

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7 March 2022 at 7.30 pm via Teams

Present: Mr C Sheppard - Chairman, Mr Ivor Davies, Mr B Hinder, Mrs A Brindle (from item 10.1), Mrs P Huntingford, Mr P Dengate, Mrs K Macklin, D Hollands, P Sullivan, D Hubbard and M Beckwith together with the Clerk Mrs D Baylis.

1. Apologies and absences

Cllr V Davies
Cllr J Willmott

2. Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying

None.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 24 January 2021

The minutes of the meeting were agreed with 2 minor amendments.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

4.1 Any other matters arising from the minutes.
None.

5. Co-option of New Councillors

No prospective Councillors present.

6. Crime Report and Police Issues

Noted.

7. Adjournment to enable members of the public to address the meeting

No members of the public were present.

8. Draft Minutes of Recent Committee Meetings

Received and **Noted** the following draft minutes.

- 8.1 Environment Committee Meeting 24 January 2022. **Noted**
- 8.2 Finance and General Purposes Committee 24 January 2022. **Noted**
- 8.3 Estates Committee 21 February 2022. **Noted**

9. Finance

- 9.1 Payments made out of meeting 31.01.22 – 28.02.22. **Noted.**
- 9.2 Receipts for the period. 31.01.22 – 28.02.22. **Noted.**
- 9.3 Account balances report. **Noted.**

The Chairman raised the issue of the same finance reports being on multiple agendas. It was proposed by Cllr I Davies, seconded by Cllr Dengate and all agreed that finance reports would only be put onto the full Parish Council Agendas.

10. Policies and Procedures

- 10.1 Mission Statement. Agreed with minor amendments.
- 10.2 Freedom of Information Policy – Agreed with minor amendment.
- 10.3 Publication Scheme – Agreed.

11. Monthly Website update

Report noted. Cllr Brindle said that she was still listed on the Website as Vice Chairman of the Environment Committee. This needed to be changed to Cllr Hinder.

12. Reports from Councillors/Office

Cllr Sheppard reported that he had resigned from the 'Against Lidsing Garden Development (ALGD) on principle due to derogatory comments about another BPC Councillor being emailed to group members. Cllrs Hinder, Sheppard and Brindle had attended a meeting with the Agent for the Developer which members of the ALGD had declined an invitation to attend. This had caused offence but Cllr Hinder said that it was vital to keep lines of communication open especially if the development went ahead. A public meeting to be held at Bechen Hall would have merit and was being considered.

Cllr Sheppard asked if any other Councillors would stand as the BPC representative on the ALGD but no one came forward. It was put forward that the Clerk should get in contact with the Clerk from Bredhurst as a line of communication until another representative could be found. This was all agreed.

Cllr Sheppard and Cllr Hinder had attended a meeting with Sandling residents to discuss a planning application for Boarley Lane. This had been a very productive meeting.

13. Reports from Borough and County Councillors

Cllr Hinder reported that a local litter picking group covering Lordswood and Walderslade were having problems getting any support from Maidstone Borough Council. They received excellent support from Medway Council who provided equipment and bags. Maidstone would not provide them with bags (the Clerk had ordered 4 boxes of bags and provided them with one to get around this problem) and they also claimed to have provided a risk assessment. BPC had not been sent the risk assessment and neither had the group. Cllr Hinder was meeting with John Edwards from MBC on his return from annual leave and would provide an update at the next meeting. In the previous 10 months this group have collected 1009 bags of litter.

14. Grant Applications

14.1 Boxley Village Society

The grant application was for a Jubilee party for Boxley Village and Boxley Church members. The amount requested was £3,000 for the benefit of 250/300 invited people. The total event cost was estimated at £7,000 with the remaining £4,000 being from an applied for Lottery Grant that they were not certain would meet the required criteria. The grant was to cover the cost of live bands, promotional material, porta-loos, hog roast/medieval banquet, jubilee beacon, flowers and marquee hire.

This was discussed and it was agreed that the grant request was not something the PC could support as it was an invitee only party and the number of beneficiaries was very limited. It was noted that Boxley Village Society has not secured funding from members and did not have sufficient funds to cover even part of the event. The Clerk was asked to write to the applicant and inform them of the decision.

15. Walderslade Woodlands

15.1 Investment of Enabling Fund

The report from the Working Group was noted. The recommendation to invest £610,000 with CCLA was agreed.

It was proposed by Cllr Sheppard, seconded by Cllr Hollands and agreed with one abstention to invest £610,000 into the CCLA property fund.

15.2 Roles and Responsibilities of BPC as a Corporate Trustee

Agreed.

15.3 Terms of Reference Walderslade Woodlands Management Committee

Agreed with the following amendments:

- Removal of the proposed additional representatives to keep it local.
- An addition to give the Committee Chairman the casting vote.

15.4 Minutes of first Management Committee Meeting

Noted.

15.5 Immediate needs

The report was noted. The new store and all terrain vehicle are a necessity for the continued management of the woodland.

15.6 Grant Applications

Rob Burrows and the Clerk were looking at grants to fund the immediate needs plus a working management plan, steps/slopes for the steep access points between the plateaus and some paths. The Clerk explained that a lot of grants required a 10 percent funding commitment by the applying body.

It was proposed by Cllr Sheppard, seconded by Cllr Dengate and all agreed that an Ear marked Reserve of £15,000 be set up from the Walderslade Woodlands Enabling Fund for the purpose of applying for grants to enable a percentage funding match to be made.

15.7 Letter to Residents

The letter was agreed with minor amendments. Cllr Dengate requested that an alias email account be set up WWT@BPC.org.uk.

16. Parish/Ward Boundaries

The report from Cllr Hinder was noted.

17. Queens Platinum Jubilee

It was agreed to purchase a new flag and some bunting for Beechen Hall. It was agreed to renew the information boards and install a plaque at the Diamond Jubilee Orchard in Weaving Street.

18. Cluster Meetings

The next meeting would be in June.

19. Matters for Decision

The Clerk was looking into grants for resurfacing the hall carpark, new entrance gates and replacing the hall floor which needed repairs. Many grant funding bodies require a 10 percent funding commitment from the applying body. It was proposed by Cllr Sheppard, seconded by Cllr Dengate and all agreed that an Ear Marked reserve of £10,000 be set up from Parish Council unallocated reserves for the purpose of applying for grants to enable a percentage funding match to be made.

20. Correspondence

None.

21. Matters for Information

None.

22. Items for Next Agenda

To be received by the Clerk on or before the 25 March 2022.
Noted.

23. Next Meeting

23.1 4 April 2022.

23.2 It was proposed by Cllr Sheppard, seconded by Cllr Brindle and all agreed that future meetings be held at Beechen Hall with the 2 scheduled for Weaving (4 July 2022 and 6 March 2023) be kept.

The Chairman to move that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be considered the press and public be excluded from the meeting.

24. Personnel Matters

The Chairman issued a verbal report on the uplift to the NALC salary scales.

The meeting closed at 21.45.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

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