

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF YALDING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON  
TUESDAY 11 JANUARY 2011 AT 7.30 P.M. IN LADDINGFORD CHURCH HALL**

**PRESENT**

Geraldine Brown (GB) Chairman  
Michael Stewart (MS)  
Symon Wilson (SW)  
Sue Hobbs (SH)

Mike Newman (MN) Vice Chairman  
Derek Hudson (DH)  
Andy Sanders (AS)

MBC Cllr Rodd Nelson-Gracie (RNG)

**ACTION**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

MBC Cllr John Verrall, Vivienne Robinson, Ken Gough.

**2. PUBLIC SESSION**

Mr Steve Faulkner and Mr Marc Faulkner came to support their request to use The Kintons for a new Sunday morning football club, agenda item 11.

Mr Tim Reader, and Mr Rob Bird came to make representation with respect to the Syngenta planning application MA/10/2159.

Mrs Pauline Harper was also in attendance.

**AGE CONCERN**

Mr Paul Coles representing Age Concern came along to speak about setting up local hubs to support senior citizens who currently only have limited support from neighbours. They wish to set up four hubs in the Maidstone area which will include Yalding. They have funding for a year and are looking for volunteers and would like to engage existing groups. The Chairman will forward information about current groups to age concern along with The Clerk's details for future communications.

**CHAIR**

**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 28 and 29 in Closed Session

**5. POLICE MATTERS**

There were no police in attendance.

**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.

**7. TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS OF 7 DECEMBER 2010**

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

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

**8.1. WEIGHT RESTRICTION**

The HGV surveys were carried out on 11 November but the Chairman is unhappy that the team at the end of Hampstead Lane should have been on the Seven Mile Lane roundabout and no one saw any team at Town Bridge first thing. She is awaiting clarification from KCC.

**CHAIR**

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

Implementation is due late February.

**CHAIR**

**8.3. HOUSEKEEPING LIST**

The Chairman has updating the Housekeeping List and circulated.

**NFA**

#### **8.4. QUALITY PARISH COUNCIL**

The Working party will update the full council as appropriate.

#### **8.5. NU VENTURE BUSES**

The Nu Venture proprietor has emailed The Clerk and asked for a meeting with The Chairman with respect to complaints about the buses. With road closure and weather problems, the proprietor has been unable to meet with the Chairman as yet.

**CHAIR**

#### **8.6. CHARLTONS BARN AND OAST ACCESS**

The deed of grant for Charltons Oast is now in place. A draft deed of grant has been received for Charltons Barn, we await the final version. The Clerk will challenge the solicitor re the costs.

**CLK**

#### **8.7. ODD JOB MAN**

The Clerk has not yet ordered the hi vis jacket.

**CLK**

#### **8.8. BROADBAND**

Nothing further to report.

**CHAIR**

#### **8.9. VILLAGE SIGN**

At the Clerk's suggestion, this will be left until the Annual Parish Meeting. The Chairman will inform the WI.

**CHAIR**

#### **8.10. LITTER BINS**

The New Bins have been delivered to MBC; the Clerk has asked for them to be installed and will then arrange emptying.

**CLK**

#### **8.11. ANNUAL AUDIT**

The audit commission has returned the annual audit with no issues. They have requested formalised PAYE arrangements for next year.

**CHAIR/CLK**

#### **8.12. POND ON THE LEES**

MVCP have suggested a series of small seasonal ponds. They pointed out that we need to take out the willow growth. This is a project for the New Year. Anthony Fincham advised that there once were seasonal ponds and he was willing to meet with the Chairman to show where. The Chairman is arranging a date to meet with Dr Fincham.

**KG/CHAIR**

#### **8.13. INTERACTIVE SIGNS**

The Chairman has sent an email to Ben Hilden, KCC, to enquire whether this matter can be reviewed.

