

Smeeth Parish Council
Minutes of a Meeting held on Wednesday 15th March 2017 at 8.10pm
Brabourne Baptist Church

1. Present

Cllr Herrick (Chairman) (DH), Cllr Thorpe (Vice-chairman) (GT), Cllr Mrs Alford (HA), Cllr Mrs Nyssens (AN), Cllr Mrs Pereboom, Cllr MacPhee (CM) and Mrs Wood (Clerk) (SW). Cllr Howard (ward member) and Mr Graham Kingston (Community Warden) were present. Thirteen members of the public attended.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs Morey (indisposed), Cllr Miss Martin (ward member) and PCSO Hobbs.

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 11th January 2017 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 Lightfoot advised that a new government White Paper on housing has been published and places an emphasis on Neighbourhood Planning.

Problems of littering in The Ridgeway and Church Road were reported; this occurs throughout the parish and it was agreed that it is a society problem. A piece will be put in Parish News, but it was acknowledged that this is unlikely to be read by the offenders.

Cllr Mrs Nyssens reported ongoing problems of dog fouling.

Mrs Williams advised that she is an active member of the DIG [Development Infrastructure Group], and noted that this is in addition to other ways of residents' involvement in neighbourhood planning, including a Neighbourhood Plan and a Village Protection Policy (VPP). The latter can be used to argue against inappropriate development, to protect the characteristics of the parish and that any design must be sympathetic and in keeping. Mrs Williams quoted from the VPP [post-meeting note: this is available to view on the Community website at <http://www.smeethpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/default.cfm?pid=news&newsid=14044>] or on request from the Clerk.

The VPP stresses that the Local Plan must look at the cumulative effects of development, rather than looking at each in isolation.

Mrs Courage asked if the CLP is led by the PCs, and was advised that it is a stand-alone entity. The Chairman noted that it was produced by volunteers from the community including a representative from both PCs; it was funded by grants from ABC and sponsors including Tesco and Waitrose. The CLP's actions arise from results of a survey carried out in 2014 and a public meeting. Regular meetings are held and it has a page on Facebook [Brabourne and Smeeth Plans]. The Chairman advised that Michael Hinchliffe had stepped down from the PC to enable him to be more involved in the CLP.

The Chairman was asked how the VPP and CLP fit with the Local Plan. The Chairman replied that the VPP is being incorporated into the Local Plan to 2030, the CLP is a 'wish list' for the village and will not influence the Plan. Cllr Howard agreed, noting that the Local Plan will be used to enforce planning before development and the CLP is involved afterwards, eg influencing how S106 money should be spent.

Mr Courage asked for more information on the differences between the CLP, VPP and DIG. Cllr

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Howard replied as follows:

CLP – defines what residents want

VPP – the document has been adopted by ABC for inclusion in the Local Plan and has to be taken into account when planning applications are submitted

DIG – Cllr Jane Martin is leading a residents' group in Saxon Shore ward, to look at sites submitted for possible inclusion in the Local Plan and assemble comments on each site. These will be submitted to the PCs and ABC when the consultation opens on the revised draft Plan, and used in discussion with the planners.

Cllr Howard stressed the need to take an overarching view, citing Otterpool – although this is in Shepway it will impact on Ashford because of traffic issues.

Mr Taylor advised that he has received encouraging comments on the proposals to restore the War Memorial, and many comments against a possible move. The War Memorials Trust has also counselled caution regarding a move, unless deemed necessary. Costs of cleaning, repainting and releading range from £800-£2000. Mr Taylor also noted the need to clear the area around the Memorial to facilitate the holding of services.

The meeting was reconvened.

6. Matters Arising

6.1 Traffic signs: Are with the village caretaker.

6.2 A20 traffic islands: The Chairman reported that Ian Ruck had been involved in lengthy correspondence with KCC Highways regarding the islands, but Mr Ruck felt that he had achieved all he could. It was noted that the bollards are taken down so as to allow movement of exceptional loads from the Converter Station, costs of removal and replacement are met by National Grid. The Chairman stated that the situation will be monitored, and if necessary the Parish Council will continue the correspondence with KCC Highways. The Vice-chairman advised that the bollards have been cleaned, likely by KCC, because this is not the responsibility of the village caretaker.

