

Smeeth Parish Council
Minutes of a Meeting held on Wednesday 10th March 2021 at 7.00pm
By Zoom

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| <p>1. Present Cllr Herrick (Chairman) (DH), Cllr Mrs Morey (JM), Cllr Mrs Pereboom (VP), Cllr Mrs Alford (HA), Cllr Mrs Moo (YM) and Mrs Block (Clerk) (TB).</p> <p>2. Apologies Apologies were received from Cllr Thorpe (Vice-chairman) (GT) and Borough Cllr William Howard.</p> <p>3. Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest to be raised.</p> <p>4. Minutes The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated. Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 13th January 2021 be approved and confirmed as a true record.</p> <p>5. Borough Councillor's Report Cllr Howard will send a report in the next few weeks.</p> <p>6. Open Session There were no members of the public present.</p> <p>7. Matters Arising A name has been suggested for the Councillor vacancy. It was suggested that an advert should be placed in the Newsletter. The PCC has not yet responded to the Chairman regarding the War Memorial. A response is required from the PCC prior to a discussion regarding the long-term insurance of the War Memorial. The PCC are contacting their Ecclesiastical Insurance. The faculty side of the work to the War Memorial is also being looked in to by the PCC. DH is to follow this up. The Census is on the 21st of March, DH encouraged all to complete this. Some of the Councillors had already completed this on-line. The Newsletter update had been circulated. It is encouraging that some new subscribers are joining. It was suggested that a poster should be placed in the notice board. It was suggested that the Newsletter address should be sent out via Brabourne and Smeeth Scouts and Guides. VP to send details to the Clerk who will send this on.</p> <p>8. PCSO's report The latest report from the PCSO had been circulated to all Councillors. PCSO Sadler is in place at present.</p> <p>9. Financial Report 9.1 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. The Financial Statement was approved. There will be a grant for the loss of Concurrent Functions Grant.</p> | <p style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">VP</p> |
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9.2 To agree payments in accordance with the Budget.

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

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| T Denne and Sons | £108.00 |
| HMRC | £306.93 |
| Paul Rodway | £1359.86 |
| KCC Pension | £535.95 |
| Lister Wilder (outstanding amount for purchase of mower and brush cutter less trade in of old mower plus chain oil) | £1721.22 |
| Paul expenses (mobile plus overalls) | £54.67 |
| T Block half-yearly expenses to March 2021 | £59.40 |
| Brabourne Parish Council (50% of Fast Hosts invoice) | £11.93 |
| HMRC | £119.80 |
| Tracey Block (February salary) | £239.94 |
| Tracey Block (March salary) | £239.74 |
| Barbara Podd (Litter picking (18 hrs @ £8.72/hr) | £156.96 |
| Village Hall Association (grant as per the annual budget) | £1000.00 |
| Playing Fields Association (grant as per the annual budget) | £1400.00 |
| Tracey Block (half yearly expenses) | £110.26 |

9.3 To consider the purchase of a tree to celebrate the recent centenarian birthday.

A suggestion has been made that a flowering cherry tree should be planted to commemorate the recent 100th birthday of Mr Edmund Joynson. An article had been in the newsletter and in the Kentish Express. A tree is to be purchased from Palmstead Nurseries and 2 stakes are required, a plaque and a post are also required. Brabourne Parish Council have given permission for the tree to be planted on the Warren. The RBL might be able to provide a contribution too. DH to follow this up with RBL.

DH

10. Planning**10.1 Planning Report – to agree any outstanding responses to Planning Applications and to note responses sent between meetings.**

A copy of the Planning Report had been circulated to all Councillors ahead of the meeting by Cllr Mrs Pereboom and a copy is kept on file in the Minute Book.

Smeeth Hill House – There has been a lack of communication regarding this application. The Parish Council were waiting for the application to be altered to be valid before we submitted our objections/comments. The Borough Councillor and the Planning Officer were both asked to keep us updated with the situation regarding this application. A refuse decision appears to have been made whilst the application is still marked as invalid. The Planning Officer has been asked for comment regarding this matter.

Larch Cottages – a Lawful Development Certificate application has been received; it was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Borough Council regarding the pre-application advice provided by the Planning department. The Clerk is to follow this up with the Planning Officer. It is unclear as to the siting of the garage.

TB

It was noted that the container at Gorse Bank has been removed.

