

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE YALDING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON  
TUESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2009 AT 7.30 P.M. IN YALDING VILLAGE HALL**

**PRESENT**

Geraldine Brown Chairman  
Ken Gough (KG)  
Sue Hobbs (SH)  
Derek Hudson (DH)

Mike Newman (MN) Vice Chairman  
Vivienne Robinson (VR)  
Michael Stewart (MS)  
Andy Sanders (AS)

Cllr Rodd Nelson Gracie (RNG)

**ACTION**

**1. PUBLIC SESSION**

Although the culvert in Pikefish Lane has been repaired, two members of the public attended the meeting to complain about KCC and the fact that further work to the carriageway and verges would not take place for a further three months. The Chairman advised that this is usual and suggested that the residents put their complaints in writing to Andy Moreton, KCC Highways' Repair Manager, with a copy to the Parish Council.

**NFA**

A member of the public attended the meeting to express concerns about the speed of traffic along Vicarage Road including Clock House Farm vans, where drivers appear to be using their mobile phones whilst driving. The Clerk has spoken to the farmer who has now spoken to all his drivers. The vans have a large black number on the front and the rear of the van for identification purposes. MS reported that Speedwatch had not caught anyone speeding along Vicarage Road but agreed to do more monitoring, especially at school times.

**MS**

Improved signage and a reduction in the speed limit to 20mph were discussed and the resident agreed to prepare a petition to support the reduction in speed limit. The Chairman is also trying to ascertain how much support the new Cabinet Member for Highways; Nick Chard, is giving to 20mph speed limits and she asked the police to check out the signage on their rounds.

**CHAIR**

AS suggested that having residents' only parking in Vicarage Road would reduce the problem and the Clerk pointed out that there is potential to create a large lay-by opposite the school, which may assist a safer crossing. KG reported that the school is looking at improving safe crossing.

**KG**

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Symon Wilson and Cllr Mrs Paulina Stockell

**3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF COUNCILLORS IN ANY ITEM**

DH declared an interest in planning application MA/09/1534.

**4. DECISION TO TAKE AGENDA ITEMS UNDER CLOSED SESSION**

It was agreed to take items 24, 25 and 26 in Closed Session.

**5. POLICE MATTERS**

PC Gary Shaw (GS) attended the meeting with PCSO James Austin (JA). The Chairman and VR had met with them to discuss youth problems and had given them the list of anti social activities. On advice from GS, the Chairman had emailed John Grant, from Maidstone Police. It is his job to look at the area and the problems, to undertake a survey and then make recommendations. If this is not done, the police would not support any project and this could affect funding. Both GS and JA have been making regular visits to The Kintons and alcohol has been confiscated from under age drinkers. The Chairman has called the police to The Kintons on two occasions. A shutter has been ripped from the cricket pavilion at a replacement cost of £750 (the pavilion is uninsurable). The Chairman has removed an axe and a dagger from the woods at Blunden Lane and handed them to GS. Fires are being lit in this area and GS and JA have been advised. To assist them to remain in the area for longer periods, the Chairman has furnished both officers with a key to the village hall to enable them to use the facilities and JA has been given a key to The Kintons gate. There have been no other calls regarding The Kintons in the past month.

The Chairman reported that the police presence in the village had been very noticeable. MN said that members of the community have commented that they really appreciate this. The Chairman asked for more police posters and SH suggested a laminated one for the notice board at Laddingford airfield. The police will be present at the next farmers market. A CCTV camera is now up.

**CLK**

**6. PLANNING**

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

## **7. TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 1ST SEPTEMBER 2009**

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

## **8. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

### **8.1. RECREATIONAL EQUIPMENT**

Any proposal to introduce recreational or other equipment for older children and adults must await the survey by John Grant, Maidstone Police.

**ML**

### **8.2. KENT WILDLIFE TRUST**

Some time ago Neil Coombes of KWT attended a site meeting to make suggestions regarding some of our common land. He has reported to the Clerk as follows:

#### **8.2.1. THE LEES**

This meadow is owned and managed by YPC as part of the Countryside Stewardship Scheme. As such, it does not require input from KWT. However, when the current agreement expires KWT would be willing to assist, if invited, to prepare a case to obtain further grants.

**NFA**

#### **8.2.2. FOWLE HALL GREEN**

Although it would be very desirable from a management point of view to graze this site there are several obstacles such as fencing and provision of water that probably make it uneconomic.

**NFA**

### **8.3. WAR MEMORIAL**

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

**AL**

### **8.4. FOOTPATH HIGH STREET/SCHOOL GATE**

KG reported that, due to an accident on the lower end of the footpath involving a local resident, KCC are unable to proceed with the resurfacing work until any legal issues are completed. KG to progress.

**KG**

### **8.5. THE FEN**

#### **8.5.1. OVER GROUND WATER SUPPLY**

The water supply needs to be reinstated and KG had no success with the contact details furnished by St Modwen of the former site manager. KG/SW to discuss.

**KG/SW**

#### **8.5.2. GRAZING AT THE FEN**

MVCP are now in possession of the grazing rights and sheep are in the orchard. The MVCP will see how successful the sheep prove to be and then may introduce cattle. AS feels it best left to them to sort out the livestock.

