

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF YALDING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON  
TUESDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2011 AT 7.30 P.M. IN YALDING VILLAGE HALL**

**PRESENT**

Geraldine Brown (GB) Chairman	Mike Newman (MN) Vice Chairman
Michael Stewart (MS)	Derek Hudson (DH)
Symon Wilson (SW)	Andy Sanders (AS)
Vivienne Robinson (VR)	Ken Gough (KG)

MBC Cllr Rodd Nelson-Gracie (RNG), County Cllr Paulina Stockell (PS)

Oliver Frankham – The Courier

**ACTION**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

MBC Cllr John Verrall, Sue Hobbs

**2. PUBLIC SESSION**

There were no members of the public present.

**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 23 and 24 in Closed Session

**5. POLICE MATTERS**

PSCO James Austin attended the meeting.

The 'Slow Children Playing' sign on The Kintons path has been vandalised three times since it was put up at Christmas. JA has talked to all the immediate residents informing them that The Parish Council put the sign up and would appreciate them keeping an eye out as offenders will be prosecuted.

JA will try to bring our new Police Constable, Tom Mepstead to meet The Chairman on 2 February 2011.

KG said he had had complaints about cars packing on the pavement on Benover Road, JA reported that he is allowed to put advice slips on the cars, The Chairman asked that he do so.

The Chairman reported that the police forum had urged all parishes to write to the Chief Constable to increase the powers of PCSO's. She has checked with JA the nature of the powers he requires and the ability to detain and caution would be of great help.

**CHAIR**

**6. PLANNING**

New planning applications are recorded at the end of the minutes. Planning decisions since the last meeting are recorded at the end of the minutes.

Yalding Parish council's letter to Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) with regard to the Syngenta planning application MA/10/2159 was agreed. The Chairman will send the letter on 2 February 2011.

**CHAIR**

**7. TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 11 JANUARY 2011**

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

**8. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**8.1. WEIGHT RESTRICTION**

Jacobs are hoping to get their report to Kent County Council (KCC) by the end of the month.

**CHAIR**

**8.2. SPEED LIMIT REDUCTIONS (SLR)**

- Implementation is due late February. **CHAIR**
- 8.3. QUALITY PARISH COUNCIL**  
The Working party will update the full council as appropriate.
- 8.4. NU VENTURE BUSES**  
There have been no further complaints therefore this will be added to the monitor list. **ML**
- 8.5. CHARLTONS BARN AND OAST ACCESS**  
The Clerk has challenged the solicitor re the costs and will pay the bill next month; The Clerk has also chased Mr Anderson with respect to completing the deed for Charltons Barn. **CLK**
- 8.6. ODD JOB MAN**  
The Clerk has ordered him a hi vis jacket. **NFA**
- 8.7. BROADBAND**  
Alison Brown (AB) is putting together the information for the KCC grant with a deadline of the end of March 2011. AB is talking to another provider who can link into the BT green boxes for the core area and then use wireless connections for the outlying areas. **CHAIR**
- 8.8. VILLAGE SIGN**  
The Chairman has informed the Women's Institute (WI) that this will be on the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) **CLK**
- 8.9. LITTER BINS**  
The New Bins will be installed on 1 February the Clerk will then arrange emptying. **CLK**
- 8.10. ANNUAL AUDIT**  
The audit commission has requested formalised PAYE arrangements for 2010/11. **CHAIR/CLK**
- 8.11. POND ON THE LEES**  
The Chairman has toured The Lees with Dr Fincham and identified the ponds. She will circulate a paper for a future meeting. **ML**
- 8.12. INTERACTIVE SIGNS**  
The Chairman has had no response from KCC and will chase again. **CHAIR**
- 8.13. THE FEN**  
The Chairman has emailed St Modwen re toilets. They have inspected the site and are looking at pulling down the old toilets and are obtaining costs of portable toilets. **CHAIR**
- 8.14. INTERNET BANKING**  
The Chairman has discovered that internet banking is not yet permissible but will be later this year. **ML**
- 8.15. LADDINGFORD MEASURING BOARDS**  
KG will try to look at the positioning for these flood measuring boards as soon as possible. **KG**
- 8.16. CONCURRENT FUNCTIONS**  
The Chairman is chasing The Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) to get the concurrent functions review meetings started. **ML**
- 8.17. NEW TREES**  
The new trees have been collected. The Men of Trees competition winning trees have been planted on The Lees Car Park. The new saplings for the resident who had them accidentally strimmed will be planted by the odd job man on 29 January. The planting of the free trees on The Lees needs to be looked at together with clearance work and a pond. The drainage board currently have a digger/shredder in the area clearing the watercourse. Medway Valley Countryside Partnership (MVCP) has indicated that the