11. KALC Representative report

KALC Meeting was held via zoom on 3rd March. Minutes will be published in due course.

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| <p>The KALC chairman met Gillian MacInnes to agree the release of pre- application planning advice to Parish Councils without the need for an FOI request on their behalf. There has been a restructuring of ABC planning and new posts are to be filled.</p> <p>The decision of the Wye public planning inquiry is still awaited. There was a meeting held in January with the Environment Agency and Natural England to discuss the problems at Stodmarsh which continue to cause difficulties with planning applications.</p> <p>The Vice- Chairman of KALC, David Ledger will hold a meeting of the KALC Planning group on March 15th via zoom to discuss the KALC response to proposed changes to NPPF and the National Model Design Code. The email from NALC regarding the consultation and inviting responses by 12th March has been circulated.</p> <p>Paula Cowperthwaite has been appointed as Secretary to the Area Committee on the retirement of Sue Wood.</p> <p>Next meeting of KALC will be on 5th May.</p> <p>The changes to the Design Code/National Planning Policy consultation had been circulated. These will be discussed at the KALC Planning group, VP will attend in place of JM. It was suggested that the KALC planning group should be left to respond to the consultations.</p> | VP |
| <p>12. Footpaths and Highways (including parking issues and bridleways)</p> <p>The road at Lily vale has been closed for traffic at short notice.</p> <p>At some time, various salt bins will need to be refilled before next winter.</p> <p>13. Community Led Plan/Emergency Plan</p> <p>No progress has been made with the extra basketball fencing yet. It was noted that some of the daffodils in the village have been damaged.</p> <p>14. Village Caretaker Scheme</p> <p>The work of the Village Caretaker operating his winter schedule continues well. Please let the Parish Clerk know if there is anything specific which requires his attention.</p> <p>The replacement tree in memory of the 100th birthday of Marie Green has been purchased and planted on the Warren.</p> <p>There is an area at the recreation ground in Brook that has been made available for the Village Caretaker to put chipped cuttings and store logs. It is proposed that a couple of councillors from Brook arrange a “fill a 25 kg bag” morning when residents from any of the 4 parishes of the cluster can come along and fill a 25 kg bag with chippings / logs. It is proposed that money raised from this would then be used to offset the payment by the parishes to the Caretaker Account the following year. The fill a bag morning will be run on 10/04.</p> <p>The tree for Mr Joynton to be placed at the Warren will be chosen and the area prepared by Paul Rodway. A date and time will be arranged, DH to respond to the Clerk.</p> | DH |
| <p>15. Speedwatch</p> <p>Nothing is happening at present as it is forbidden by the Constabulary. There are currently only 4 active volunteers, so additional volunteers are required. Without volunteers the group will be closed. An article asking for volunteers will be placed in the Newsletter. Speedwatch is carried out for the safety of all.</p> | VP |
| <p>16. Playing Field Association</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting have been circulated. Another meeting is due to take place soon. A copy of the accounts is to be requested. The new committee are keen, it is hoped that all the decisions required will soon be made and the momentum will be back in place. No decision has yet been made by the Borough Council regarding the S.106 monies.</p> | |
| <p>17. To Consider the creation of a Highways Improvement Plan</p> <p>Brabourne Parish Council have agreed that they will produce a Highways Improvement</p> | |

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| <p>Plan. This has been discussed previously but the costs can be prohibitive following a meeting attended by JM in 2019.</p> <p>A number of suggestions have been received following an article in the Newsletter. There was a discussion regarding the creation of a Highways Improvement Plan and the pros and what positives this could bring. The discussion concluded that the Parish Council is minded to develop a Highways Improvement Plan and will act independently from Brabourne Parish Council. As a result of this decision, an article will be placed in the Newsletter asking for suggestions – it will be Smeeth specific. DH is to put together a narrative to be circulated and placed in the April newsletter. This will be revisited at the May meeting.</p> | DH |
| <p>18. Correspondence Nothing further to note.</p> <p>19. Any other business The KALC Community Awards Scheme, a nomination has been received for services to the village. DH is to send details to the Clerk to forward this on. One other nominee was suggested.</p> <p>The Parish Council would like to thank Donk for lighting the beacon throughout the Covid times. The Parish Council are very grateful to Donk for his commitment to this.</p> <p>20. Date and time of next meetings: May 12th, 2021 at 7.00pm (venue to be confirmed)</p> <p>The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.</p> | DH/TB |