

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF YALDING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 5 July 2011 AT 7.30 P.M. IN YALDING VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT

Geraldine Brown Chairman
Ken Gough (KG)
Mike Newman (MN)
Andy Sanders (AS)
Symon Wilson (SW)

Tony Marshall (AM)
Michael Stewart (MS)
Nick Thomson (NT)

MBC Cllrs John Verrall and Rodd Nelson-Gracie

ACTION

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Vivienne Robinson, PCSO James Austin.

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 26 and 27 in Closed Session.

5. POLICE MATTERS

There was no police present; PSCO James Austin sent his apologies.

The Chairman reported that she is very happy that PC Tom Mepstead is working well in the area to combat crime in the parish.

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 FOLLOWING MEETINGS:

7.1. Previous Parish Council Meeting on 7 June 2011 - Proposed MN, seconded MS and all agreed that the minutes be signed as a correct record.

7.2. Annual Parish Meeting on 17 May 2011 – Deferred until the next meeting.

7.3. Annual Parish Council Meeting on 17 May 2011- Deferred until the next meeting.

8. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

8.1. WEIGHT RESTRICTION

Due to the reorganisation within Kent Highway Services, Andy Corcoran KCC has been unavailable to progress the matter.

CHAIR

8.2. INTERACTIVE SIGNS

Ben Hilden, Kent County Council, has asked for this to be reviewed.

CHAIR

8.3. CODE OF CONDUCT DVD

The Clerk will loan the DVD to AM and NT.

CLK

8.4. NU-VENTURE BUSES

The bus drivers appear to be parking correctly.

ML

8.5. NOTICE BOARD

Any new boards will be looked at for inclusion in 2012/13 budget. The Laddingford boards need staining; the Clerk has spoken to the odd job man who has quoted approximately £70 per board. All the boards are being stained.

ML

8.6. THE TATT - WORKING PARTY

KG attended on Saturday 14 May; the next date is 13 July.

CHAIR

8.7. CCTV – THE HIGH STREET

The lamppost has been replaced and is now ready to receive a camera when it is needed.

CHAIR

8.8. WINDMILL PATH STREET SIGNS

The signs were installed only for one of them to be removed overnight. The Clerk is awaiting Maidstone Borough Council to reinstall using quick drying cement.

CLK

8.9. THE LEES

The footbridge has been strengthened and a bollard is to be installed to prevent misuse. KG has also raised the entrance to the footpath at the Lees Road end opposite The Charltons to improve access for pedestrians and pushchairs. The path is not suitable for motorised vehicles.

NFA

8.10. GOAL POSTS FOR JUBILEE FIELD

The Clerk has contacted The Friends of Laddingford School and given them information and now awaits their formal request.

ML

8.11. THE FEN

8.11.1. CATTLE

AS has contacted NFU insurance for a quote re public liability and theft.

CLK

8.11.2. TOILETS

A toilet has been installed until the end of September which will be charged to St Modwen.

NFA

8.12. PLAY EQUIPMENT

Due to a lack of progress Community Payback are no longer working on the play equipment. Kenward House will take over the project on 6 July.

CLK/CHAIR

8.13. WAR MEMORIAL

The work to replace the coping stones, repoint and clean the Memorial is now complete and a request for payment of the grant has been sent to The War Memorials Trust. As agreed via email a payment has been made to the contractor for materials, the payment for labour will be made to the contractor upon acceptance of the work by The Trust. The bronze plaque is on order.

CLK

8.14. PARISH PICNIC

The Chairman and Vice Chairman to organise -Sunday 11 September.

CHAIR/VR

8.15. KINTONS PLAY AREA BIN

The Cricket Club need to be told not to use this bin for their rubbish but to take it away. Dog foul had been placed in this bin when there is a dog bin opposite. The Clerk has chased Maidstone Borough Council to ensure regular emptying and has at last received a set of spare keys. It is proposed to put a sign on the bin requesting dog poo be placed in the dedicated bin opposite.

CLK

8.16. VANDALISM AT THE RAILWAY STATION

It was agreed to place a sign at the station with British Transport Police (BTP) details and phone number. The Chairman spoke with Ian Patterson on this matter at the APM and AS will chase.

AS/CHAIR

8.17. EXERCISE EQUIPMENT

VR/AM are progressing this and working with Proludic to complete further grant applications.

