

Smeeth Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting
Held on Wednesday 13th July 2022 at 7.00pm at Brabourne Baptist Church.

Cllr Mrs Alford welcomed everyone to the meeting

1. To note those present.

Cllr Mrs Alford (HA), Cllr Mrs Morey (JM), Cllr Mrs Pereboom (VP), Cllr Roger Baker (RB).
 3 members of the public and Mrs Block (Clerk) (TB).

2. To receive and approve apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Herrick, Rev. Denyer and Borough Councillor Howard.

3. To receive declarations of interest (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests). The nature as well as the existence of any such interest must be declared.

There were no declarations of interest to be made.

4. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 18th May 2022.

The Parish Council approved the minutes as a true record and the Vice-Chairman signed these in the absence of the Chairman.

5. To discuss any matters arising from those minutes

War Memorial insurance confirmed in place by Chris

Queen's Jubilee Celebrations – no major “village” event had taken place but there had been various individual gatherings – Sandpit picnic/RBL tea party/various “street” parties

The planting of the Jubilee tree by Smeeth WI was noted.

6. Public session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item

The public had nothing to report.

7. To receive report from the Borough Councillor

No report had been received from Councillor Howard.

8. To receive an update on the Highways Improvement Plan

The Parish Clerk had received a response from Kent Highways regarding the roundels and repeater signs. It was agreed that the Parish Council would take forward the road markings and gateways.

The Clerk had received a request regarding installation of a footpath in Station Road, Smeeth to allow access to Evegate. This is to be considered by the Highways Improvement Committee.

9. To discuss the future of the Newsletter

A Newsletter report was received:

Newsletter June 2022

Date sent: 13 June

Number of recipients: 371

Open rate: 66%

Clicks per unique open: 28.6%

It was agreed that VP would continue for now. A member of the public stated that the Newsletter is really appreciated and very well worth receiving.

10. KALC Representative Report

A report from the KALC Representative was received:

The meeting of Ashford Area Committee of KALC was held at Civic centre on Wednesday 6th July

Mr Jeremy Smith (Wittersham Parish Council) was re-elected as Chairman.
Mr Andy Rogers (South Willesborough and Newtown Council) was re-elected as Vice Chairman.
Mr Jeremy Smith and Mr Tony Bartlett (Westwell Parish Council) were elected as representatives for KALC Executive Committee.

Christine Drury (Westwell), Andy Rogers (SWAN) and A Hicks((Kingsnorth) were elected as KALC representatives for Joint Transportation Board.

In the absence of Chief Inspector Sparkes, Chairman Jeremy Smith gave an update on the local policing review that is taking place.

Topics then discussed included Planning and the Land Mapping Commission.

The pilot trials of the new Planning Portal carried out by Tenterden, Great Chart, and South Willesborough and Newtown councils had unfortunately been totally unsuccessful as all three councils had been unable to access the new portal and so no proper trial had been possible. There is still however to be a demonstration of the new Portal to the Borough Councillors.

Great Chart reported that they have had a number of planning applications for garage conversions/ extensions of homes for accommodation which affect policy TRA3 and the availability of parking spaces which is having an adverse impact on existing residential parking spaces in the area.

It was reported that Operation Brock will be reinstated on 10th July because of new biometric checks by France.

The Chairman Jeremy Smith is to clarify whether the parishes will need to take any further action following the review of streetlamps by ABC.

Next meeting of Ashford Area Committee of KALC is 8th September

11. Footpaths and Highways

Proposed footpath to Brabourne School - The progress so far is that Charlotte is writing to the three landowners in question for their agreement on the proposal for a footpath through the fields to the school from Canterbury Road.

She will create a survey for parents at Brabourne School as well.

Over-hanging branches on the footpath on the A20 was discussed. RB to take photographs and forward to the Clerk for reporting.

The Clerk had received a response regarding charging electric vehicles on the roadside. The Clerk is to send this to VP for the Newsletter.

A restructure of Kent Highways had been circulated. This will only affect Highways Improvement Plans.

It is not known who had instigated the speed survey near Washington Farm.

12. Planning matters: to authorise a response to any application(s) and to note any recent planning decisions by Ashford Borough Council or any correspondence on planning matters.

12.1 To receive the report of the Planning committee

The Planning Report was received and a copy is kept on file.

The EDF application has been received by the borough Council but as yet no consultees have been added.

The Council agreed to submit a comment regarding the Smeeth Hill House to reiterate that the comments made are still valid.

Land behind Ramstone Close – it was confirmed Quinn Estates have an interest but no other

information is known regarding the future use.

13. Financial matters:

a) To note the Parish Council's financial position as at 30/06/2022

The current financial position of the Parish Council was noted. The Parish Council has a balance of £95951.33 as of 30th June 2022.

b) To authorise any payments

T Denne and Sons	118.80
HMRC	£538.24
Paul Rodway	£1841.76
KCC Pension	£693.64
Lister Wilder	£47.62

B Podd	£228.00
HMRC	£135.40
T Block	£270.73
T Block	£270.53
PMC Polythene Ltd	£240.00
Information Commissioner	£ 40.00

14. Correspondence

The Clerk had received some correspondence regarding The Bedingfield Charity Trust.

The Parish Council discussed the request received and felt that whilst the cause is appreciated, it is not felt appropriate for the Parish Council to support this trust.

15. Playing Field Association update

A meeting of the PFA had taken place since the last meeting and another meeting between the Chairman and Cllr Herrick is awaited.

16. Village Caretaker Scheme update

The Village Caretaker scheme continues well and Paul is now well into the summer schedule of mowing in each of the parishes in the cluster. If there are any matters that require the attention of the Caretaker, please let the Clerk to the Parish Council know.

17. Speed Watch

There had been no update from the Speed Watch Co-ordinator.

18. Community Led Plan

There had been no update from the Community Led Plan Group.

19. Any Other Business (for information purposes only):

Smeech Parish Council support the new Noticeboard initiative and approved a sum of up to £500.

Co-option of a new Councillor was postponed until the September meeting.

20. Determining the time and place of ordinary meetings of the Council up to and including the next annual meeting of the Council.

Wednesday 14th September 2022
 Wednesday 11th January 2023
 Wednesday 10th May 2023

Wednesday 9th November 2022
 Wednesday 8th March 2023

The meeting closed at 8.00pm.