

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF YALDING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 7 JUNE 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)

Vivienne Robinson (VR) Vice Chairman
Tony Marshall (AM)
Michael Stewart (MS)
Nick Thomson (NT)

MBC Cllrs John Verrall and Rodd Nelson-Gracie

ACTION

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

PCSO James Austin

2. PUBLIC SESSION

Steve Faulkner came to talk about the football club. They have sorted out all the administration with the West Kent League and come to an agreement with the cricket club with respect to the use of the pavilion. Sponsorship is in place and they already have seven players from within the Parish.

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 24, 25 and 26 in Closed Session

5. POLICE MATTERS

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

A successful operation had taken place to combat metal theft by targeting those involved in scrap transportation and Scrap Yards.

It was agreed to support the disbanding of the Police Forum in favour of amalgamating police meetings with KALC meetings.

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.

A discussion took place on the viability of agricultural land; it was felt that there was inconsistency in decisions from Maidstone Borough County (MBC). It was agreed that the Clerk should write to them asking for guidelines.

CLK

7. TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:

7.1. Previous Parish Council Meeting on 3 May 2011 - Proposed VR, 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

MN asked if The Clerk would circulate a summary of the help requested by the various organisations in their annual reports in order for The Parish Council to reply to them all.

CLK

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 (KHS), this matter cannot be progressed for at least another two weeks.

CHAIR

8.2. VILLAGE SIGN

A working party to be set up; this has been added to the housekeeping list

NFA

8.3. INTERACTIVE SIGNS

Ben Hilden, Kent County Council (KCC), has asked for this to be reviewed. **CHAIR**

8.4. CODE OF CONDUCT DVD

There is to be one more training day and the Chairman will find out the date. **CHAIR**

8.5. CHURCH WELCOME PACK

A working party to be set up and this has been added to the housekeeping list; the Church is providing two people. **NFA**

8.6. WALK CARDS

SH needs to give exact numbers to The Clerk in order for wallets to be ordered. The Clerk to chase. **CLK**

8.7. NU-VENTURE BUSES

The Chairman has not yet progressed this. **CHAIR**

8.8. 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. It was agreed that all the boards should be painted. **CLK**

8.9. THE TATT - WORKING PARTY

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

8.10. CCTV – THE HIGH STREET

The post needs to be replaced and the camera will be installed as necessary. The post is on order with Ditton Electrical. **CHAIR/CLK**

8.11. WINDMILL PATH STREET SIGNS

The signs have been delivered to MBC; The Clerk is chasing to get them installed. **CLK**

8.12. THE LEES

The footbridge has been installed but due to its width, it was agreed to install a bollard. Concern was expressed re the under-supports. KG to inspect. **KG**

8.13. DOG FOULING KINTONS FOOTPATH

The Clerk is struggling to find suitable places to put up the signs; we may need to erect some boards. The Chairman will look at this with the Clerk. **CLK**

8.14. GOAL POSTS FOR JUBILEE FIELD

The Clerk has contacted The Friends of Laddingford School (FLS) but still needs to sort out the details. **CLK**

8.15. THE FEN

8.15.1. CATTLE

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

8.15.2. TOILETS

A toilet has been installed until the end of September which will be charged to St Modwen. The Chairman to advise St Modwen to insure at a replacement cost of £500 plus VAT. **CHAIR**

8.16. PLAY EQUIPMENT

Community Payback continues to work on the play equipment. **CLK/CHAIR**

8.17. POND ON THE LEES

A site meeting to be held in July after the Annual Parish Meeting, to discuss reinstating the ponds. The Chairman has yet again been approached with an offer of help. **JULY AGENDA**

8.18. 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 will be sent to The War Memorials Trust. Payment will be made to the contractor upon acceptance of the work by The Trust. The bronze plaque is on order.

CLK

8.19. ELECTRICITY SUPPLIER

It was agreed to change the supplier of electricity for the street lighting from EDF to EON as from 1 June 2011 with an expected saving in the region of £1,000 per annum. The Kiosk is still with EDF.

CLK

8.20. PARISH PICNIC

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

CHAIR/VR

8.21. 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 will chase MBC again to ensure regular emptying and to try and get keys. **CLK/CHAIR**

8.22. 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 will chase.

AS/CHAIR

8.23. STREET PARTY

At this time the cost is in the region of £300, however final accounts will be circulated once all the bills are in.

CHAIR/CLK

8.24. EXERCISE EQUIPMENT

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

ML

8.25. PUBLIC EXHIBITION FOR TOURIST-RELATED DEVELOPMENT AT THE HOP FARM

MN attended and papers have been circulated.

NFA

8.26. CAMPING AND CARAVANNING CLUB 90TH BIRTHDAY WEEKEND

The Clerk has written to inform them that the Parish Council strongly support the erection of signs and suggest that they take advice from the police as it can be a dangerous manoeuvre turning right into the site. There was an accident two years ago.

NFA

8.27. LEES CORNER

This has been strimmed along with the verges adjacent to The Lees' footways,

NFA

9. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

The County Councillor was not present.

10. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Nothing to report

11. GIANT HOGWEED CLAIM

The solicitors appointed by Yalding Parish Councils (YPC's) insurers, Allianz to defend a claim for a Giant Hogweed incident on The Lees Car Park in 2006, have reported that in their opinion liability should be admitted and the case settled out of court. They believe that YPC not being aware that the plant existed and the girl in question was in a prohibited area is not a strong enough defence. Whilst all agreed that the final decision will lie with the insurance company it was strongly felt that YPC should not be liable and further advice should be sought from KALC.

CHAIR

12. BROADBAND

The Parish has been awarded a Community Broadband Grant by KCC of £50,000. Councillors visited Kings Hill to look at work carried out by Callflow, the provider recommended by The Chairman and Alison Brown and approved by KCC. The Chairman briefed the meeting on all the technical details of the project.

