

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE YALDING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 1st DECEMBER 2009 AT 7.30 P.M. IN YALDING VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT

Geraldine Brown (GB) Chairman
Derek Hudson (DH)
Ken Gough (KG)
Vivienne Robinson (VR)

Mike Newman (MN) Vice-Chairman
Symon Wilson (SW)
Andy Sanders (AS)
Michael Stewart (MS)

ACTION

1. PUBLIC SESSION

No members of the public were present.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Sue Hobbs, Rodd Nelson Gracie

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF COUNCILLORS IN ANY ITEM

DH declared an interest in planning application MA/09/2012.

4. DECISION TO TAKE AGENDA ITEMS UNDER CLOSED SESSION

It was agreed to take items 20 and 21 in Closed Session.

5. POLICE MATTERS

PSCO James Austin (JA) attended the meeting he had nothing to report. The Chairman reported that there was an incident on Medway Avenue at the weekend involving a group of youths from outside the village. These youths implied they would be back for the Yuletide Market on the 5th of December and the duty police on the night should be aware of this. The Chairman will write to Maidstone police offering to store a bike in Yalding for JA to use. **CHAIR**

6. PLANNING

Comments on all new applications are recorded at the end of the minutes.

7. TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 10th NOVEMBER 2009

Proposed MN, seconded AS and all agreed that the minutes be signed as a correct record.

8. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

8.1. ROAD SAFETY ON VICARAGE LANE

Nothing further to report on improvements to the school crossing.

NFA

8.2. RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

There has been no response from John Grant from Maidstone Police regarding a survey of recreational facilities as he has been involved with KIG and will not be able to survey Yalding until the New Year.

ML

8.3. WAR MEMORIAL

The Clerk chasing the War Memorials Trust for a grant towards repairs.

CLK

8.4. FOOTPATH HIGH STREET/SCHOOL GATE

The above footpath is in need of repair; one of the residents has unblocked the drain which helped but KG is continuing to hassle the public rights of way (PROW) officer. **KG**

All agreed that this path is in an unacceptable condition and it was agreed that The Clerk should write to the PROW officer to urge them to repair this public footpath as a matter of urgency. **CLK**

8.5. THE FEN

8.5.1. OVER GROUND WATER SUPPLY

The water supply needs to be reinstated in order to allow the Fen to be used for educational visits again. We have a cost for this, which needs to be agreed with St Mowden. **KG/SW**

8.6. ADDITIONAL ENTRANCE ONTO THE LEES PONY FIELD

KG will speak to Laddingford Engineering re the manufacture of a suitable gate, to allow access for agricultural vehicles and then arrange a site meeting. This will need to wait until the New Year, as people are busy with Christmas preparations. **KG**

8.7. GYPSY SITES

A consultation document on gypsy sites is being prepared by MBC Gypsy Issues Officer; it has not yet been received. The Chairman will chase and circulate once received. **CHAIR**

8.8. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT

Clerk has now been advised that MBC have adopted the Sustainable Communities Act so there is nothing for us to do at this stage, we will be advised of future developments. **NFA**

8.9. STREET LIGHTING

8.9.1. YOUTH CENTRE LIGHT

The Chairman will speak to the Clerk, as she does not have all of the information available to prepare the Small Claims Court paperwork. She has also asked the Clerk to chase the reconnection. **CHAIR/CLK**

8.9.2. MAINTENANCE

Ditton Electrical has been engaged to inspect and maintain the street lighting in the Parish. Ditton Electrical has agreed to be paid quarterly by BACS. **NFA**

8.10. CHURCH FLOOD LIGHTING

David Dunn has been engaged to maintain and inspect the church floodlights. David Dunn now has the parts and the repairs will be undertaken this week, weather permitting. **NFA**

8.11. SEAT AT LADDINGFORD

It was agreed that SH would varnish the seat opposite The Chequers. The metal seat on the verge into Laddingford also needs attention. **SH**

8.12. PLAYScheme

Hunton have sent a cheque for £100 to support the play scheme. The Clerk to write to thank them. **ML**

8.13. INSPECTION OF PLAY EQUIPMENT

MBC have been made aware of the unsatisfactory condition of the swings. **NFA**

8.14. BYELAWS

The Chairman/DH agreed to meet in the early New Year to prepare a document to be presented at the January meeting. **CHAIR/DH**

The Chairman to obtain quotes from local security companies with regard to enforcement. **CHAIR**

8.15. BT MAINTENANCE

BT has confirmed painting of cabinets and any other maintenance will be undertaken with an estimated completion of 10 December 2009. **ML**

8.16. YALDING LIBRARY

Kent County Council (KCC) has advised the Clerk that the repairs to the exterior of Library will take place in January 2010. The provisional date for this is 18th-29th. **ML**

