tr> <tr> <td>T Denne & Sons (3 months' storage)</td> <td>324.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FuelGenie</td> <td>72.88</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Details	£	P Rodway (allowance for mobile phone Q2)	25.00	P Rodway	1156.64	HMRC	255.01	KCC re Kent Pension Fund	372.19	Lister Wilder (caretaker)	46.03	FuelGenie	161.68	P Rodway	1156.64	HMRC	255.01	KCC re Kent Pension Fund	372.19	Lister Wilder (caretaker)	19.82	T Denne & Sons (3 months' storage)	324.00	FuelGenie	72.88	<p>SW</p> <p>AN</p> <p>AN</p>
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B Podd	90.00
SLCC (subscription)	30.83
S Wood (salary)	306.20
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S Wood (caretaker van – Green Flag renewal)	93.00
S Wood (caretaker van – car tax renewal)	240.00

Receipts

Details	£
NatWest interest	1.94
Fordred’s Charity	175.00

Balance £ 52197.58 (as at 10th January 2018)

8.2 To consider the draft Budget for 2018-19

The draft Budget was circulated and it was proposed that the Precept is increased by 3% (in line with inflation) to £23,047. It was further proposed that the Council Tax Support Grant (£580) and Concurrent Functions Grant (£370) be claimed in addition.

Resolved:

That the Precept is increased to £23,047 and that the Council Tax Support Grant (£580) and Concurrent Functions Grant (£370) be claimed in addition.

9. Planning Committee report

The Vice-chairman reported on three planning applications:

Park Farm, Pound Lane, Brabourne Erection of 1.2m gates and new field access for farm vehicles: Withdrawn.

Tanners Yard Granary Court Road, Smeeth Proposed metal recycling unit: Supported.

Barn at Maid Morton, Hythe Road, Smeeth Prior approval for the change of use and conversion of agricultural barn to dwelling: Supported.

The Chairman reported that the Granary Court Buildings planning application was withdrawn on 30th November 2017.

10. Local Plan to 2030

The Chairman reported that the Local Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State on 21st December 2017, and can be viewed on the Ashford Borough Council website:
[https://www.ashford.gov.uk/media/5464/submission-version-of-plan.pdf]

Hard copy is available at Civic Centre, Ashford and Tenterden Gateway, Wye and Charing libraries. All who submitted comments will be contacted; two inspectors have been appointed and may invite further information/clarification. The Plan covers housing, industry and other issues in addition to planning. The Plan will be subject to a hearing in public, likely to be held in early summer.

11. KALC representative report

Cllr Mrs Morey advised that she attended the AGM on 18th November at which Wingham Parish Council proposed that the speed limit through rural villages should be reduced to 20mph. It was resolved that Parish Councils should have the power to introduce 20mph speed limits. Minutes of the meeting have been circulated and the next meeting will be held on 17th January.

12. Update on J10A Working Group

Cllr Mrs Pereboom reported that the plan for J10A has been signed off; the works will run from January 2018 to May 2020. There is agreement to pay for traffic lights at the Barrey Road junction and the Mersham rat-run will be closed. Traffic through the village should be monitored when work is underway.

13. Footpaths and Highways

13.1 Sandy Place parking Problems have reoccurred, the Clerk to contact Laura Payne and Phil Cook (Ashford Borough Council Planning officer and Tree officer, respectively).

SW

SW

20. Playing fields

The Chairman reported that the repairs to the fencing have been carried out, the cost of £3,500 was met from money left over from the refurbishment of the playing field – donors agreed that surplus money could be used for maintenance. In answer to a question from Cllr Mrs Morey the Chairman and Vice-chairman reported that the PFA AGM will be held in March.

Cllr Mrs Morey asked for an update on payment of the peppercorn rent. The Chairman replied that a letter is awaited from Strutt and Parker to confirm that non-payment will not have consequences.

The PFA next meets on 28th February; Paul Dawson (PFA chairman) has indicated that he will make every effort to obtain this letter before the meeting.

21. Correspondence

All correspondence has been circulated.

22. Any other business

22.1 Cllr Howard has invited applications for ward member grants.

22.2 Dryers at Joe Farm: Environmental Services made a site visit and are now aware of the problem, their response is awaited.

22.3 Water shortage and implications for new housing developments: It was noted that Bewl Reservoir is low and the Broad Oak reservoir at Canterbury has yet to be built. The Chairman noted that water companies are consulted on planning applications and have a long-term strategy in place. Cllr MacPhee stated that this has been raised with the Borough Council, who advised that this is the responsibility of South East Water.

23. Date and time of next meeting

Wednesday 7th March 2018 after the Annual Parish Meeting which begins at 7.00pm in Brabourne Baptist Church.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.