trees will be perfectly happy in a hole in the ground and could be stored this way for up to 18 months. The Chairman would like to get together with KG and AS and take advice from MVCP.

**CHAIR/KG/AS**

#### **8.18. CODE OF CONDUCT DVD**

Organising the watching of this DVD together has been difficult to organise therefore it was finally agreed to watch it on the computer at 7 pm before the next meeting.

**CHAIR/CLK**

#### **8.19. CHURCH WELCOME PACK**

DH and Graham Spillman have issued a first draft. It was felt that basic contact details for all organizations should be included. It was also felt that details of things outside the parish should be included such as supermarkets, hospitals, the refuse tip etc. A discussion took place about the format and delivery mechanism. DH will continue to develop with the church.

**DH**

#### **8.20. YULETIDE MARKET**

The Chairman attended a Yuletide Committee meeting to explain the procedures whereby Yuletide insurance could come under the Parish Council (PC) umbrella. All terms and conditions were accepted. The Chairman and Clerk will be attending the February meeting to explain the Code of Conduct and to help ensure that all Risk Assessment requirements are in place in good time. The recent Yuletide Market made a net loss of £826.68, partly the result of the snow beforehand but particularly the heavy rain in the final hour. The Committee's reserves now stand at £7233.55. The Yuletide Committee is actively seeking new members to cover current vacancies. Working party members will need to be confirmed at the Annual Parish Meeting each year.

#### **8.21. RIFLE RANGE**

The Rifle Range has again requested one more key to gate. After the visit to the range Councillors feel more confident that this will not be abused and therefore agreed. The Clerk will arrange to change the lock and issue new keys to them and the Church.

**CLK**

#### **8.22. ROYAL WEDDING – STREET PARTY**

Plans will be presented at the March meeting but the Clerk is starting to process the road closure order.

**CHAIR/CLK**

#### **8.23. LAND AT LADDINGFORD**

The Chairman has written back commenting to them that the land is outside the village area where development would not normally be allowed.

**NFA**

#### **8.24. NOTICE BOARD**

MN asked if the Parish Notice Board could be moved; the Chairman agreed to look at it once the new bin has been installed.

**CHAIR**

#### **8.25. ELECTION**

The Chairman has placed a notice in the parish magazine.

**NFA**

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

PS reported that reduction of the budget is the major issue within KCC at the minute, however she does have a little bit of grant money left both in the terms of highways grants and members grant.

KG asked if she could talk to highways about adding a Yalding/Paddock Wood sign just before junction 8 on the M20 to help with the problem of HGV's in the parish.

The Chairman pointed out that with the review of concurrent functions it has been suggested the MBC may not support street lighting as it is KCC responsibility. PS said that KCC will only adopt street lighting that is up to their standard however most parishes did not want County standard lighting. The Chairman asked if she could bring this up in order that everyone is prepared for the concurrent function review.

The Chairman asked PC to look at Parish Boundaries with regard to highways as some issues within our boundaries are dealt with by different authorities which is difficult and confusing to manage.

## **10. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORT**

Nothing to report

## **11. DESILTING OF THE RIVER BEULT**

The excess silt upstream of the bridge is a mix of coarse and fine deposits, so there will be some gravel involved, the exact composition will not be known until the work is carried out and grading the silt on site would be expensive and almost impossible. Some Councillors were concerned that distributing gravel on The Lees would raise the level of the flood plain. SW will talk to the Environment Agency to see if there is anywhere else that the gravel could be used.