7. Report from Community Warden and PCSO

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

The Community Warden reported thefts from vehicles in Lees Road; although on driveways the vehicles had been left unlocked – residents are warned to be careful and vigilant.

An assault on a young girl in Plain Road was reported, and an arrest made (as recorded in the PCSO's report). A talk on scams was given to the Royal British Legion; the Royal Mail is considering a change in the law to allow it to refuse to deliver scam mail, at present all mail must be delivered.

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	£
P Rodway (salary)	1138.54
HMRC (P Rodway)	258.75
KCC re Kent Pension Fund (P Rodway)	328.48
T Denne & Sons (caretaker storage)	108.00
Lister Wilder (caretaker)	3.41
Kullasigns (caretaker van)	120.00
P Rodway (expenses)	24.22
Fuelgenie (January fuel) (direct debit)	50.00
P Rodway (salary February)	858.57
HMRC (PAYE & NI P Rodway)	258.55
KCC re Kent Pension Fund (P Rodway)	328.48
John Childs Garage (van service)	772.78

John Childs Garage (van repairs)	312.94	
S Wood (salary)	303.17	
S Wood (salary)	303.17	
S Wood (expenses)	244.53	
Village hall association (donation)	1000.00	
B Podd (salary)	129.60	
T Denne & Sons (caretaker storage)	108.00	
Lister Wilder (caretaker)	7.20	
ACRK (subscription)	50.00	
Receipts		
Details	£	
NatWest interest	0.31	
KCC contribution to caretaker scheme	8000.00	
VAT refund	111.76	
Balance £ 35028.26 (as at 15 th March 2017)		
8.2 To agree payment of 50% of the cost of the Speedwatch Indicator Device		
The Chairman advised that because the device was purchased by Graham Snazelle, VAT is not recoverable and therefore its cost is £1200, however it was obtained at a significant discount. It was proposed that the Parish Council reimburses Graham Snazelle 50% of the cost (£600).		
Resolved:		
That Smeeth Parish Council reimburses Graham Snazelle 50% of the cost of the Speedwatch Indicator Device (£600).		
8.3 To consider a donation to Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance		
The Chairman advised that it is not the practice of the Parish Council to give donations of this type, the request was therefore refused. Residents are encouraged to donate if they so wish.		
8.4 To agree the addition of new signatories to the Parish Council account.		
Resolved:		
That Cllr Mrs Alford and Cllr Mrs Nyssens be added as signatories to the Parish Council account.		
9. Planning Committee report		
Cllr Thorpe reported on 2 applications:		
Former stable block, Granary Court Road Change of use of former stable block and land for residential use and separate vehicular access. There were concerns that the application is retrospective. Objection.		
Smeeth Hill House, Hythe Road Enclosure of undercroft with new doors and window, re-landscaping of inner courtyard and demolition of section of courtyard wall. No objection.		
10. Electoral review of Ashford: draft recommendations – consultation		
Cllr Howard advised that the review proposes that Saxon Shore be divided into 2 wards, Saxon Shore and Bircholt, each with a single ward member. There will also be an increase in the number of borough councillors from 43 to 47. It was proposed that the recommendations for Saxon Shore ward be supported.		
Resolved:		
That the recommendations for Saxon Shore ward be supported.		
A separate review proposes that the wards revert to Ashford constituency.		
It was noted that the name Bircholt was suggested by the chairman of Brabourne Parish Council because it is in the centre of the new ward, and was put forward by Cllr Howard.		
11. Local Plan to 2030		
The revised draft is due to be published in April; the delay is because the sites submitted are being analysed before the next round of consultation.		

