

Smeeth Parish Council
Minutes of a Meeting held on Wednesday 7th March 2018 at 9.15pm
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). Cllr Howard (WH) (ward member) was present. Seven members of the public attended.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs Nyssens (prior commitment).

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

4. Minutes

Minute 11 (page 564): 'It was resolved that Parish Councils should have the power to introduce 20mph speed limits.' This should be: 'It was resolved that KALC will take action to ensure that all rural villages have the right to impose 20mph limits'.

Resolved:

That subject to this amendment, that the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 10th January 2018 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.

It was reported that nothing would appear to have been achieved regarding the noise nuisance at Joe Farm, despite repeated emails between Environmental Services and Strutt & Parker. An engineer had visited but no feedback had been forthcoming. Cllr Howard noted similar problems re lack of communication from Strutt & Parker regarding a situation in Mersham, indicating that the delay may lie with Strutt & Parker. Cllr Howard asked to be copied in on future emails.

The meeting was reconvened.

6. Matters Arising

6.1 Andrews Garage: No further information; no planning application has yet been submitted.

6.2 Calland: Work is proceeding. Cllr Mrs Morey asked on what basis the houses would be let. The Chairman stated that they would first be offered to local people; Cllr Howard advised that they must be on the Housing Register.

6.3 Horse and rider safety initiative: In hand with Cllr Mrs Nyssens.

7. Report from PCSO

No report in the PCSO's absence.

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	1156.64
HMRC (P Rodway)	255.01
KCC re Kent Pension Fund (P Rodway)	372.91
P Rodway (Q3 mobile)	25.00

AN

T Denne & Sons (caretaker storage)	108.00
FuelGenie	30.03
P Rodway	1156.64
HMRC (P Rodway)	255.01
KCC re Kent Pension Fund (P Rodway)	372.91
FuelGenie	80.07
S Wood (salary)	306.20
S Wood (salary)	306.20
S Wood (expenses) *	130.08
B Podd	90.00
Brabourne & Smeeth Village Hall Association (donation)	1000.00
Brabourne & Smeeth Playing Field Association (donation)	1400.00
T Denne & Sons (caretaker storage)	108.00
Action with Communities in Rural Kent (subscription)	50.00
KALC (training)	108.00
Lister Wilder (caretaker equipment – vehicle servicing)	110.22
Lister Wilder (caretaker equipment)	6.41

Receipts	
Details	£
NatWest interest	4.65

Balance £ 44776.34 (as at 7th March 2018)

8.2 To consider a donation of £250 to the War Memorial project
George Taylor was invited to address the Parish Council.
Mr Taylor reported that the application to the War Memorial Trust had been submitted and a decision is expected shortly after its meeting in late May. An application to the De Haan Trust has been made. Mr Taylor noted that he has been contacted by Dr Emma Hanna, an historian at Kent University specialising in WW1. The aim is to raise £6000 for the project, which is being publicised in the Kentish Express and the Village Directory. The project is actively fundraising: £606 was raised at a quiz night in the village hall; other events are planned, including a coffee morning and sponsorship of the stone slabs to be laid at the site. Letters will be sent to local businesses inviting contributions. The Royal British Legion has contributed £400, giving a total of £1500 raised to date – this will fund the cleaning of the Memorial. Additional funds are needed to restore the site, for which quotes are being sought. It is hoped that the works will be completed by July and the Memorial rededicated at a service in September.
It was proposed that the Parish Council contributes £250 to the project.
Resolved:
That the Parish Council contributes £250 to the War Memorial project.

9. Planning Committee report
The Vice-chairman reported on five planning applications:
Mersham le Hatch Cricket Club and Glenoaks, Pound Lane were supported.
There were no objections to Home Farm, Bower Lane and Mead House, Church Road.
Nuholm, Pound Lane: There were no objections but the comment made that the description did not reflect the proposed works.

10. Local Plan to 2030
The Chairman reported that the Local Plan has been submitted and the examination will begin on 11th April in Civic Centre. Cllr Howard advised that the Inspectors' decision would be expected within six weeks of the inquiry. The Chairman stated that the Parish Council will not be submitting further comments.
Cllr Mrs Pereboom queried works being carried out at the Old Builders Yard, noting that many trees had been felled. The Chairman and Vice-chairman stated that the site had outline planning permission for 7 dwellings and coppicing works are being carried out.