**SW**

## **12. THE TATT**

### **12.1. PLAY AREAS**

MBC have confirmed they are happy with the improvements made at The Tatt and the only outstanding action is the fence; they suggested we close the gap and this was agreed.

**NFA**

### **12.2. FENCING**

AS has recommended that we replace the fencing, he still needs to do a design and establish costs and he will include for the gap to be filled in.

**AS**

### **12.3. MVCP- MAINTENANCE PLAN**

MVCP have produced a maintenance program for The Tatt at a cost of £250. All agreed that this plan should be accepted and The Clerk has asked MVCP to begin implementation. The first Tatt working party will be arranged mid May 2011 to implement the YPC actions.

**KG/DH/SW**

## **13. CCTV**

All councillors are now happy with the taller pole in the High Street in order for the CCTV to be improved. The cost is approximately £746. The Chairman has spoken to most of the immediate neighbours who are all happy, The Clerk will check that the residents of the two barns are happy if so Ditton will be asked to survey the site and give a detailed quote.

**CLK**

## **14. BUSINESS FORUM**

As with Marden Parish Council, Yalding Parish Council felt that it was not appropriate to be members of The Business Forum. However all fully supported the principle and agreed that it would be a good idea to have a page in the directory. VR agreed to act as our representative and keep the Council up to date as the implementation progresses.

**VR**

## **15. HIGHWAYS**

### **15.1. TO PRIORITISE REQUESTS TO KCC**

A new Community Liaison Officer (CLO) has been appointed and a highway list provided which Chair/KG/Clerk can now work from. KG has attended a meeting with Highways and parishes.

**CHAIR/KG/CLK**

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

KCC to be asked to replace the damaged reflectors once the fence is repaired. Reflectors were also required on other parts of the Lees' fencing and an arrow on the sharp bend. KG is taking this up with the new CLO.

**KG**

### **15.3. HEDGES**

A letter re cutting back hedges was published in the Parish Magazine. KCC have sent out letters and KG is monitoring the need to send a follow up letter.

**KG**

### **15.4. SALT BINS**

The ton load of salt has been delivered to the Parish as an extra supply for the winter.

**NFA**

The Clerk has prepared signs to attach to the salt bins advising that the salt is not for personal use, The Chairman is laminating.

**CHAIR**

### **15.5. LADDINGFORD FLOODING**

DH raised the issue that the only solution to the problem of Laddingford flooding was to raise the road and it was agreed that this should be brought to the attention of KCC again. PS suggested that she may be able to allocate some highways budget. DH agreed to get costings in the first instance.

**DH**

## **16. COMMUNITY PAYBACK**

Community Payback has offered a team every Saturday for the foreseeable future. MS, MN, DH, KG offered to be on a rota to meet them and brief them on the work required. MN offered to supervise on Saturday 12 February 2011; KG will discuss the required work with MN in advance.

**KG/MN**

Everyone to circulate ideas for work/projects.

**ALL**

## **17. PLAYScheme 2011**

The Clerk informed the meeting that the playscheme would run for three weeks from 1 August 2011. A discussion on charges took place and it was decided that it should remain the same as last year. PS agreed to give a £500 grant as Yalding Parish welcomed children from other parishes within her Ward at no extra cost.

**CLK**

## **18. WAR MEMORIAL**

The War Memorial Trust has confirmed they are willing to extend the Grant into the summer months. The "1939 to 1945" stone has parted company with the main stem and broken as it has hit the ground. The Stone Shop has informed The Clerk that it cannot be repaired. The Chairman has asked Andrew Thurston to photograph the stone. The Parish Council need to decide whether to replace it or to change it bearing in mind we now have all of the names on the memorial. All Councillors agreed to a site meeting on 17 February, time to be confirmed.