8.17. RIVERSIDE COMMUNITIES PROJECT END

About 40 people turned out for the walk around The Fen and lunch to celebrate the completion of this project. The Chairman has asked the Clerk to write to thank the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership (MVCP) who has agreed to install four further benches on the Lees Car Park in March 2010. **ML**

MVCP produce apple juice from the Yalding orchards. The Clerk to advertise this. **CLK**

A Lime tree has been planted on The Lees car park by the Kent Men of Trees and the Chairman has asked the Clerk to write a letter of thanks. **CLK**

8.18. BUS SERVICES

The Clerk has written to KCC to confirm that we have been very happy with the current provider. **NFA**

8.19. NEW ELECTRICITY SUPPLY SWAN PLACE

The Clerk has confirmed to EDF that this is acceptable. **NFA**

8.20. VICTIM SUPPORT

Victim Support has requested a donation; the Clerk will bring this to the budget meeting. **CLK**

8.21. THE FAMILY HISTORY HELPER

The Library already had a copy of this KCC poster up; the clerk put a copy up in the Post Office and requested that it be put in the parish magazine. **NFA**

8.22. WEB SITE

VR has been on holiday, The Chairman on jury service and The Clerk concentrating on the handover. They will meet in January to discuss the way forward and to prepare a proposal for discussion. **CHAIR**

8.23. ENFORCEMENT AND PLANNING

MA/03/2352 – SHINGLE BARN FARM

The Clerk has requested MBC to undertake a site visit. **ML**

MA/09/1769 – THE GRANARY, YALDING HILL

The Parish Council questioned if this development is contrary to the Policy of Preservation of Buildings of Architectural Interest that permitted the original conversion. The Planning officer agrees with our concerns and has asked the applicant to provide a written justification, which we will be consulted on.

9. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

The County Councillor did not attend. The Clerk will send an email requesting a report if attendance is not possible. **CLK**

10. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Rodd Nelson Gracie did not attend but had nothing to report. MN pointed out that since the Parish Council's disagreement with Councillor John Verrall over a planning matter, we have had no input from him. It was agreed that The Chairman would write to Chris Garland leader of the conservatives to express our disappointment. **CHAIR**

11. PROGRESS OF THE CLERKS HANDOVER

AG now has all matters to deal with, the phone is fully operational and her office equipment is in place. **NFA**

12. LITTER BINS

The Clerk has had a site meeting with John Edwards of MBC, who inferred that we could have any bins we like providing we pay for them. There is also a charge of at least £50 a week to empty them. The £50 covers the cost to empty and dispose and is for the first additional bin that MBC would empty, after that the cost would be lower. There is no cost to empty replacement bins. The Chairman will speak with MBC to point out that these charges are unacceptable. **CHAIR**

All agreed that in principle if we purchase new bins we should go for the most hardwearing. The Clerk and The Chairman will put together a proposal and circulate for approval. **CLK**

13. PUBLIC TOILETS

The Clerk has been advised that Staplehurst Parish Council have not yet appointed a cleaning contractor. The Clerk has written to The South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) and Medway Valley Countryside Partnership (MVCP) to ask for advice regarding grants for cleaning and maintaining of our public toilets. The Chairman has written to MBC requesting information on the cesspit emptying and to explain the importance of these toilets to our tourism.

Once replies have been received a plan needs to be put in place. **CHAIR/CLK**

14. POST OFFICE

Royal Mail require an asbestos survey for the post office. The Landlord has spoken with the Clerk and advised that, as we have a full repairing and insuring lease, the survey is our responsibility. SW has ascertained that we are responsible. We have had an informal Type 1 survey done which has revealed two areas of potential concern and proposed that a type 2 survey be carried out. MN proposed we go ahead with this. DH will get a price from Medway Installations; if this is less than £400 The Clerk will instruct, otherwise The Clerk will obtain other quotes. **DH/CLK**

DH suggested that we write to the landlord again and request a copy of his asbestos register for the building. **CLK**

15. HIGHWAYS

15.1. LEES CORNER SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

The tree at the corner has been cut back. KG is still pushing KCC for implementation of their original safety plan. **HL**

15.2. FOOTWAY, HAMPSTEAD LANE

The repair of the third stretch of footway is being costed. KG has chased the highway officer. **HL**
MN raised again the issue of the potentially dangerous contours of the footpath at the junction of The Lees path crossing and Hampstead Lane. KG will ask KCC for a site meeting. **KG**

15.3. LAY-BY JUNCTION BENOVER ROAD/MILL LANE

The reinstatement of the verge is on the highway list. **HL**

15.4. REFLECTORS ON BEND NEAR TWYFORD BRIDGE

Some reflectors have been installed by KCC but KG asking for more. **KG**

15.5. LADDINGFORD SPEED LIMIT

The matter is now with Ben Hilden, KCC, and the work will be undertaken in the New Year. **ML**

