

**Smeeth Parish Council**  
**Minutes of a Meeting held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 7.00pm**  
**Brabourne Baptist Church**

<p><b>1. Present</b>  Cllr Herrick (Chairman) (DH), Cllr Thorpe (Vice-chairman) (GT), Cllr Mrs Morey (JM), Cllr Mrs Pereboom (VP) and Cllr MacPhee (CM), and Mrs Wood (Clerk) (SW). Seven members of the public attended.</p> <p><b>2. Apologies</b>  Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs Alford (HA) (indisposed) and Cllr Mrs Nyssens (AN) (prior commitment).</p> <p><b>3. Declarations of Interest</b>  There were no Declarations of Interest.</p> <p><b>4. Minutes</b>  <b>Resolved:</b>  <b>That the Minutes of the meetings of the Parish Council held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019 and 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019 be approved and confirmed as a true record.</b></p> <p><b>5. Borough councillor's report</b>  No report in Cllr Howard's absence.</p> <p><b>6. Open Session</b>  The meeting was suspended to allow members of the public present to comment on items other than those on the agenda.</p> <p>War memorial: George Taylor was invited to give an update and reported that the main tasks have been completed and daffodil bulbs planted. An order for two wrought iron barriers on the exposed sites of the site has been placed with a forge in Aldington, and should be in place by late April. George Taylor noted that he is currently keeping the site clean and asked that the Parish Council take over responsibility when the project is completed, ie when the barriers are in place. The village caretaker will be asked to add this to his duties.</p> <p>Wood Turners: A complaint was sent to the Parish Council regarding light pollution from Wood Turners - external lighting is on overnight causing light pollution and a nuisance. The need for security lighting was acknowledged and it was suggested that motion sensor lights be installed. The Chairman replied that the nuisance has been raised with the land agents (Strutt &amp; Parker), the Estate office [as owners of the site] and Planning Enforcement.</p> <p>Village confines exercise: An update was requested. The Chairman stated that the deadline has passed and a slightly revised plan submitted. In answer to a question re omission of The Ridgeway, the Chairman advised that there is a natural break between properties on The Ridgeway and the remaining built-up area; the confines map was to mirror what Planning already has in writing. The Chairman stated that the draft map from ABC omitted part of Plain Road to Andrews Garage and beyond. Both Parish Councils thought that this should be included because there is no material gap, this was therefore included in the revised confines, as was the site behind The Plough Inn.</p> <p>Information as to the implications arising from exclusion of The Ridgeway was sought. The Chairman replied that planners would be happy for additional development in areas within the confines, but would not be happy with additional development outside the confines; he noted that the line is a delineation of what the planners regard as the built-up area of the village. He confirmed that The Ridgeway is still in the parish of Smeeth and acknowledged that there were anomalies in the confines, such as the omission of the site in Church Road which is in the Local Plan. However, the confines will change over time and are for planning purposes only.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SW</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SW</p>
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The Chairman advised that the Church Road planning application has not yet been decided, and is an outline application only. The application at The Plough Inn [for demolition of the pub and erection of 4 semi-detached houses] is also awaiting a decision from ABC.

The meeting was reconvened.

## 7. Matters Arising

**7.1** Planning applications: The Parish Council has submitted comments on the applications for The Plough Inn and Church Road.

**7.2** Village confines exercise: The revised map has been submitted.

**7.3** S106 monies: These payments are generated by developments over a certain size. The money is restricted to certain categories, the only one of relevance to Smeeth being the playing fields. Possible projects on the playing field are being costed.

**7.4** Annual Parish Meeting: This will be a joint meeting with Brabourne Parish Council on 20<sup>th</sup> March in Brabourne Baptist Church at 7pm for refreshments, with the meeting beginning at 7.30pm. Invitations have already been sent to local clubs and groups. It is hoped that the meeting will generate more interest in groups and attendance at meetings, the low attendance at recent meetings of the Playing Field Association was regretted.

## 8. Report from PCSO

The Chairman advised that Smeeth has a new PCSO, Matthew Morgan. [PCSO Morgan's report is attached to the Minutes.] In his report the PCSO urged residents to join Neighbourhood Watch but the Chairman noted that no scheme is in operation at present. Neighbourhood Watch schemes are set up through the Police and are then coordinated by residents, anyone interested in helping with the scheme should contact the PCSO.

## 9. Financial Report

### 9.1 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)	1185.12
P Rodway (expenses – note overpayment by £27.72)	96.55
HMRC (P Rodway)	283.86
KCC re Pension scheme (P Rodway pension)	413.77
Fuel Genie	40.00
T Denne & Sons (storage)	108.00
P Rodway (salary)	1185.12
HMRC (P Rodway)	283.86
KCC re Pension scheme (P Rodway pension)	413.77
Fuel Genie	80.00
S Wood	315.39
S Wood	315.39
S Wood (expenses)	107.36
PMC Polythene Ltd (dog bags)	198.00
T Denne & Sons (storage)	108.00
Lister Wilder	94.97
Zurich Municipal	556.85
B Podd	187.92
Brabourne & Smeeth Playing Field Association (donation)	1400.00
Brabourne & Smeeth Village Hall Association (donation)	1000.00

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**Receipts**

Details	£
NatWest interest	24.41
HMRC (VAT refund)	284.00
Brabourne Parish Council (caretaker reimbursement)	27.72
ABC (reimbursement – war memorial grant)	500.00

Balance £ 63015.81 (as at 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019)

**10. Planning Committee report**

Cllr Thorpe (Chairman, Planning Committee) reported on two planning applications:  
 Beautilicious Makeup, Evegate Business Park, Station Road, Smeeth Change of use from beauty salon (sui generis) to tattoo studio  
 Treetops, Plain Road, Smeeth Rear extension  
 The Planning Committee had no objection to the applications.