**CHAIR**

#### **8.14. THE FEN**

The Chairman will write again to St Modwen thanking them for their support of reinstating educational visits and asking them to consider the provision of toilets.

**CHAIR**

#### **8.15. INTERNET BANKING**

The Chairman is awaiting an activation code from the bank. [Note: The Chairman has subsequently discovered that internet banking is not yet permissible but will be this year.]

**CHAIR**

#### **8.16. LADDINGFORD MEASURING BOARDS**

The highway officer has suggested we approach Laddingford Engineering to ask whether the boards might be erected on their gate post. KG to establish if this is the best position and progress. The weather has not permitted this matter to be progressed but KG will sort it out in the next few weeks.

**KG**

#### **8.17. CONCURRENT FUNCTIONS**

MBC have voted on the 30% reduction in CF grant to parishes for 2011/12. KALC are now seeking to meet with MBC to get the review underway which it is hoped to complete and agree by October 2011.

**CHAIR**

### **8.18. YALDING VILLAGE HALL**

The Clerk has paid The Village Hall a loan of £2000 and added details to the ML.

**ML**

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

The Chairman reported that next year the environment agency are desilting the Beult and wish to spread the spoils on The Lees. AS questioned the nature if the spoil, is it gravel or silt, The Chairman will find out before approval is given.

**CHAIR**

### **8.20. SHINGLE BARN FARM**

DH observed that Shingle Barn Lane is still operating outside hours; The Clerk reported that she has raised this with enforcement three times; she has written to Jon Lawrence and asked for a case number, JL has acknowledged the letter and is raising a case. DH said that next time he saw lights on in the offices after hours, he would try to investigate further.

**ML**

### **8.21. UK POWER NETWORKS – PERMISSION TO ACCESS THE LEES**

UK Power Networks have written to The Clerk asking permission to access The Lees in order to remove sections of overhead lines. The Clerk has informed them that this is in order and given them contact details to get the gate opened.

**NFA**

### **8.22. MONITOR LIST**

The Clerk has updated the monitor list to ensure all actions have quarterly deadline dates and will ensure that it is then agendered quarterly.

**NFA**

### **8.23. CLEANING SIGNS**

AS requested that we ask the odd job man to clean the Blunden Plaque on Windmill house. MN suggested that we ask him to clean all major signs. This is complete.

**NFA**

### **8.24. WAR MEMORIAL**

DH has spoken to The Stone Shop as they still have not completed the work. They are having considerable problems obtaining Hollington Stone (quarry in Derbyshire) in the correct size and coarsing to match the remainder of the copings. Also the very cold weather means any lime pointing cannot be done. The War Memorial Trust has suggested they are willing to extend the Grant into the summer months, The Clerk will formalise this.

**CLK**

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

County Cllr Paulina Stockell was not present.

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

Nothing to report

## **11. FOOTBALL CLUB**

Councillors confirmed the use of The Kintons by a new Sunday morning football team to start in September 2011. The Chairman asked that they liaise with The Clerk and The Cricket Club with respect to fixtures etc. The Clerk requested that they proactively advertise in The Parish Magazine.

**NFA**

## **12. RECREATIONAL EQUIPMENT**

VR has spoken to Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) to chase the status of the grant and has been told that no grants have been allocated as yet and it is very unlikely that they will be. The Clerk has established that there will be no grants allocated this year and a review of need across the borough will take place next year, before any funding is allocated. The Chairman proposed therefore that this be put on the monitor list.

**ML**

## **13. NEW TREES**

On advice from Medway Valley Countryside Partnership (MVCP), the Chairman has ordered a mix of Alder, Oak and Blackthorn from the KCC free trees scheme. The trees need to be collected on the 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> January. The Clerk will ask Stewart Tickner to plant them.

**CLK**

The Clerk has ordered replacement trees for those that were damaged on The Lees car park with the £15 voucher received from The Men of Trees competition which also need to be collected. The Clerk will ask Stewart Tickner to plant.