<p>11. KALC representative report Cllr Mrs Morey's report is attached to the Minutes.</p> <p>12. Update on J10A Working Group Cllr Mrs Pereboom reported that works on J10A have begun; Cllr Howard advised that information is carried on the Highways England website [http://roads.highways.gov.uk/projects/m20-junction-10a/]</p> <p>13. Footpaths and Highways 13.1 Sandy Place parking No response has been received to the Clerk's emails and request for a site visit. Cllr Howard suggested that the emails be resent, copy to Richard Alderton and himself, reiterating that the problems are continuing. 13.2 Flooding opposite The Woolpack This has been reported to KCC on several occasions. Cllr Mrs Bell to be asked to follow-up.</p> <p>14. Bridleways Cllr Mrs Nyssen advised prior to the meeting that this would not be pursued until the result of the Hospital Field appeal is known.</p> <p>15. Parking at Smeeth School The Chairman advised that he had contacted the Head Teacher after the January PC meeting. This coincided with an email from Kent Police noting that they have enhanced the team dealing with such issues, this information was passed to Mrs Flack who undertook to contact the team. The Chairman to follow-up.</p> <p>16. Emergency Plan and Community Led Plan Emergency Plan: It was reported that Steve Reeves has come forward as a possible coordinator, and will meet Cllr MacPhee on 9th March to discuss the role. With the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation in May, data held by the Emergency Plan Group is to be passed to the Clerk for secure disposal. Community Led Plan: See the report in the Annual Parish Meeting Minutes.</p> <p>17. Village caretaker scheme Cllr Mrs Morey's report is attached to the Minutes.</p> <p>18. Speedwatch The Chairman reported that sessions were carried out in February, and resulted in 16 warning letters being issued. More sessions are planned later in March. The Vice-chairman recommended that careful consideration be given to the date and time of sessions, querying the worth of sessions carried out during half-term. Cllr Mrs Pereboom noted that more letters appear to have been sent out and asked if driver behaviour is deteriorating; the Chairman to contact Graham Snazelle for more details.</p> <p>19. Local Needs Housing (LNH) Survey results are awaited from the Community Led Plan group, the Clerk to follow-up. Cllr Howard suggested that the search for LNH sites be revisited when the outcome of the Local Plan examination is known.</p> <p>20. Playing fields A meeting was held in early March at which the rent was discussed; the Chairman was unable to attend and will follow-up.</p> <p>21. Commemoration of the centenary of the end of WWI The Chairman reported that Brabourne Parish Council will organise a beacon lighting, and this will be a joint event with Smeeth Parish Council. It has been registered with 'Battle's Over', the nationwide commemoration. The Royal British Legion is organising a number of activities, although none local, including GP90 – a Great Pilgrimage to the Menin Gate. Two representatives from each branch and county or local community would carry their standard, at a cost per branch</p>	<p>SW</p> <p>SW</p> <p>DH</p> <p>CM/SW</p> <p>DH</p> <p>SW</p> <p>DH</p>
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of £1000; contributions towards the cost will be sought from local councils. The Chairman noted that the Parish Council would consider this if local people are involved.

22. Correspondence

Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Issues and Options: consultation and search for pitches: Cllr Howard advised that the search is for sites of 1 or 2 pitches because these are more easily accommodated. The consultation closes on 6th April, the Clerk to circulate the link.

23. Any other business

23.1 Councillors were asked to complete new DPI forms as issued by ABC as soon as possible and return to the Clerk.

23.2 The Chairman attended the exhibition organised by Cllr Miss Martin in Aldington to gauge interest in drawing-up a Neighbourhood Plan (NP), and suggested that the Chairmen of Smeeth and Brabourne Parish Councils should meet to discuss options. Cllr Howard suggested that a village envelope exercise (as conducted by Challock) may be a more suitable option, given the costs and time required by an NP.

23.3 Joint Annual Parish Meeting: this was welcomed but it was suggested that it would benefit from more publicity. The Chairman agreed, noting that it would be repeated but in a different format, eg as a stand-alone meeting and with refreshments.

24. Date and time of next meeting

Wednesday 9th May 2018 at 7.00pm in Brabourne Baptist Church.

The meeting closed at 10.05pm.

Agenda item 11 KALC report

The last Ashford Area Committee meeting of KALC was held on 17 Jan .

Planning issues: The lobbying letter which had been drafted on behalf of all parishes in the Ashford area of KALC had been sent to the new Housing Minister - with a copy to the Secretary of State (Sajid Javid) , Damian Green and Damian Collins. Jane Martin(councillor for Saxon Shore) had been unable to arrange a meeting with the Secretary of State on behalf of the planning group.Planning issues including the Local Plan and omission sites were discussed together with the difficulties that all councils were experiencing with regard to housing supply.

Policing: Area Commanders have been told they should attend Area committee meetings to discuss local policing issues - so if there are any topics you would like raised with the Deputy Divisional Commander please notify Sue Wood .

General Data Protection Regulation Workshops : courses are being run by KALC on GDPR and , as all councils have to ensure they are compliant with the regulations, it is important that councillors and clerks should try to attend one of the courses if at all possible. Councils will each have to appoint an IDO . It was made clear at the course I attended on 11th Jan that neither the clerk nor individual councillors could act as IDO for their individual parish councils.

Joint Transportation Board: Traffic lights will be installed at Barry Road /A2070 junction
KCC subsidies to bus services may be reduced.

Joint Parishes Traffic committee: A28 dualling : Road works begin late Feb/ early March with night closures for bridge works- traffic flow will be maintained during the day . Chilmington Green : reserved matters will go to Planning committee in Feb and groundwork's will be complete in March.

Councillor Mr Ashby from Kenardington parish raised the issue of slow broadband speeds and lack of help from BT . Councillor Mr Murray from Rolvenden reported that Rolvenden had received funding of £50,000 from KCC and now achieves 35Mb /sec and used a company based in

SW

All

Paddock Wood which uses Line of Sight broadband.

Councillor Mr Barker from GreatChart advised that incidents formerly reported by calling 101 can now be reported online at Kent Police website.

KALC held a conference on Governance Procedures and Transparency on 8th Feb which I attended.

There is to be a review of KALC constitution and the role of Area committee secretary which is be discussed at the meeting in March so I should have more information on that after the next meeting

Next meeting of KALC will be 14th March.

Agenda item 17 Village Caretaker scheme

The Village caretaker scheme is now nearly two years old and continues to work well. On 30 Jan the Parish clerk Sue Wood and I met Michelle Byrne of Ashford Borough Council to discuss the progress of the scheme and I'm pleased to report that ABC continues to be supportive of the scheme. Up until the recent snow on 26th February the caretaker's normal routine hadn't been affected by the weather. His second year appraisal is due on 14th March but unfortunately the appraisal will have to be slightly delayed this year, as owing to other commitments of the Parish clerk, it will not be possible to arrange a meeting of the cluster committee prior to w/c 26th March this year.