

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at the St John's School,
Provender Way, Grove Green on Monday 2 December 2013, commencing
at 7.30 pm.**

Councillors present: Mr Ivor Davies (Chairman), Mrs P Brooks, Mr Vic Davies, Mr P Dengate, Mr T Harwood, Mr Bob Hinder, Mrs W Hinder, Mr D Hollands (arrived with apologies during item 7.2), Mrs K Macklin, Mr G Smith, Mr A Springate, Mr P Sullivan, and Mrs M Waller, together with the Clerk, Borough Councillor Derek Butler and 2 members of the public/press.

1. Apologies and Absences.

Mrs A Spain (WI commitment). Mr D Holmes (absent)

2. Declaration of Interests or Lobbying on Items on this Agenda.

No declarations made.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 4 November 2013.

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

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes.

4.1 Minute 2586/4.1 Community Chest: The Chairman **notified** members of the judging panel's decision that three grants would be awarded:

- Kent Wildlife Trust: £833 for a webcam project at a kestrel's nest.
- Kent Wildlife Trust: £630 for developing walks within the parish.
- Walderslade Woods Group: £1,000 towards the purchase of a wood chipper with a condition that it is purchased within six months.

It was noted that the chairman had originally notified the panel that he was a working member of WWG and would abstain from voting however due to a voting deadlock the panel asked the chairman to cast a vote.

The panel declined to make an award to the Maidstone Wind Symphony as it was felt that there was no established connection or widespread benefit to the parish as a whole.

It was **agreed**:

- That the remaining budget for the Community Chest would be placed in the draft budget so that the parish council could consider making awards in the next financial year. **Action: office.**
- A review of the criteria would be undertaken as the judging panel wished to see smaller less well established groups applying. **Action: Cllrs Ivor Davies, Vic Davies, Dengate, Wendy Hinder and Maclin**

4.2 Minute 2587/12.2 Vacancy on the governing body of St John's School: after discussion it was **agreed** that an appeal for a volunteer, from parishioners who would also report pertinent matters to the Parish Council, would be made to parishioners via the Downs Mail, noticeboards and website. **Action: office.**

5. PCSO's Report and Police Issues.

As there was still no news of when the new PCSO will arrive, it was **agreed** that the parish office and if necessary the Chairman should write to the police, expressing the council's dissatisfaction and demanding urgent action. **Action: office and Cllr Ivor Davies.**

As no member of the public wished to speak the meeting was not adjourned.

6. Draft Minutes of Recent Committee Meetings.

Received and **noted.**

- 6.1 Estates Committee meeting 29 October 2013.
- 6.2 Environment Committee meeting 4 November 2013.
- 6.3 Environment Committee meeting 11 November 2013.

6.4 Finance Committee meeting 12 November 2013.

7. Finance.

- 7.1 Payments made out of meeting 05.10.13 – 25.11.13. **Noted.**
- 7.2 Receipts for the period 29.10.13 – 25.11.13. **Noted.**
- 7.3 Account balances as at 25.11.13. **Noted.**
- 7.4 Payments of accounts. **Authorised**
- 7.5 Members were reminded that they should not sign blank cheques or authorisation letters, the need to check invoices against cheques when signing and that cheque stubs need to be initialised by both signatories. Also that applications for dispensation must be submitted to the Clerk.

8. Dove Hill Allotments.

Cllr Bob Hinder's report on the latest situation at the allotments was **received**. Members **noted** that the fence would be completed around 11 December 2013 and the water troughs were being delivered soon after. Arrangements were in hand to have the footpath boundary trees planted on 25 January 2014 by the Conservation Trust Volunteers. The opening of the plot waiting-list on 16 December was being widely publicised.

Cllr Vic Davies notified members that Cllr and Mr Brooks had generously donated a seat to the parish council for the allotments. He asked that the thanks of the council be minuted, which was **agreed** unanimously.

9. Policies and Procedures Review.

Vision and business plan: **Agreed** with some minor changes.

10. Wildfell Close Enabling Development.

As insufficient and deficient information had been received from KCC it was **agreed** that the Clerk would supply members with a briefing via e-mail and post once clarification was received. **Action: Clerk.**

11. Matters for Decision.

There were none but members' attention was directed to the information at 14.3 and that the Environment Committee would be considering MBC's draft Green and Blue Structure Plan.

12. Reports from Borough and County Councillors.

Borough Cllr Wendy Hinder's report was **received**. It was **noted** that if there was no progress on the issue of lorry parking on Old Chatham Road, Cllr Hinder would request a meeting with County Councillor Paul Carter to discuss and **agreed** that Chairman Ivor Davies should accompany her. **Action: Cllr Wendy Hinder and Cllr Ivor Davies.**

Borough Cllr Derek Butler asked how matters stood on the production of a Neighbourhood Development Plan as was important. He was told that progress was temporarily stalled because of pressure of other work but that companies would be invited to make presentations in the New Year. In the context of the Community Chest item on the agenda, he advised members that the Rochester Bridge Trust was also allocating grants and this might help parish organisations.

13. Reports from councillors/office.

- 13.1 Friends of Boxley Warren: Cllr Smith's report on a recent meeting and talk on fresh archaeological finds was **noted**.
- 13.2 KALC AGM: **Noted** that due to unforeseen circumstances the parish council was not represented at this meeting. A copy of the minutes will be circulated when received. **Action: office.**
- 13.3 KALC Maidstone meeting: Cllr Ivor Davies's report was **received**.
- 13.4 Cllr Vic Davies reported that the VVNR Murder Mystery Evening was a huge

success with £1,661 being raised. Cllr Wendy Hinder congratulated the organisers on a splendid evening.

14. **Matters for Information.**
Received and **noted**

15. **Next Meeting.**
Monday 27 January 2014 at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, ME5 9RU commencing at 7.30 pm.

Meeting closed at 8.24 p.m.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

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