**NFA**

### **8.6. THE TATT**

#### **8.6.1. THE TATT PARKING**

The Clerk has sent a letter to residents requesting that commercial vehicles, other than CDVs, are not parked on The Tatt. One van has already been removed and the Chairman will continue to monitor parking in general. A resident has complained about the amount of white van's now parking on the High Street and has questioned if this is a result of moving vans off The Tatt. There is no link and this has been made clear to the resident. The Chairman is looking for suitable alternative parking.

**CHAIR/CLK**

#### **8.6.2. THE TATT WORKING PARTY**

The 26<sup>th</sup> September was cancelled due to lack of attendance.

**CHAIR**

### **8.7. ADDITIONAL ENTRANCE ONTO THE LEES PONY FIELD**

KG will speak to Laddingford Engineering re the manufacture of a suitable gate and then arrange a site meeting.

**KG**

### **8.8. POST OFFICE**

The Clerk has written to the landlord with a copy to the Post Mistress asking him to provide confirmation that there is no asbestos present in the building.

**CLK**

## **8.9. BYELAWS**

The Chairman had circulated the DEFRA draft byelaws but DH has been on holiday and The Chairman has asked the Clerk to place this matter on the November agenda to allow him to make comment. Councillors agreed that the system used by MBC to enforce their byelaws was inappropriate for YPC. The Chairman to obtain quotes from local security companies.

**DH/CHAIR**

## **8.10. BOUNDARY STONES**

The Clerk has written to Alison Cresswell thanking for her work so far on this project to locate the stones.

**ML**

## **8.11. PARISH OUTING**

Councillors will tour the Parish on 7<sup>th</sup> October. KG has hired and will drive the bus.

**NFA**

## **8.12. MAINTENANCE**

The Clerk has written to BT requesting that they paint their equipment.

**CLK**

## **8.13. GYPSY SITES**

A consultation document on gypsy sites is being prepared by Sarah Anderton, the MBC Gypsy Issues Officer, and the Chairman will circulate when received.

**CHAIR**

## **8.14. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT**

The parishes to give input to MBC; the Clerk has asked for clarification on this and has to date received no response.

**CLK**

## **9. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr Mrs Stockell sent her apologies.

## **10. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

RNG had nothing to report.

## **11. DATE OF JANUARY MEETING**

Agreed to combine January and February meetings to 26<sup>th</sup> January.

## **12. PROGRESS OF THE CLERKS HANDOVER**

The official handover will be 1<sup>st</sup> November when the telephone will be transferred from AL to AG. However, AL will be in place until the end of November to tie up any loose ends. Both Clerks and the Chairman confirmed they were happy with progress.

**CHAIR**

## **13. STREET LIGHTING**

### **13.1. YOUTH CENTRE LIGHT**

The Clerk has spoken to PC Gary Shaw with regard to the cost of the damage He advised that the only possible course of action would be through the Small Claims Court. The Clerk will ascertain if we still have a witness and, if so, the Chairman will draw up the court application online and send to the defendant.

**CHAIR/CLK**

### **13.2. MAINTENANCE**

Ditton Electrical has been engaged to inspect and maintain the street lighting in the Parish. The Clerk will set up a standing order for this work. Painting and electrical testing to be added to the perpetual diary.

**CLK**

### **13.3. CHURCH FLOOD LIGHTING**

David Dunn has been engaged to maintain and inspect the church floodlights every two years and this will be added to the perpetual diary. He will repair the broken light.

**CLK**

## **14. FOWLE HALL GREEN**

Darren Sutton will have a one-off tidy and mow of the area and then a twice-yearly cut will be added to the perpetual diary. The Clerk will obtain a quote.

**CLK**

## **15. LITTER BINS**

There is a concern over the lack of dog bins in Laddingford and there has also been issues with other bins in the parish. The provision of new dog bins by MBC has now ceased. The Clerk to ask MBC if they can provide a larger bin that could be used for dog waste and general litter. A site meeting is being organised to look at various bins in the Parish.

**CLK**

## **16. YALDING LIBRARY**

Recent improvement work to the library has revealed the need for further substantial works to be carried out. The officer who deals with this at KCC has advised that they are expecting the result of a structural survey next week and that is why the work is not proceeding at the moment. KCC have employed the company Mouchel to prepare a structural report because the building is listed and is of great interest. They will send a copy to YPC for information.

**CLK**

## **17. PUBLIC TOILETS**

MBC has sent a document outlining various options for the future of the public toilets on The Lees. It was agreed that we need to collect more facts and costings before having a meeting with Steve Goulette of MCB. The Clerk (AG) is obtaining quotes for cleaning, The Chairman is investigating why the cesspit is currently being emptied weekly and the Clerk (AL) is looking back to find out how often the cesspit was emptied when the YPC owned the toilets. The tenants of the car park have offered to open and close the facilities to fit in with the opening hours of the car park.

**CHAIR/CLK**

## **18. RIVERSIDE COMMUNITIES PROJECT END**

This project, managed by the MVCP, is now complete. MVCP have asked for ideas to celebrate this and it was agreed to ask them to organise guided walks of The Fen.