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<p>12. KALC representative report The Minutes have been circulated. Cllr Mrs Morey is unable to attend the meeting on 22nd March, Cllr Mrs Pereboom will attend.</p> <p>13. Update on J10A Working Group Cllr Mrs Pereboom reported that technical documents are being circulated and examined. Paul Bartlett is raising questions and concerns re air pollution and road noise, and is pushing for improvements at the Barrey Road junction. Kingsford Street is to be closed to rat-running.</p> <p>14. Footpaths and Highways 14.1 A20 and traffic islands See 6.2. 14.2 Sandy Place parking See the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting. 14.3 Bridleways Cllr Mrs Nyssens is making enquiries re bridleways lost to development, and will ask that one of the footpaths on Hospital Field is reclassified as a bridleway. 14.4 Broken stiles on footpath In hand with Cllr Thorpe. 14.5 HGV parking on the A20 This causes a hazard at junctions. Cllr Howard noted that enforcement is unlikely before expansion of parking provision at Waterbrook lorry park (subject to planning permission).</p> <p>15. Parking at Smeeth School The Chairman advised that the Head Teacher has reported some success in moderating parking behaviour. KCC has been asked to explain to Mrs Flack why barriers, yellow lines or zigzag lines are inappropriate; it was acknowledged that enforcement would be needed for the yellow and zigzag lines. Cllr Howard noted that pressure will increase given the rising school population and asked if an alternative parking area could be found. The Chairman replied that cars use the playing field car park but it cannot accommodate all, and that initiatives only offer short-term relief.</p> <p>16. Code of practice for vehicles when passing horses Cllr Mrs Nyssens advised that the British Horse Society is running a campaign 'Dead or Dead Slow' and can provide campaign material. The Chairman asked Cllr Mrs Nyssens to follow-up. This will also be taken to Brabourne Parish Council.</p> <p>17. Invicta village signs Information has been received from a supplier; it was agreed that existing village signs are adequate.</p> <p>18. Community Led Plan and Emergency Plan Community Led Plan: The Minutes are circulated by Michael Hinchliffe; the planning application will be submitted by the CLP group. Emergency Plan: Cllr MacPhee advised that there has been no response to the request in Parish News for a coordinator. Given the length of time that has elapsed since gathering the data, the information on volunteers needs updating, and a relaunch with a public meeting may be needed. The Chairman noted that help is needed from residents and encouraged those present to report the need for help.</p> <p>19. Village caretaker scheme 19.1 To adopt the Lone Working Policy for the village caretaker The Chairman noted that the Parish Council has an obligation to ensure that the caretaker works safely. The draft Lone Working Policy was circulated and it was proposed that it be adopted. Resolved: The draft Lone Working Policy be adopted.</p> <p>The Clerk advised that the caretaker's performance review had been carried out.</p> <p>20. Speedwatch The Chairman reported that volunteers have passed online and practical training on the new SID.</p>	<p>VP</p> <p>AN GT</p> <p>AN SW</p>
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Speedwatch sessions will be arranged when users are confident in its use, particularly online reporting. Two new volunteers have come forward but more are needed. A site on The Ridgeway is to be assessed.

21. Local Needs Housing

This is on hold pending the outcome of the review of the Local Plan.

22. Playing fields

Brian Sander's report is attached. The Chairman advised that the Playing Field Association Committee has met; the AGM is to be held on 19th April.

23. Correspondence

23.1 Two letters against the suggested move of the War Memorial

23.2 Letter reporting that the milestone at Smeeth crossroads has been reinstated.

24. Any other business

No other business was raised.

25. Date and time of next meeting

Wednesday 10th May 2017 at 7.00pm in Brabourne Baptist Church (the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council).

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Item 7 PCSO's report

No reported ASB in the area.

On 7/3/17 a young female was assaulted on Plain Rd. Male has been arrested and currently awaiting court.

Please ask residents to secure their properties and take valuables out of their vehicles due to Burglaries in surrounding areas.

Patrols continue to be carried out in the area, but please report any concerns to the police by dialling 101 regarding any suspicious persons or vehicles seen in the area.

Item 22 Playing Field Association: Brian Sanders' report

[a] Improvements:

The final application of fertiliser under the contract was made this morning. The contractor has also advised that there is no subsidence along the drainage runs, no remedial work is required.

This means that the work under the contract between the PFA and P W Judges & Son is now satisfactorily completed.

[b] Maintenance:

Hedges, including undergrowth adjacent to the Church Road entrance and grass in the play equipment area, have now been trimmed under a contract with Harmer & Sons Ground Maintenance Ltd.

I am in the process of obtaining quotations for remedial work to the concrete paving at the Church Road entrance, together with the provision of precast concrete slabs by two of the gates, where the ground becomes very muddy in wet weather.

An inspection of the play equipment is scheduled for April, date to be advised.

[c] Shipping containers:

An order has been placed for the external cleaning and painting of the containers; this work will be carried out ASAP, subject to the contractor's work load and suitable weather conditions.

[d] Potential development:

There is nothing further to report at this point.