

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at St Johns School, Provender Way, on Monday 1st October 2012 commencing at 7.30 pm.

Councillors present – Mr Ivor Davies (Chairman), Mrs P Brooks, Mr P Dengate, Mr T Harwood, Mr Bob Hinder, Mrs Wendy Hinder, Mr D Holmes, Mrs K Macklin, Mr K Perry, Mr G Smith, Mrs A Spain (arrived during item 5), Mr A Springate, Mr P Sullivan and Mrs M Waller together with the Clerk, PCSO Hawthorn and 2 members of the press/public.

1. Apologies and absences.

Cllr V Davies (convalescence). Borough Councillor Butler. Cllr Spain had sent apologies as she would be late in arriving.

2. Declaration of Interests or Lobbying.

Cllr Spain declared a pecuniary interest in item 8 land at Sandy Lane. No other declaration of interests or lobbying were received.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings of 3rd September and 27th September 2012.

The minutes of the meetings were **agreed** and **signed** as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising From the Minutes.

4.1 Minute 2422/9.2 Quality Council. **Noted** a NALC review of 2 sections of the criteria was currently underway and no submissions for Quality Status were being accepted. Councils seeking reaccreditation will have their Quality Status extended and once the review is completed (early 2013) will have a 3 month grace period in which to submit their portfolios.

Item 5 was taken at this point.

4.2 Minute 2434/5.1 Round Wood. **Noted** still awaiting answer on the voluntary village green application submission. The Clerk was asked to get an update.
Action: Clerk.

4.3 Minute 2434/5.2 Website: **Received** the report on the recent Working Group meeting. Following a discussion on whether the inclusion of a photographs and/or précis for individual Councillors would make the Parish Council more approachable and accessible, members voted against this. Cllr Macklin suggested that a page where interested councillors could engage with residents by for example describing why they had become a councillor should be considered. **Action: Website Working Group.**

4.4 Minute 2434/5.3 Parish Tour. After discussion it was **agreed** to defer this to early spring. **Action: Clerk and Assistant Clerk.**

4.5 Minute 2434/5.4 Code of Conduct advert. **Noted** the advert appeared in the October edition of the Downs Mail.

4.6 Minute 2434/5.5 Community Project Grant. **Noted** the applications would be supplied to the judging group to allow consideration.

4.7 Minute 2434/5.6 Weaving Diamond Jubilee Orchard. The Clerk was asked to remind MBC that the lease was still unsigned as the outstanding issue regarding the dog waste bin needed resolving. **Action: Clerk.**

4.8 Minute 2436/16 Parish Services Scheme. Members **received** the information and the request from Maidstone Area KALC to undertake a petition which members felt would be time consuming and not an effective method of changing the MBC position. Furthermore, the petition wording required the Parish Council to organise a parish poll if Maidstone Borough Council did not capitulate which members had already declined to do on the grounds of cost. It was **agreed**, proposed by Cllr Macklin seconded by Cllr Wendy Hinder, that **Boxley Parish Council would not become involved in the petition.**

5 Report from the PCSO and Police Issues.

5.1 **Received and noted** crime statistics and report. It was **noted** that Sandling Village had been targeted and the Police were monitoring the area. PCSO Hawthorn had visited those affected and also undertaken a crime prevention leaflet drop in the village. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would liaise with PCSO Hawthorn about placing an article in the Downs Mail about the availability of cheap shed alarms. **Action: Clerk.**

The situation regarding the Maidstone Studios audience parking on roads in Grove Green was raised. Cllr Perry thanked PCSO Hawthorn for his recent presence and intervention to try to control the inconsiderate parking. After discussion covering possible restricted parking measures, the need for the Studios to sort out the problem and the possible use of the Park and Ride site, it was **agreed** the issue would be deferred to the Environment Committee. **Action: Environment Committee.**

5.2 PCSO Contract. **Noted** a meeting with Chief Inspector Jon Bumpus has been arranged for Monday 15th October, 2012 , 11am at Beechen Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.10 pm to allow a member of the public to comment on recent crime in Sandling and also to complain about highway signs outside St Andrews Cottage at Sandling being covered by vegetation. The meeting reconvened at 8.14 pm.

6 Draft Minutes of Meetings since Previous Parish Council Meetings.

Noted and Received:

- 6.1 Environment Committee meeting 3rd September 2012.
- 6.2 Environment Committee meeting 10th September 2012. Cllr Perry thanked the committee members for the Core Strategy consultation work that they had undertaken at the meeting
- 6.3 Finance Committee meeting 11th September 2012.

7 Finance.

7.1 **Noted and received** the payments made out of meeting 04.09.2012 – 25.09.12.

