

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF YALDING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 6 MARCH 2012 AT 7.30 P.M. IN YALDING VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT

Geraldine Brown Chairman	Ken Gough (KG)
Mike Newman (MN)	Vivienne Robinson (VR)
Andy Sanders (AS)	Nick Thomson (NT)
Symon Wilson (SW)	

County Cllr Paulina Stockell, Maidstone Borough Cllr's John Verrall and Rodd Nelson-Gracie

ACTION

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Michael Stewart due to a social commitment; it was agreed to accept his apology.

2. PUBLIC SESSION

There were four members of the public present.

Mr John Hilden attended to discuss the development of Riverview Park. Mr Hilden was concerned about unfounded complaints that were being made to Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) about the development which he considered to be harassment. The Chairman confirmed to Mr Hilden that Yalding Parish Council (YPC) had originally asked the enforcement officer to look at the planning permission and had queried the removal of the hedge and had been informed that it was all in order. She said that she would be happy to put anyone who complained directly in touch with Mr Hilden.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF COUNCILLORS IN ANY ITEM

There were none declared.

4. DECISION TO TAKE AGENDA ITEMS UNDER CLOSED SESSION

It was agreed to take items 22, 23 and 24 in Closed Session.

5. POLICE MATTERS

PCSO Nicola Morris (NM) attended, The Chairman introduced her to the meeting.

NM reported that the police were doing a lot of work on suspicious vehicles and had had some success. Antisocial behaviour has been reported at the Doctors Surgery; NM believed it to be very young children but has not confirmed it yet. NM offered to do extra speed checks. KG suggested Laddingford as it is currently not approved for Speedwatch. Handyvan is a service for over 65's where locks etc are checked, The Clerk will circulate a flyer.

KG attended a metal theft conference hosted by the police; the police are having another purge and are pushing several preventative ideas.

6. PLANNING.

6.1. New planning applications are recorded at the end of the minutes.

6.2. Planning decisions are recorded at the end of the minutes.

MA/11/0952 - Land East of Queen Street was allowed on appeal. The planning inspector seems to have a lack of understanding of flooding issues. The Chairman will write to the inspectorate to complain.

CHAIR

7. TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE MEETING 24 JANUARY 2012

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

8. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

8.1. WAR MEMORIAL

The bronze plaque should be in place in the next four to eight weeks.

CLK

8.2. VANDALISM AT THE RAILWAY STATION

British Transport Police have a new telephone number. The Chairman has designed a sign and AS has sought approval. The Clerk awaits a quote.

CHAIR/AS

8.3. VIABILITY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND

MBC will be asked for guidelines with regard to the viability of agricultural land. AS needs to provide examples.

CLK/AS

8.4. ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME

Maps are currently being updated by The Rural Payments agency in order to include The Car Park.

CLK

8.5. PARISH TRANSPORT SURVEY

The Community Rail Partnership has requested that Yalding take part in a door to door survey; it was agreed to support this. The survey is now available and will be distributed via the parish magazine and posted back.

AS

8.6. REMEMBRANCE DAY

Need to consider a road closure for Remembrance Day 2012.

MAY AGENDA

8.7. WEIGHT RESTRICTION

The Chairman has had a meeting with Cllr Stockell and Kent County Council (KCC) officers who have agreed to a six month trial of a weight restriction through Yalding. There is much work to do and it will not be implemented until at least April 2012.

CHAIR

8.8. BROADBAND

The cabinet at the post office went live on 1 March with the Chairman acting as guinea-pig for the system. This will allow the radio overlay and aerials to be fully tested over the next couple of weeks. Callflow attended the February Farmers' Market and will attend in March. It is hoped, UK Power and BT co-operation assumed, to have all cabinets live in the next four to six weeks.

CHAIR/AB

8.9. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

NT has circulated the process and Flo Churchill from MBC will give a presentation.

8.10. COURT LODGE

The Virden's are not keen on mounting the solar panels on any structure that would be in the garden close to the garage. That area is already allocated to various 'agricultural' purposes, plants, water butts etc. They are hoping to place the panels at the lowest possible section of the garage roof just above the guttering facing the High Street, a photograph was circulated. It was suggested that with the new processes they could mount them on the other side; NT will pass on the information.

MS/NT

8.11. VOLUNTARY ACTION MAIDSTONE (VAM)

The Clerk has responded to VAM's query re an annual membership fee.

NFA

8.12. SPEEDWATCH

The Chairman, as Chairman of Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC), has contacted the new Speedwatch Team at Maidstone Police and is waiting for a call from the officer in charge, who has been on leave. The two inspectors at the recent Police Forum have agreed to devote the next meeting to Speedwatch and associated

matters and to bring along the PCs concerned. All Speedwatch co-ordinators are invited to attend.

CHAIR

8.13. YULETIDE MARKET

MS gave an update on this year's market. All agreed that yet again it was very successful. The money lost last year was recouped. The only problem again was parking. There were also concerns about enforcing the road closure so early, however this must be done or the road closure will not be permitted.