15.6. KENWARD ROAD

KG continuing to monitor the work carried out by KCC. **ML**

15.7. HEDGES

KG reported that KCC are not progressing the cutting back of overgrown hedges on our road verges, all agreed that he should continue to push for this. **KG**

15.8. BLOCKED GULLEYS

DH reported issues with various gulleys on Yalding Hill and Lughorse Lane and requested that we asked KCC to resolve. **KG**

16. YULETIDE MARKET

The Christmas lights have been erected and everything for the Yuletide Market is in hand. MS reported how hard the Yuletide committee had worked and all agreed. **NFA**

17. CORRESPONDENCE

17.1. CITIZENS' RIGHTS FOR OLDER PEOPLE

They have requested a donation; the Clerk will bring this to the budget meeting. **CLK**

17.2. KENT AIR AMBULANCE

Kent air ambulance has requested a donation; the clerk will bring this to the budget meeting. **CLK**

17.3. MEDWAY VALLEY COUNTRYSIDE PARTNERSHIP

Having failed to secure a farmer to graze The Fen with suitable cattle, MVCP have asked the Parish Council to again consider purchasing their own cattle for this purpose. All agreed that we would seriously consider this. AS reported that we would need to register with several authorities. The Clerk will contact MVCP requesting their holding number for the land and suggest a meeting between them, The Clerk, AS and MN. **CLK**

18. FINANCE

18.1. BILLS FOR PAYMENT

A list of bills, totalling £5722.31 exclusive of VAT, was circulated and proposed VR seconded MS and all agreed that they be paid.

18.2. RECEIPTS

A list of receipts totalling £725.23 was circulated.

The Chairman requested that VAT be reclaimed quarterly.

CLK

18.3. BUDGET

The Chairman does not have any financial information and has, in any case, been unable to prepare a budget. She will sort this out with the new Clerk and will email after Christmas for final discussion in January.

CHAIR/CLK

The Chairman suggested that a Finance Committee be set up; it will report quarterly in January, April, July, and October. This will be put on the agenda of discussion next month and Cllrs were asked to advise the Clerk if they did not wish to be on the committee.

CLK

19. PARISH MATTERS

19.1. TAP ON THE LEES

MN proposed that we empower Keith Blazye to spend a maximum of £100 on the tap that is required on The Lees. However, he is first to check the cost with Maidstone Plumbing.

MN

19.2. QUALITY PARISH COUNCILS

The Chairman reported that in the future there is a requirement for us to reach the status of Quality Parish Council and she will circulate all the relevant information.

CHAIR

The Clerk will arrange the necessary training for herself and advise Cllrs accordingly.

CLK

19.3. MONITOR LIST

MN suggested we clean up the monitor list, this was done and The Clerk will update.

CLK

19.4. 20MPH SPEEDLIMIT

MS asked where we were with the 20mph speed limit. The Chairman reported that it is with the Joint Transport Board (JTB) and the Cabinet Member for highways.

CHAIR

19.5. SURGERY LIGHT

MS reported that the solar light at the doctors' surgery was ineffective and that the landlord will be putting in a planning application to fit two new lights.

NFA

19.6. FOOTPATH ALONG SIDE THE VILLAGE HALL

AS requested The Clerk contact Maidstone Housing Trust to cut back the hedge along this path.

CLK

19.7. COMMUNITY PAYBACK

The Clerk has contacted Community Payback about doing work in the parish. bKG and The Clerk will put together a plan and then ask for a site visit. Any interested Councillors will be invited to attend.

KG/CLK

19.8. PERPETUAL DIARY

The Chair and The Clerk will update the perpetual diary and circulate.

CHAIR/CLK

19.9. BIN AT BOWER MOUNT

The Clerk will email MBC to ask them to change the orientation of this bin as it is obstructing sight lines.

CLK

COMMENTS ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

MA/09/2012

Bower Mount, Lees Road, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent, ME18 6HB

Planning application for the erection of a single storey garden room.

NO COMMENT

- MA/09/1961** 12 Blunden lane. Yalding, Maidstone, Kent, ME18 6JH
Planning application for the erection of a single storey and two storey side and rear extensions.
NO COMMENT
- MA/09/18245** 2 Swan House, High Street, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent, ME186HS
Planning application for removal of flat felt roof to rear and erection of a reduced single storey rear extension with pitched roof.
NO COMMENT
- MA/09/1824** 2 Swan House, High Street, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent, ME186HS
Listed building consent for above.
NO COMMENT
- MA/09/1870** Kenward Orchard, Kenward Road, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent, ME 18 6AH
Application to extend the time limit for implementing permission MA/04/1978.
NO COMMENT
- MA/09/2013** Conifer Farm, Emmet Hill Lane, Laddingford, Maidstone, Kent, ME18 6BG
Planning application for the erection of a two storey rear extension and a chimney.
OBJECT
The design is out of character with existing dwelling.
The Clerk will find the reference number for the original permission for this development and circulate for further comment on the objection. **CLK**