7.2 **Noted and received** the receipts for the period 29.08.2012 – 25.09.12.

7.3 **Noted** account balances as at 25.09.12.

7.4 No payments of accounts were submitted.

7.5 Members **noted** the request to submit suggestions or issues to the parish office or relevant committee for inclusion in the 2013/14 draft budgets.

A request from Burleigh Drive Residents Association that the Parish Council assume responsibility for land at Cuckoo Wood was considered. It was **agreed** that the issue would initially be discussed by the Environment Committee at its 8th October meeting. The Clerk to request a copy of the letter's missing appendix A; obtain the draft management plan and write to The Crown Estates to gather information on the legal status of the land referred to in the letter. A report was to be made to the November Parish Council meeting. **Action: Environment Committee and Clerk.**

Weaving Diamond Jubilee Orchard. Cllr Harwood suggested that some additional play equipment for slightly older children be placed at the area. He had noted an increase in use and some of the older children had asked for something for them. The Clerk was to investigate whether there was available space and whether the mixture of ages and equipment could be safely accommodated. Cllr Harwood suggested 'spinners'. **Action: Clerk.**

8 Land at Sandy Lane, Boxley.

The Clerk informed Cllr Spain that there was no reason for her to withdraw from the meeting as members were only being informed that issues were being progressed and there was nothing specific to be reported.

9 Power of Competency.

It was proposed from the Chair and **unanimously agreed** that “**Boxley Parish Council, having met the criteria (Localism Act 2010 s8) of having a qualified Clerk and two thirds of its 15 Councillors elected at the May 2012 elections, adopts The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence)(Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012.**”

10 Policies and Procedures Review.

10.1 Community Strategy. After lengthy discussion on Parish Council attendance at school fetes it was **agreed** that the Parish Council was still committed to attending these. Members requested much more advance notice of the dates and it was suggested that better pitches should be negotiated to try to attract more interest. It was also suggested that perhaps the Parish Council could sponsor something, like a bouncy castle, and have its pitch adjacent to that.

Action: Parish office.

The Community Engagement Strategy was, with minor adjustments, **agreed**.

10.2 Civic Recognition Recommendations. Members were notified that they could nominate any residents and should a nomination be received then the issue would be referred to the next Parish Council meeting. It was **agreed** that the Parish Council would consider its own ‘annual award’ to recognise residents or people who contribute to the parish and provision was to be included in the draft budget. **Action: Clerk.**

10.3 Protocol for members of the public attending parish council and committee meetings. It was **agreed** that the document was still fit for purpose.

11 Matters for Decision.

11.1 Speedwatch. Members agreed that this was a valuable tool for educating drivers and that it needed to be started up again. It was **agreed** that the parish office would inquire about training and arrange for the approval of possible sites, for its use, in Boxley Road, Walderslade and Beechen Bank Road. Cllr Spain requested its use along Boxley Road near Harbourland Farm. **Action: Parish office.**

11.2 KCC public consultation – proposal to expand St John’s CE Primary School Wednesday 10th October at 7 pm. Members were encouraged, as individuals, to attend the public meeting and make a response to the consultation. However it was decided that the Parish Council would only monitor the situation.

11.3 Purchase of wreath. Cllr Macklin proposed, seconded by Cllr Dengate that a **donation of £120** be made. This was **agreed**.

11.4 E-mail from Chairman KALC Maidstone Area Committee regarding petition. This issue had been dealt with under item 4.8.

12 Reports from Borough and County Councillors.

Cllr Wendy Hinder notified members that she had been dealing with individual residents’ complaints and had nothing else to report at the moment.

13 Reports from councillors/office.

13.1 MBC Core Strategy Parish Liaison Meeting 4/9/12. Report by Ivor Davies

13.2 MBC Council Tax Discount Review Briefing 20/9/12. Report by Ivor Davies

13.3 KALC (Maidstone) Bi-monthly Meeting 26/9/12. Report by Ivor Davies

14 Matters for Information.

14.1 Medway Valley Countryside Partnership's 2012 Newsletter.

14.2 Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Countryside Day 2012 – Planning for the future of this fine landscape. Friday 12th October.

14.3 Mid Kent Downs Countryside Partnership newsletter. Cllr Smith notified members of the work the Mid Kent Downs Group was undertaking in publicising walks in schools.

14.4 KCC Highways Parish Seminar Monday 8th October. Cllr Bob Hinder will be attending.

15 Next Meeting.

Monday 5th November at European School of Osteopathy, Boxley Village ME14 3DZ.

Meeting closed at 9.13 p.m.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

Chairman.....Date.....