**CLK**

## **19. STORAGE CONTAINER**

For some time The Parish Council has been in need of extra storage facilities. There is a need to find permanent storage for the Farmers' Market and playscheme equipment amongst other things. The Chairmen suggested we pursue the idea of purchasing a container and the PCC are considering whether it could be sited adjacent to their container in the cemetery. KG suggested the purchase of a trailer and the Chairman agreed to speak with Golding Homes to establish whether YPC might rent a garage.

**CHAIR**

Councillors were asked to forward their ideas for potential storage locations to The Clerk.

**ALL**

## **20. FINANCE**

### **20.1. PAY BILLS**

A list of bills totalling £5733.91 exclusive of VAT was circulated and proposed VR seconded MS and all agreed that they be paid.

### **20.2. CONFIRM RECEIPTS**

A list of receipts from totalling £593.67 was circulated.

### **20.3. BUDGET APPROVAL**

The finance working party recommended the approval for the budget, The Chairman proposed and MS seconded.

The Chairman proposed that the precept is kept the same as last year at £46000, VR seconded and all agreed.

It was agreed to contribute 50% towards the cost of new accounting software.

## **21. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **21.1. KENT MEN OF TREES COMPETITION**

It was agreed to enter again this year; the entry fee is £10.

**CLK**

### **21.2. KENT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS' PLANNING CONFERENCE**

This will be held on the 12 March at Lenham Community Centre; no Councillors are available to attend.

**NFA**

### **21.3. MAYOR'S CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT**

This will be held on Friday 11 March; no Councillors are available to attend.

**NFA**

## **22. PARISH MATTERS**

### **22.1. MEMORIAL BENCH ON THE LEES CAR PARK**

It was confirmed that Mrs Pat Birkby could place a wooden bench in memory of her husband, Joe, on The Lees car park. Final place to be agreed once the bench has been delivered. Her son will install the metal bench that is at The Forge on The Lees at the same time.

### **22.2. RISK ASSESSMENT**

MN reported that Tea Pot Island have concerns with our request for a risk assessment, The Clerk will send a copy of a Pro Forma to MN who will try to alleviate their concerns.

**MN/CLK**

### **22.3. WINDMILL PATH**

VR reported that some of our teenage girls have asked for extra lighting on the path. It was agreed in the first instance to get a price to install a higher wattage bulb.

**CLK**

### **22.4. YALDING SCHOOL'S STATUTORY ASSESSMENT TESTS' RESULTS**

It was agreed that The Parish Council should write to Yalding School congratulating them on their excellent SATS results.

**CHAIR**

## **COMMENTS ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

MA/11/0065

Forstal House, Maidstone Road, Yalding

Creation of new vehicle access and drive.

### **NO OBJECTION**

**Providing any culvert is of a suitable size to suit the size of the stream.**

TA/0006/11

The Red House, Yalding

Notification of intention to remove one Horse Chestnut tree and one Ash tree; both trees being located within Yalding Conservation Area.

### **NO OBJECTION**

**YPC would however like to see some more suitable planting within the garden. It has been noted that some boundary vegetation has been removed.**

MA/11/0086

Mill Place Cottage, Symonds Lane, Yalding

Application for amendment to MA/10/1051 - being to use of facebrick instead of weatherboarding to the front elevation at ground level, at the rear alteration of the first floor pitched roof and the ground floor gable end to barn hipped ends and the insertion of an additional rooflight to the ground floor side elevation.

### **NO COMMENT**

## **MBC PLANNING DECISIONS SINCE LAST MEETING**

MA/10/0504

Green Tops, Symons Lane, Yalding

Change of use of land to residential use for stationing of one mobile home and one touring van and for the erection of a utility block and associated works including surface area treatment, cesspit and boundary treatment.

### **GRANTED**

MA/10/0834

The Hop Farm Country Park

(TM/10/00759/FL)

Development of a new conference facility to replace existing building and erection of a 60 bed hotel, restaurant and 16 holiday lodges

**REFUSED**

MA/10/2048

Mereworth House, Laddingford

Erection of a single storey rear extension

**REFUSED**

MA/10/2049

Mereworth House, Laddingford

Listed building consent for demolition of part of existing rear playroom and erection of a single storey rear extension

**REFUSED**