**CHAIR/CLK**

## **19. HIGHWAYS**

### **19.1. LEES CORNER SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS**

KCC have advised that it is inappropriate for YPC to progress this due to liability issues. It was agreed that we should carry on pushing for the implementation of KCC's original improvement plan. The Clerk will obtain a quote from Aspen to tidy up the tree on the Pony Field adjacent to the corner and also to trim the Oak trees on The Lees at the same time.

**KG/CLK**

### **19.2. FOOTWAY, HAMPSTEAD LANE**

The third stretch of footway is being costed. KG has chased the highway officer.

**KG**

### **19.3. LAY-BY JUNCTION BENOVER ROAD/MILL LANE**

The reinstatement of the verge is on the highway list.

**KG**

### **19.4. REFLECTORS ON BEND NEAR TWYFORD BRIDGE**

KCC have agreed to provide extra reflectors on this dangerous bend.

**KG**

### **19.5. LADDINGFORD SPEED LIMIT**

The Chairman emailed Cllr Mrs Stockell to chase the implementation of the reduction three weeks ago and has sent a further reminder.

**CHAIR**

### **19.6. KENWARD ROAD**

**19.6.1.** KCC have this week started work to try to resolve the water on Kenward Road.

**19.6.2.** The speed signs in Kenward Road are the wrong way round again.

**KG**

## **20. 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. The Clerk (AL) reminded Cllrs that the metal seat from the High Street was still at The Forge and a decision as to its siting needed to be made.

**SH**

## **21. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **21.1. MOBILE LIBRARY**

KCC have advised that the mobile library that currently visits Laddingford will be run with one member of staff instead of two in future.

**NFA**

## **22. FINANCE**

### **22.1. BILLS FOR PAYMENT**

A list of bills was circulated and proposed KG, seconded MS and all agreed that bills totalling £4,250.60 inclusive of VAT be paid.

## **22.2. RECEIPTS**

A list of receipts totalling £937.42 had been circulated.

## **22.3. PLAYScheme**

The Clerk circulated the Play scheme Accounts, together with the OFSTED report. A discussion re funding was held; it was agreed that, as children from Collier Street and Hunton attend, we should ask their parish councils for a small donation. KCC have sent a letter of congratulations on the OFSTED report.

**CLK/ML**

## **23. PARISH MATTERS**

### **23.1. WEBSITE**

MN again expressed concerns about the quality of the YPC website. He said he was not proud of it and was worried about the image it was portraying, as it was not up to date or pleasing to read and suggested that the Clerk take it on quickly. The Chairman suggested that the Clerks, handover was much more important at this time. VR reported that everything that she has been given is on there and that the problem is getting the information and the quality of the web site platform provided. Some discussion took place as to whether the YPC wanted this free but somewhat limited platform or if we should invest in a more interactive and professional one. AG said she was happy to keep the site up to date but was not a web designer and if we wanted to go down an enhanced route professional advise would need to be engaged. The Chairman advised Cllrs that Coxheath PC were being criticised for spending money on web design when KCC were providing a free site. She, VR and AG will put together a proposal for the December meeting.

**CLK**

### **23.2. FINANCIAL AUDIT**

The Clerk confirmed that the Audit Commission has given an extension until the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October for the accounts to be submitted.

**CHAIR/CLK**

### **23.3. INSPECTION OF PLAY EQUIPMENT**

The Clerk was requested to check with MBC the extent of their inspection and to make them aware of the dangerous nature of the swings that was not reported by them.

**CLK**

### **23.4. PARKING ENFORCEMENT**

It was agreed that the Chairman would write to Steve Goulette, MBC, regarding the attendance by parking wardens at the Farmers' Market and requesting forbearance as this is a community event.

**CHAIR**

### **23.5. ACCOUNTS**

It was agreed that, once the accounts' package was on the new Clerk's PC, a quarterly report would be distributed to Cllrs.

**CHAIR/CLK**

## **COMMENTS ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**MA/07/2556**

EMI Care home Kenward Road

Additional information. YPC objected.

**ORIGINAL COMMENTS STAND**

**MA/09/1534**

Wolverley Vicarage Road

Erection of detached dwelling. Previous application withdrawn. YPC did not comment.

**NO COMMENT**

**MA/09/1671**

4 Oast Court

Single storey extension. Previous application approved. YPC did not comment.

**NO COMMENT**

**MA/09/1498**

Laddingford Croft, Claygate Road

Erection of store.

**NO COMMENT**

**MA/09/1634**

Plot 9 Wilson Court, Yalding

Erection of fence to the north boundary and raise the height of wall on west boundary.

**NO COMMENT**

**MA/09/1635**

Plot 9 Wilson Court, Yalding

XLB of above

**NO COMMENT**

**MA/09/1632**

Forge Cottage, Pikefish Lane

Erection of conservatory.

**NO COMMENT**

**MA/09/1709**

Land at Yalding Hill

Erection of replacement shed for use as lunchroom and toilet for agricultural workers.

**NO COMMENT but assumes appropriate disposal of foul waste.**