ML

8.18. VIABILITY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND

The Clerk will write to MBC to ask for guidelines with respect to the viability of agricultural land. **CLK**

8.19. GIANT HOGWEED CLAIM

The Chairman has signed the defence form as the matter had to be with the Court by 23 June. The insurance company have made a settlement offer of £5,000 but, as a child is involved, it is up to the Court to make the decision as to the level of compensation. The Chairman has spoken at length with the insurance company who have assured her that, should such an event occur in the future, they are satisfied that we have now taken all reasonable steps to mitigate any negligence/statutory negligence claim. **ML**

8.20. HATCHGATE VISIT

The visit took place on Tuesday 23 June. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Laker to thank him. **NFA**

8.21. LYNGS CLOSE – TREES ON THE GREEN

The Clerk will speak to Maidstone Borough Council regarding the way forward in this matter. **CLK**

8.22. HOUSEKEEPING LIST

The Chairman has circulated the revised Housekeeping List, which will be revisited in September. **NFA**

8.23. RENEWAL OF ACTION WITH COMMUNITIES IN RURAL KENT MEMBERSHIP

YPC currently has joint membership of the above organisation with the village hall. The Clerk has renewed at a total cost of £65pa. **NFA**

8.24. PONY FIELD

The work to raise the level at the gate is complete. **NFA**

8.25. KINTONS TRACK

AS suggested that whilst The Kintons Track is not strictly YPC's responsibility, it is the track to the playing field and some responsibility should be taken. It was agreed that Tim Oliver be asked to give a quote to dig-over the roadway. **AS**

8.26. FOWL HALL GREEN

AS/KG have not yet looked at the problems with this ditch. **KG**

8.27. CHARLTONS BARN AND OAST – EXCESS FUNDS

The Parish Council agreed to return any unspent money, this amounts to £75.01 and £99 for the Oast and the Barn respectively. The Clerk has sent a cheque to both parties. **NFA**

9. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

The County Councillor was not present.

10. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Borough Councillors had nothing to report.

AS asked if The Borough had any grants for CCTV at the railway station. RNG felt that there wouldn't be.

11. REQUESTS FROM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

It was agreed that The Clerk would respond to all the organisations that requested help via the annual reports as per the document that was circulated prior to the meeting. **CLK**

12. STORAGE OF WALKCARDS

The Clerk will get a cost for the wallets to complete all the walkcards. Sue Hobbs has asked that they be removed from her garage, NT offered to store them temporarily. **CLK**

13. BIN ALONG KINTONS PATH - DOG FOULING

Suitable sites have now been identified to erect “pick up poo” signs. The Clerk will progress. To further alleviate the problem The Chairman proposed that the black waste bin currently stored in the Lock-Up be erected adjacent to the back gate to the Church with a “Poo Fairy” sign attached. The bin to be emptied by MBC along with the wheelie bins from Elveys Cottages. All agreed.

CLK

14. POND ON THE LEES

A site meeting to be held to discuss reinstating the ponds. The Chairman will email suggested dates.

CHAIR

15. BROADBAND

The Chairman has confirmed the application and contractor to Kent County Council and the £50,000 should be paid to Yalding Parish Council’s bank account in the next couple of weeks. The Chairman has received a contract from Callflow which she will go through with AB and then send to KCC for approval/comment. The Chairman will then circulate once she is happy for comment but councillors agreed that it could be signed outside the meeting.

CHAIR

16. PARISH CLEAN-UP DAY

The Chairman and The Clerk visited Kenward Trust and agreed their support for this event; Sunday 25 September was agreed as the date. The Chairman will produce a poster for the parish Magazine and The Clerk will get numbers from Kenward.

CHAIR/CLK

The Clerk has contacted Community Payback senior management to complain about their current service and is writing to our local MP.

17. CHARLTONS ACCESS DRIVE

No further work has taken place as per YPC’s request. The Chairman proposes that a letter be sent to Mrs Harris in the first instance asking for an update but that the Clerk be given authority to chase the matter and that, if no action is forthcoming, it be placed as an urgent business item on the August Planning Meeting Agenda.

CLK

18. LADDINGFORD FLOODING

Roger Finn has not yet surveyed the area with respect to raising the road to prevent flooding. MN proposed and MS seconded that this project be dropped as it was felt that funds would not be available as there are other areas where flooding is a more serious issue. All agreed.

NFA

19. VISION FOR KENT

The Chairman proposed that Councillors fill in this survey as individuals if they see fit.