MN Proposed, MS seconded and all agreed that YPC should appoint Callflow.

CHAIR

13. CHARLTONS ACCESS DRIVE

Mrs Harris from Charltons Oast has informed YPC that the cost of the resurfacing was split between the three properties, the contractor instructed to carry out the work up to the five bar gate only. However as he had some tarmac left over he had carried on beyond the gate. Councillors agreed that, if the contractor continues to the edge of the carriageway, then the matter will go no further. The Clerk will write to all three confirming this and informing them that YPC is not responsible for the upkeep.

CLK

14. HATCHGATE VISIT

Despite YPC's concerns the owner of Hatchgate has been granted retrospective change of use from agriculture to mixed use for agriculture, storage and maintenance of British Heritage vehicles. He is however keen to dispel The Council's concerns and it was felt that a site visit would be beneficial to both parties. The Clerk will try to arrange a visit for Thursday 16 June at 7 pm.

CLK

15. LYNGS CLOSE - TREES ON THE GREEN

Residents have asked if YPC would request Tree Preservation Orders to be put on the lime trees on the green on Lyngs close in order to protect these lovely trees. It was agreed to approach MBC.

CLK

16. PARISH CLEAN-UP DAY

The Clerk has checked with the Kent Reptile and Amphibian Group with respect to the habitat at Windmill Path and they would prefer that nothing is cut back to less than 6 inches from the ground. The Clerk has asked Community Payback if they can support the event this year and they have said this will be possible, however Kenward Trust has also offered their services. The Chairman and The Clerk will visit Kenward Trust to agree a process and a date.

The Clerk will contact Community Payback senior management to complain about their current service and also write to our local MP.

CLK

17. HOUSEKEEPING LIST

The Housekeeping list was circulated and agreed.

18. MONITOR LIST

The Monitor List was reviewed and actions updated.

19. HIGHWAYS

19.1. TO PRIORITISE REQUESTS TO KCC

KG is attending a meeting at KCC on ???? to hear about the changes.

CH

19.2. REFLECTORS ON BEND NEAR TWYFORD BRIDGE

The matter is on KHS 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

19.3. HEDGES

We are now into a new season and KG is monitoring hedges.

KG

19.4. LADDINGFORD FLOODING

Roger Finn has not yet surveyed the area with respect to raising the road to prevent flooding.

KG

19.5. YALDING VERGES

The Chairman has a meeting with KHS to discuss the possibility of reinstating the verges in The High Street.

CHAIR

20. FINANCE

20.1. PAY BILLS

A list of bills totalling £7,093.67 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 totalling £972.67 was circulated.

20.3. ACCEPTANCE OF ACCOUNTS 2010/11

The information provided to the internal auditor, i.e. the year- end profit and loss accounts and the audit reconciliation form was circulated. SW proposed, KG seconded and all agreed the accounts be approved.

21. CORRESPONDENCE

21.1. RENEWAL OF ACTION WITH COMMUNITIES IN RURAL KENT MEMBERSHIP

YPC currently has joint membership of the above organisation with the village hall, It was agreed to renew at a total cost of £65pa.

CLK

21.2. REQUESTS FOR CHARITABLE DONATIONS

The Open Spaces Society and The Heart of Kent Hospice have written requesting donations. YPC confirmed that they will continue with their policy only to consider requests from local charities.

22. UPDATE ON BUSINESS FORUM

VR updated the meeting on The Business Forum. It was agreed that Parish Council details should appear in the directory but Councillors felt it was inappropriate to pay £150.

23. PARISH MATTERS

23.1. KENWARD ROAD

A French drain has been installed and the road appears to be dry. KG was congratulated for his persistence in getting this resolved.

23.2. PONY FIELD

KG Reported that the land on The Pony Field behind the new gate needs to be raised in order for the equipment to cut the hay to access the field. It was agreed that up to £300 could be spent as the hay will need to be cut before the next meeting.

KG

23.3. 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 add plainings to level the road.

AS

23.4. FOWL HALL GREEN

AS reported that there are lots of trees growing in the ditch.

KG agreed to have a look at it.

KG

COMMENTS ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

MA/11/0624

Mereworth Cottage, Laddingford,

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

NO COMMENT

MA/11/0651 & 0652 Thatchers, Benover Road

Erection of a two storey rear extension

NO OBJECTION

However due to the outstanding character of the property The Parish Council asks the Conservation Officer to assure himself that this application does not harm that character.

MA/11/0552

The Stables, Willow Lane, Paddock wood

Erection of a rear extension and introduction of additional roof lights to existing building and alterations to parking layout.

NO COMMENT

MA/11/0079

Plot 10, Wilson Court

Erection of 1 no. Detached dwelling and associated works

NO COMMENT

MA/11/0065

Forstal House, Maidstone Road

Creation of new vehicle access and drive

NO COMMENT

MA/11/0279

Land West of Maidstone Road, Yalding

Erection of an agricultural steel barn

NO COMMENT

MBC PLANNING DECISIONS SINCE LAST MEETING

MA/11/0173

Hatchgate, Mill Lane

Retrospective change of use from agriculture to mixed use for agriculture, storage and maintenance of British Heritage vehicles

GRANTED

MA/11/0247

1 Brickfield Cottages, Emmet Hill Lane

Retrospective application for a single storey rear extension incorporating original outbuilding and replacing existing link/porch

GRANTED

MA/11/0483

Land opposite Little Budds Farm, Gravelly Ways,

Closure of existing vehicular access and formation of new access with 4 metre wide galvanised steel gate on galvanised posts opposite entrance to Little Budds Farm

GRANTED