CLK

The new saplings for the resident who had them accidentally strimmed by the odd job man also need to be collected. The Clerk will ask the odd job man to plant them.

CLK

#### **14. CODE OF CONDUCT DVD**

In order for the councillors to all watch this DVD together The Chairman proposed that everyone gets together to watch it at her house, dates will be circulated.

CHAIR

#### **15. CHURCH WELCOME PACK**

DH is still awaiting feedback from Graham Spillman on his progress on developing the content of this pack.

DH

#### **16. THE TATT**

##### **16.1. PLAY AREAS**

MBC are now inspecting the play area at The Tatt and have raised some issues the odd job man has rectified and the Clerk will talk to MBC after the next inspection to get their opinion with respect to any more necessary work.

CLK

##### **16.2. FENCING**

The fence is starting to rot; AS has looked at it and recommended that we replace, he still needs to do a design and establish costs. The Clerk has established that the ownership of the fence to the rear of Tatt Barn is uncertain.

AS

##### **16.3. 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 we should ask MVCP to begin implementation.

CLK

#### **17. CCTV**

In order for the CCTV to be effective in the dark an infra red camera is needed but this requires a taller lamppost, KG has prices from Ditton Electric.

KG

There was some concern with regard to how this would look. All agreed to look at the one on Lyngs Close in order that we can discuss fully next month.

CLK

The Chair will get feedback from the immediate neighbours.

CHAIR

#### **18. YULETIDE MARKET**

The Parish Council wish to thank the committee for all their work.

##### **18.1. FEEDBACK FROM COMMITTEE**

The committee have asked for the insurance to be covered by The Parish Council insurance as they believe it will be much more cost effective that way. The Chairman stated that this should not be a problem however to comply with legal requirements we now need to formally establish the committee as a working party of YPC and the treasurer must be a member of this working party. MS will put this to the committee.

MS

#### **19. BUSINESS FORUM**

AS circulated details of the new business forum a second launch meeting is being arranged.

#### **20. 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

#### **21. PROPOSAL TO COMBINE THE JANUARY AND FEBRUARY MEETING**

In order to better prepare for the budget it was proposed to combine the January and February Meetings. A finance meeting will be held on the second Tuesday in January and the combined January/February meeting will be held on the last Tuesday in January. A meeting

will be held on the first Tuesday to deal with planning, payment of bills and any urgent business.

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

The Chairman made a suggestion that The Parish hold a street party to celebrate The Royal Wedding, all agreed. Plans will be presented at the March meeting.

**CHAIR/CLK**

## **23. PROPOSAL TO COMBINE THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL.**

The Chairman proposed that the Annual Parish Council Meeting should be held immediately after the Annual Parish Meeting in May of each year in order to improve the community involvement. SH suggested that we offer parish organisations an opportunity to advertise/display. MN Seconded and all agreed.

## **24. FINANCE**

### **24.1. PAY BILLS**

A list of bills totalling £9044.46 exclusive of VAT was circulated and proposed MS seconded SH and all agreed that they be paid.

### **24.2. CONFIRM RECEIPTS**

A list of receipts from totalling £1482.24 was circulated.

## **25. HIGHWAYS**

### **25.1. 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**

### **25.2. 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 can now take this up with the new CLO.

**KG**

### **25.3. 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**

### **25.4. 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**

## **26. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **26.1. LAND AT LADDINGFORD**

DHA development consulting company have sent the Chairman the outlines of what they would like to do with the land near St Mary's Close at Laddingford, which includes a car park for the school and housing, one of which is affordable housing. The Chairman will write back commenting to them that the land is outside the village area where development would not normally be allowed.

**CHAIR**

## **27. PARISH MATTERS**

### **27.1. 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**

### **27.2. ELECTION**

The Chairman will place an article in the parish magazine explaining what a Parish Councillor does and asking for interest in standing in May.

**CHAIR**