NFA

20. MINERALS AND WASTE CONSULTATION

The most north-east end of the proposed Woodfalls Farm quarry comes very close to Yalding Parish residential area. The Chairman and SW will reply to this consultation and raise noise, road usage, screening and the towpath as areas of concern. They will request conditions e.g. restricting the amount of open quarry area at any one time, the planting of indigenous woodland screens around the perimeter to a depth of at least 100 metres, the using of low noise equipment etc. to be considered.

CHAIR/SW

21. GYPSY POLICY

A discussion took place about the Gypsy & Traveller Consultation. After much debate it was agreed that The Chairman would draft a response and circulate for comment before replying by the deadline of 3 August.

CHAIR

22. HIGHWAYS

22.1. TO PRIORITISE REQUESTS TO KCC

KG is attending a meeting at Kent County Council on 12 July to hear about the changes to the highway department.

CHAIR/KG/CLK

22.2. REFLECTORS ON BEND NEAR TWYFORD BRIDGE

The matter is on Kent Highways' system and Richard Dixon has contacted the Chairman to find out the required quantity. MN requested that YPC request that an arrow be added to the bend.

KG

22.3. HEDGES

KG is monitoring hedges.

KG

22.4. YALDING HIGH STREET VERGES

We are awaiting a cost of kerbing.

ML

23. FINANCE

23.1. PAY BILLS

A list of bills totalling £10,209.86 exclusive of VAT was circulated and proposed MS seconded AM and all agreed that they be paid.

23.2. CONFIRM RECEIPTS

A list of receipts totalling £6,354.23 was circulated.

24. CORRESPONDENCE

24.1. MARLIN CANOE CLUB

The Environment Agency have put the rent up to the canoe club; Vince Lamph has reported that this is unacceptable to the club. This club serve an admirable lifesaving role. In light of the three recent deaths on the river, it was agreed to support any lifesaving opportunities. The Chairman will write to the Cabinet Member at Maidstone Borough Council, who has launched a river safety campaign, asking for his support and will write to The Environment Agency asking for them to look favourably on the club.

CHAIR

24.2. MAIDSTONE SOLDIERS RETURN FROM AFGHANISTAN

The Mayor of MBC has requested that as many people as possible attend this parade on 1 September. The Chairman will put an article in The Parish Magazine.

CHAIR

25. PARISH MATTERS

25.1. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

New windows have been installed at The Bakery; KG has obtained a quote from Ditton Electrical of £466 plus VAT to install a socket on the lamppost at this location. It was agreed that this quote was reasonable and all agreed to pursue this.

KG

25.2. MANHOLE COVER AT THE TATT

The manhole cover outside Tatt Cottage has been damaged twice; Southern Water repaired it the first time but will not repair it again. Whilst it is on land owned by the Council, it is the responsibility of the owner of the property it serves. The Chairman will write to the property owners informing them of this.

CHAIR

25.3. SAND/GRIT ON THE HIGHSTREET

MS reported that he felt that there was a lot of sand/grit on the High Street. It was decided to build sweeping into The Parish Clean up day.

COMMENTS ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

MA/10/2159

Former Syngenta Works, Hampstead Lane – Amendment.

Erection of residential development with both outline and full details comprising: Outline up to 19 no. Residential dwellings including means of access with other matters reserved, the provision of a development platform, open space and landscaping on site 1. Full details for engineering operation including temporary access on site 1A.

OBJECT

A lengthy discussion took place about this application. MBC RNG was in attendance at this meeting but took no part in the discussion.

There was a general concern that it is still very difficult to make a sensible response without having visibility of a master plan for the whole site. There is a development brief in place and YPC believe that it should be referred to when considering this application.

Apart from addressing the Flooding issues to the satisfaction of The Environment Agency none of the other concerns of YPC have been addressed.

The Chairman will draft a response and circulated for comment. CHAIR

MA/11/9052

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.

OBJECT

This is an unsuitable location for a permanent site. No exceptional needs have been demonstrated. MBC has exceeded their target for Gypsy and Traveller sites and there is a saturation within Yalding parish. If the planning officer is of a mind to grant permission YPC request that it is on a temporary basis to be reviewed annually.

MA/11/0901

Maple Leaves, Vicarage Road.

Erection of a rear conservatory

NO COMMENT

MA/10/0704

The Stables, Wagon Lane, Paddock Wood

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

OBJECT

YPC's objection still stands. Whether the development is seasonal or not this is an unsuitable location for a permanent site.

MBC PLANNING DECISIONS SINCE LAST MEETING

MA/11/0624

Mereworth Cottage, Laddingford

Erection of a single storey store/eating area to replace existing garage/store.

GRANTED