NFA

8.14. FARMERS MARKET

A thank you letter has been set to Brian Harvey for his work on the market.

NFA

8.15. LIBRARY

MS expressed concerns about the future of the Library now that there is now no consistency of staffing.

NFA

8.16. LIGHTING JUNCTION BENOVER ROAD AND TOWN BRIDGE

KG is awaiting quote. Postmaster has agreed to a meter. Chairman has written to the owners of the two flats who are happy provided the light is shielded from bedroom windows..

KG

8.17. TREES ON THE GREEN

Work needs to be done on the Horse Chestnut Tree nearest to the road to remove a low branch and the plane tree needs a trim and the lights taken out. An application has been made to MBC, which expires 15 March. Aspen Tree Surgeons booked to undertake the work that week.

CLK

9. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

County Councillor Paulina Stockell gave a brief report on KCC initiatives, and an update on the budget; council tax had been frozen again.

Highway's have been restructured and complaints have reduced dramatically.

An HGV action plan has been launched and it will be possible to erect 'Unsuitable for HGV's' signs in our country lanes.

The Chairman asked if Ben Hilman could be chased about the weight restriction trial.

10. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORT

RNG reported that the 2012/13 budget was approved with no council tax increase and that Concurrent Functions would remain at the level for 2011/12.

11. MONITOR LIST

The monitor list was reviewed and updated accordingly.

12. WEBSITE

The Kent Messenger has run a survey as to how up-to-date parish websites are and Yalding scored highly. However, three parishes publish their draft minutes. It was agreed that YPC should continue to only publish approved minutes; an explanation of this will be put on the website.

CHAIR

13. JUBILEE FIELD

VR met with Rebeckah Bibby on site at Jubilee Field to discuss and revised the original planting plan, which was circulated to councillors. A meeting for councillors to visit site with RB to explain ideas and changes was held on 6 March. Further changes were made which were presented to the meeting.

AS proposed that the revised plan be approved with the exception of the birch trees by the play area, seconded VR and all agreed.

A meeting will be held at Fowle Hall Green on Tuesday 13 March to see if any planting can be done there; all are welcome to attend.

VR

14. THE QUEENS DIAMOND JUBILEE

14.1. SATUDAY 2 JUNE – FIFTIES DANCE IN THE VILLAGE HALL.

The Band and a Fish and Chip Supper are booked.

14.2. SUNDAY 3 JUNE – PARISH PARTY ON THE LEES.

Fancy dress pram race had been discussed with The Chequers. Traditional games and tug of war will be discussed with the scouts. The hog roast and children's tea is booked. Village organisations will be asked if they would like to man stalls. Chequers have agreed to do the bar. Bouncy Castles, children's rides, face painters and other food options have been booked. The Clerk will book St John's Ambulance.

14.3. MONDAY 4 JUNE - A TORCH LIT PROCESSION TO THE CHURCH TO BE FOLLOWED WITH SONGS AND LIGHTING OF THE BEACON WITH REFRESHMENTS.

SW in consultation with Church with respect to the beacon a meeting has been arranged for 14 March to start the risk assessment. The Beacon should be delivered by the end of the month. The application for the road closure has been submitted. An advert will be in the parish magazine asking for people to carry torches.

14.4. COMMEMORATIVE COIN.

An advert was placed in The Parish Magazine asking for applications for the coins, The Clerk is collecting these applications. Designs for the coin were circulated and agreed, 300 coins will be ordered.

CLK

14.5. YALDING VILLAGE SIGN.

The Chairman has met with Black Forge Village Signs, the supplier, who now have sufficient information of the area to come up with a design. The Chairman has asked for a scene rather than static objects. A deposit of £1,500 has been paid to book a slot as the first sign to be undertaken for the Jubilee. The Chairman will circulate a design as soon as it is received and maybe a special meeting will be arranged to approve it.

15. ANNUAL PARISH REPORT

A list of parish organisations who will be asked for a report for an Annual Meeting was circulated and Councillors were asked to check it and feed back any changes.

ALL

16. COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLANNING

SW gave an update on the KCC emergency model. KCC are pushing all parishes to have an emergency plan; YPC have a plan but it may be worth considering putting this onto the KCC template. The Clerk will download the template for consideration.

CLK

17. WELCOME PACK

No update was available so this was deferred to the next meeting.

APRIL AGENDA

18. HIGHWAYS

18.1. HEDGES

Hedges are being monitored.

KG

18.2. YALDING VILLAGE SIGN, LEES ROAD

This has been replaced but the contractor has taken away the NHW sign that was on the same post. The Chairman has asked KCC to return it.

NFA

19. FINANCE

19.1. PAY BILLS

A list of bills (as attached) totalling £4,792.66 exclusive of VAT was circulated and proposed MN seconded VR and all agreed that they be paid.

19.2. CONFIRM RECEIPTS

A list of receipts (as attached) totalling £2438.95 was circulated.