**11. Local Plan to 2030**

The Chairman advised that the Local Plan was formally adopted on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2019, and is available to download from the ABC website; hard copy can be viewed in Civic Centre, Gateway and a number of public libraries. The Local Plan will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that the five-year housing land supply (5-YHLS) is maintained. It was confirmed that the 20% buffer [an additional housing requirement due to previous under-delivery of housing targets] is still in place but will be reduced to 5% at a later date.

**12. KALC representative report**

Cllr Mrs Morey reported that Minutes of the meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> January have been circulated. The meeting was attended by Insp Atkinson of the Kent Police, who gave a presentation on the Community Safety Unit. The use of volunteers is increasing, and entry as a Police cadet is over-subscribed.

A presentation was also given by Terry Martin (KALC County Secretary).

The next meeting is on 27<sup>th</sup> March.

**13. Footpaths and Highways**

**13.1** Sandy Place parking. An additional parking space has been provided. Costings for additional spaces and works in Lees Close are awaited.

**13.2.** Smeeth School: There have been no reported problems of late re parking outside the school, but congestion continues at peak times.

**14. Emergency Plan and Community Led Plan**

Cllr MacPhee is in contact with Steve Reeves regarding the latter's role as coordinator for the Emergency Plan and will arrange a meeting, likely to be held before the May meeting of the Parish Council. Volunteers are needed to help collate the lists.

Community Led Plan: The Chairman noted that Michael Hinchliffe has prepared a report on the activities of the group over the last 12 months, for presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting. The next project is installation of the outdoor gym equipment on The Warren.

**15. Village caretaker scheme**

Cllr Mrs Morey reported that the scheme continues to operate successfully; the Clerk should be notified of any works that are needed. The caretaker's annual appraisal is due this month.

**16. Speedwatch**

The Chairman reported that there has been limited activity this year, with only 2 sessions having been carried out. 88 passing cars were logged of which 22 were offenders; 1 letter was generated. Additional volunteers are sought so that more sessions can be carried out.

**17. Local Needs Housing (LNH)**

The Chairman stated that the search for suitable sites (if any) will begin now that the Local Plan has been approved. This is initially likely to be a desktop survey.

#### **18. Playing fields**

See 7.4.

#### **19. Correspondence**

All correspondence has been circulated.

ABC's Environmental Achievement Awards: The CLP group will be nominated for its work clearing Hoskins pond, and the parish-wide bulb planting.

#### **20. Any other business**

**20.1** KCC is now charging by the bagful for disposal of certain types of waste at the tip, including rubble and plasterboard.

**20.2** The M20 will be closed overnight on Saturday March 9<sup>th</sup> in both directions between J9-11 and other closures are planned. Details are on the Highways England website.

**20.3** Village green inquiry: The public inquiry to register Hospital Field as a village green ran for 4 days from 25<sup>th</sup> February. The Inspector's report is awaited, which will be used by KCC to inform its decision. One of the options available is to register part of the field, formerly known as Trittons Field – this faces Lees Road. It was a clay pit which was filled in with subsoil when Mountbatten Way was built and crops poorly.

**20.4** Local elections on May 2<sup>nd</sup>: Cllr MacPhee and Cllr Thorpe both stated that they will not be seeking re-election at the Parish Council elections. This was received with regret and the Chairman thanked both councillors for their service to the community.

#### **21. Date and time of next meetings**

Annual Parish Meeting: Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 7.00pm in Brabourne Baptist Church.

Parish Council Meeting: Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019 at 7.00pm in Brabourne Baptist Church.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

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#### **Agenda item 8: PCSO's report**

Below I have detailed the main crime for the area. Please see [police.co.uk](http://police.co.uk) for crime statistics.

#### **Crime Reports**

I have looked at the crime reports from February 1<sup>st</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019. I am happy to say that crime remains extremely low within Smeeth.

#### **Patrolling**

As I am new to the area I will be targeting to introduce myself to yourselves but also to the local school and shops over the course of next month. It will be great to be the PCSO for your area and I am looking forward to us working together to ensure a safe environment for all of us.

#### **Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)**

We are still looking for member's to join NHW. If anyone would like to apply to be a member of NHW please forward their details onto me and I will pass them onto our relevant people to get the ball rolling.

Please also take a moment to read below security steps to secure your property.

#### **Steps to secure your property**

- Keep front gate closed at all times
- Lock all external doors.
- Spotlights can help deter offenders.
- Alarm System- particularly those linked to the police can deter offenders and help police attend incidents swiftly.
- Timer switchers- for lights when you are out at night or on holiday.
- Keep windows closed particularly at night in the warmer months.
- Alarms for out buildings

- Lock sheds and garages
- Mount CCTV to deter and capture evidence of offences.
- Dash Cam footage can be used in relation to vehicle crime

I would like to remind all residents to be vigilant at all times and to report any suspicious activity via the Kent police non-emergency number 101 or report online on [Kentpolice.co.uk](http://Kentpolice.co.uk).

If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate in contacting me via the following email address: [Matthew.Morgan@kent.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Matthew.Morgan@kent.pnn.police.uk).

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