

**Smeeth Parish Council**  
**Minutes of a Meeting held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 7.00pm**  
**By Zoom**

<p><b>1. Present</b>  Cllr Mrs Morey (Chairman) (JM), Cllr Mrs Pereboom (VP), Cllr Mrs Alford (HA), Cllr Mrs Moo (YM) and Mrs Block (Clerk) (TB).</p> <p><b>2. Apologies</b>  Apologies were received from Cllr Thorpe (Vice-chairman) (GT) and Cllr Herrick (Chairman) (DH)</p> <p><b>3. Declarations of Interest</b>  There were no declarations of interest to be raised.</p> <p><b>4. Minutes</b>  The minutes had been circulated.  <b>Resolved:</b>  <b>That the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020 be approved and confirmed as a true record.</b></p> <p><b>5. Borough Councillor's Report</b>  No report had been received from Cllr Howard.</p> <p><b>6. Open Session</b></p> <p><b>7. Matters Arising</b>  A name has been suggested for the vacancy, DH is to follow this up.  A letter is to be written to the Bank regarding lack of statements.  Chris Denyer is to pursue the matter of ownership of/responsibility for the Smeeth War memorial. He will also chase up the "faculty." David Herrick to follow this up.  Both Smeeth and Brabourne PC's new websites are up and running. Many thanks again to Villy, Tracey and Mike H. We have had several compliments. It was suggested that contact should be made with the Parish magazine to see if there is anything available.  A letter of thanks has been received from the Village Hall for the grant.  No response has yet been received from KCC Highways ref: road safety and the Church Road/The Ridgeway "grass triangle." The Clerk will chase again.  There has been no further update received from Ashford Borough Council regarding a Condolence book.  The MOJO/Waterbrook Public Consultations has now been completed. It was noted that the works on the sites are on-going.</p> <p><b>8. PCSO's report</b>  There had not been any report from the PCSO.</p> <p><b>9. Financial Report</b>  <b>a. To approve the Financial Statement</b>  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.  Cllr Mrs Pereboom has some Fasthosts invoices to submit for next month.  The Financial Statement was approved.</p> <p><b>b. To agree payments in accordance with the Budget</b>  The following payments had been approved prior to the meeting and the cheques signed accordingly:</p>	<p>TB</p> <p>DH</p> <p>TB</p> <p>VP</p>
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Village Hall donation	£800.00		
BWP Creative Ltd (website)	£691.56		
PMC Polythene	£198.00		
Parish Online	£45.00		
Tracey Block (October salary)	£239.74		
Tracey Block (November salary)	£239.94		
HMRC	£119.80		
Mrs B Podd	£156.96		
Tracey Block (expenses)	£116.05		
Fordred's Charity	200.00		
Lister Wilder	£90.25		
Zantra Ltd (weed spray)	£103.20		
T Denne and Sons	£108.00		
P Rodway	£1499.43		
HMRC	£400.86		
KCC Pension Fund	£606.74		
Farley's Training Ltd	£174.00		
Smeeth Parish Council overpayment	£1000.00		
T Denne and Sons	£108.00		
HMRC	£350.61		
P Rodway	£1329.38		
KCC Pension Fund	£535.95		
P Rodway (expenses)	£133.75		
<b>c. To agree the draft budget for 2021-22 and the precept amount for 2021-22</b>			
There was some discussion regarding the proposed loss of Concurrent Functions Grant and Council Tax Support Grant for this year which will mean a loss of £969. There was some discussion regarding using some of the reserves rather than raising the Precept. This will be revisited again next year. Cllr Mrs Morey proposed that the precept stays the same, Cllr Pereboom seconded, and all were in favour. The precept for 2021/22 is set at £23738.			
<b>d. To agree a donation to Brabourne and Smeeth Scouts and Guides</b>			
There was some discussion regarding the donation for Brabourne and Smeeth Scouts and Guides. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Jon Rose and suggest that he attend the January meeting via Zoom to discuss the need.			
<b>e. To agree 50% of the hamper prize for the competition in the Newsletter</b>			
It was agreed that £15 would be provided for the hamper.			
<b>10. Planning Report – to agree any outstanding responses to Planning Applications and to note responses sent between meetings.</b>			
A copy of the Planning Report had been circulated ahead of the meeting to all Councillors by Cllr Mrs Pereboom and a copy is kept on file in the minute book.			
There was a discussion regarding the new method for dealing with the planning applications. It is believed that the views are more holistic if you can share opinions and share local knowledge. The Planning Application procedure is to be revisited at the January meeting.			
The Parish Councillors approved the suggested response to the Park Farm application and the Clerk is to submit these comments.			

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<p>All submissions that have been sent are endorsed.</p> <p><b>11. KALC Representative report</b>  Tracey has circulated the link regarding HCLG Select Committee Public Survey which gives everyone an opportunity to submit their experiences of the planning process and thoughts on the proposed reforms. KALC has submitted their response to the Planning White Paper as evidence to the inquiry.</p> <p>The last KALC meeting took place on 4th November via zoom. Gillian MacInnes (ABC Head of Planning and Development) gave a presentation. She was appointed during the lockdown in April to help improve the efficiency and speed of decisions in the Planning department, where there are currently 13 vacancies. She outlined the effect that the problem of the poor quality water levels at the nature reserve at Stodmarsh near Canterbury has had on housing applications across East Kent that involve outfall that feeds into the Stour as sewage has to be nutrient neutral. The Stodmarsh wetlands have been found to be suffering from high levels of nitrogen and phosphorus. Waste water discharges from housing developments filtering into the river Stour catchment area are deemed to be the cause so ABC has been forced to put decisions on housing projects that discharge into the Stour on hold while the best course of action to tackle the water quality is decided upon. Before approval can be given to any new housing development within the river Stour catchment area, or that would discharge waste water into it, applicants for planning permission need to satisfy Natural England that they have made sure there are enough mitigation measures in place.  Next KALC meeting is Wednesday 6th January 2021 via zoom.</p> <p><b>12. Footpaths and Highways (including parking issues and bridleways)</b>  Bridge Road in Brabourne is to have edging installed.  Pound Lane is marked up and it is hopeful that remedial works will be undertaken soon.</p> <p><b>13. Village Caretaker Scheme</b>  Paul continues his normal winter schedule in the parishes. The Village Caretaker committee agreed that a new ride on mower and strimmer will be purchased from Lister Wilder with the old mower as a trade in, and a repair of the hedge trimmer.  Paul has arranged to take down a dead tree at Sandy Place.  If there are any matters that need Paul's attention in the village please let the clerk of Parish Council, Tracey Block know.</p> <p>Paul has had a few punctures recently.</p> <p>The tree that is on The Warren to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of a previous Smeeth resident. Paul will remove and purchase/plant a new tree. We await a price from The Caretaker for approval prior to purchase.</p> <p><b>14. Speedwatch</b>  Speedwatch was active briefly before Lockdown 2. Still needs volunteers, Cllr Mrs Pereboom to look at adding this to a Newsletter and potentially submit this on the website.</p> <p><b>15. Community Led Plan/Emergency Plan</b>  No progress with extra basketball fencing yet. It is hoped this will happen in the Spring</p> <p><b>16. Playing Field</b>  New Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of Playing Field Association all appointed. Section 106 submission for the changing room has been resurrected (with thanks to Mike H for his assistance).  The officers are listed on the website and there seems to be representatives appointed from most groups.</p>	<p>TB</p> <p>VP</p>
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