19.3. AGREE BUDGET 2012/13

The recommended budget for 2012/13 was circulated it was proposed VR, seconded MN and agreed by all.

19.4. CONCURRENT FUNCTIONS UPDATE

The new scheme was still under question by the O&S Committees. However, the Chairman with two other members of the KALC Review Team, met with the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member and the Director of Finance from MBC. MBC have agreed most of KALC's requests but the sticking point is the way funds are distributed. MBC have agreed to share their financial data with the Review Team in a bid to bring the discussions to an amicable conclusion. It was also agreed that there was no hurry for the Cabinet Member to make any decision and that this would be deferred for the time being. Progress is being made in developing of the new scheme but there is some way to go before the amount of the grant is agreed.

20. CORRESPONDENCE

20.1. FOOTBALL CLUB

The football club now almost have almost completed their first season and have asked permission to continue into the next. They would like to hold a celebrity fundraising event on a Sunday in July. They would also like to do some coaching for 5 to 16 year olds, one morning during the school Easter Holidays. Councillors are very supportive of all of these initiatives as long as the cricket club is consulted.

CLK

20.2. TREES IN THE VILLAGE COMPETITION

The application for this year's competition has been received as in previous years there is a £10 fee; it was agreed to enter.

CLK

20.3. THE HEART OF KENT HOSPICE

The Heart of Kent Hospice in Aylesford have requested a donation; Councillors reiterated their policy to only support parish charities.

20.4. TRANSFORMING KENTS YOUTH SERVICE

The Chairman has received a consultation on changes which she will circulate.

CHAIR

21. PARISH MATTERS

21.1. SYNGENTA

The Chairman reported that Syngenta are still looking at floating homes but had shown some interest in Wetlands and Wildlife for People.

COMMENTS ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

MA/11/1538

The George Benover Road. - Amendment

Development and conversion of outbuildings to create one new family dwelling.

NO COMMENT

MA/11/1539

The George Benover Road. - Amendment

Conservation Area consent for development and conversion of outbuildings to create one new family dwelling

NO COMMENT

MA/12/0190

Wolverley, Vicarage Road.

Alterations to existing garage and driveway

NO COMMENT

MA/12/0123

10 Vicarage Road.

Erection of a part single part two storey rear extension plus front porch.

NO COMMENT

MA/12/0192

Kenward Farm Cottage, Kenward Road.

First floor and part ground floor extension.

NO COMMENT

MA/12/0149

1 Beltring Cottages.

Erection of a single storey side extension

NO COMMENT

MA/12/0168

Land West of Maidstone Road

Change of use of land for the keeping of horses and erection of private stables and haystore.

OBJECT

MA/12/0072

3 Walnut Tree Cottages, High Street

Application for listed building consent to move kitchen to modern extension, demolish stud wall within modern extension, install new toilet under the stairs, replace flooring through ground floor, repoint part of the chimney stack and repair / replace flashing, and re-align guttering.

NO COMMENT

MA/12/0214

Laddingford Engineering Ltd

Erection of two storey workshop and extension.

NO COMMENT

TA/0030/12

Bridge House, High Street

Conservation area notification: Yalding Conservation area notification of intention to reduce height of a row of Cypress trees to approximately 2.5m - 3m in height.

NO COMMENT

MBC PLANNING DECISIONS SINCE LAST MEETING

MA/10/0704

The Stables, Wagon Lane

Change of use for the stationing of three caravans for residential occupation by a gypsy family (on a seasonal basis) with associated hardstanding, stables for utility shed and cess pit.

REFUSED

MA/11/0952

Land East of Queen Street, Queen Street

Change of use of land from agriculture to residential for a gypsy family with the stationing of one mobile home and one touring caravan with associated hardstanding, walling and fencing.

REFUSED – ALLOWED ON APPEAL

MA/11/1081 Little Benover Farm, Benover Road
Erection of detached annexe building to provide additional living accommodation - Resubmission of MA/99/1749

GRANTED

MA/11/1511 Orchard Oast, Yalding Hill
Demolition of garage and erection of single storey extension and erection of single storey garage and store.

GRANTED

MA/11/1935 Mereworth House, Laddingford
An application for listed building consent for the erection of a two storey rear extension, including demolition of existing rear wall.

REFUSED

MA/11/1934 Mereworth House, Laddingford
Erection of a two storey rear extension.

REFUSED

MA/11/1977 Land Rear of Wolverley, Vicarage Road
Erection of detached dwelling and garage

GRANTED

MA/12/0007 The Stables, Willow Lane
Change of use of office (use class B1) to residential use (use class C3) and single storey rear extension and introduction of roof lights (operational development previously approved under MA/11/0552)

REFUSED

TA/0008/12 Cleaves Hall, The Green, Yalding
Conservation area notification: Yalding Conservation area notification of intention to fell 1 no. Conifer and 1 no. Cherry Tree.

RAISED NO OBJECTION

There being no further business the meeting closed at 22.15 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....