

Smeeth Parish Council
Minutes of a Meeting held on Wednesday 15th July 2020 at 7.00pm
By Zoom

1. Present

Cllr Herrick (Chairman) (DH), Cllr Kimpton (RK), Cllr Mrs Moo (YM), Cllr Mrs Morey (JM), Cllr Mrs Pereboom (VP), Cllr Mrs Alford (HA) and Mrs Block (Clerk) (TB).

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Thorpe (Vice-chairman) (GT)

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Mrs Alford declared an interest in planning application: 20/00762.

4. Minutes

A typographical error was noted relating to the meeting date for the next meeting – 15rd should read 15th.

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 13th May 2020 be approved and confirmed as a true record.

5. To receive any matters arising from these minutes

5.1 Concern had been expressed by Cllr Kimpton as the “basic” meeting was not held, as agreed at the Zoom trial - Cllr Kimpton wished it to be noted that he was unhappy that the meeting was not conducted as he had expected.

6. Open Session

No members of the public were in attendance.

7. Financial report

7.1 To approve the Financial Statement

A copy of the Financial Statement and a current Budget over Expenditure had been circulated to all the Councillors ahead of the meeting for both the Parish Council Account and the Caretaker Account. There were no questions raised with regards to this.

7.2 To agree payments in accordance with the Budget

The following payments had been approved prior to the meeting and the cheques signed accordingly:

Village Caretaker Account	£2000.00
Information Commissioners Office	£40.00
Tracey Block (June salary)	£239.74
Tracey Block (July salary)	£239.94
HMRC	£119.80
Mrs B Podd	£130.80
KALC – Training course for Jackie on 14/07/2020	£60.00

8 Planning Report – to agree any outstanding responses to Planning Applications

<p>and to note responses sent between meetings.</p> <p>A copy of the Planning Report had been circulated ahead of the meeting to all Councillors by VP and a copy is kept on file in the minute book. Report received. HA commented that this was in a very useful format and thanked VP for this.</p>	
<p>9 Correspondence</p> <p>No additional correspondence had been received.</p>	
<p>10. Any Other Business</p>	
<p>i) Royal British Legion (George Taylor) wishes to draw attention to the planned celebration event at Smeeth Church (and afterwards) on 15 August with the Bishop of Dover - to be noted and promoted - an email had been circulated to all. To go in Newsletter/Facebook and on the Noticeboard. There was a suggestion that this could be held externally if necessary - DH to discuss with George re: contingency plan.</p>	DH
<p>ii) SPC/BPC websites update report - to be noted with particular thanks to VP for all her hard work. VP's report had been circulated ahead of the meeting. A website prototype has been circulated so that the Councillors can view this (for SPC only), link sent round, Councillors to comment and add content. BPC to be circulated.</p>	All
<p>iii) Verge Management project - having spoken at length with JM, Chairman and JM agreed that the local resident promoting this initiative would present to the Caretaker Management Committee to assess viability prior to further consideration by Smeeth, Brabourne, Brook and Mersham Parish Councils (Village Caretaker Cluster) at the earliest opportunity - to be noted. N.B. CMC meeting to be held on the 29th July at 1pm. It was reported that planting of wild areas has been discussed recently by the CLP. Also noted under Caretaker Committee update</p>	JM
<p>iv) eNewsletter is promoting the Brabourne and Smeeth villages photographic competition (with prizes) - to be noted and promoted. The possibility that this could be extended, potentially using an art competition was discussed. It is hoped that the younger cohort could be invited to participate in something similar. It was also suggested that the village schools could be approached for input.</p>	VP
<p>v) Borough Councillor's report from William Howard – previously circulated and a copy to be kept on file with the minutes. Arising from this - the remedial works to the Basketball Hoop on the Playing Field - this is in hand with the CLP Group following money received from Cllr Howard's Ward Member Grant. The CLP are in negotiation with the footballers to store materials before the installation. The remedial works will then be undertaken and, hopefully, this extension to the fencing will stop the problems. It is not yet known whether the resident that was affected has been informed - their roof has been repaired. DH will check. MOJO site (proposed freight clearance facility) was also discussed - this site is near to Sevington Church.</p>	DH
<p>vi) Improvement works to the Village Hall. A funding request has been received and circulated and there appears to be a £2358 shortfall (as per email circulated from David Smith - Treasurer for the Village Hall Committee). There was an indication of general support to assist in partnership with BPC. A figure for the SPC contribution needs to be proposed and agreed. The Village Hall has a large sum of</p>	DH

money already put aside for funding the works. It was formally agreed that SPC are prepared to assist in principle. DH to discuss with Chairman of BPC and William Howard with a view to a 1/3 contribution (c.£800) each. All Councillors to be circulated in due course.

vii) eNewsletter report - circulated by VP, noted and a copy kept on file with minutes.

viii) Smeeth PC noticeboard at Brabourne Baptist Church to be removed as unsafe. All Smeeth PC notices will be placed exclusively on the joint SPC/BPC noticeboard on The Warren from now on. Information item for eNewsletter/Facebook. It was considered as to whether Smeeth should have its own noticeboard but as it is difficult to determine something central to Smeeth and the Parish Council contributed toward the Brabourne and Smeeth one, it was agreed to go ahead with the removal and not to replace.

The Caretaker Committee update from JM, circulated prior to the meeting:

The Caretaker Cluster Committee met on 26th May 2020 via zoom, when Pete Turley, (Mersham Parish Councillor), gave a PowerPoint presentation of the Caretaker Financial review for the year ending March 2020 with suggested Budget for the next financial year, and three year plan.

The next meeting of the Caretaker Cluster Committee is to be held on 29th July at Mersham to consider Paul's annual appraisal, and to which the resident of East Brabourne has been invited to give a presentation regarding verge management and wildlife/wild flower strategy.

KALC update report from JM, circulated prior to the meeting:

As current advice is that physical meetings should not be held and virtual meetings are thought to be impractical given the number of members of the committee, the July meeting of KALC has been cancelled.

10 Date and time of next meeting: To be confirmed -

16th September 2020 at 7pm. The Baptist Church is not opening yet and is reluctant to open, so may need to use the Village Hall if face to face meetings allowed.

Thanks were extended to JM and VP in particular for all of the work they undertake.

The meeting closed at 7.40 pm.