

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF YALDING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 4 OCTOBER 2011 AT 7.30 P.M. IN YALDING VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT

Geraldine Brown Chairman
Ken Gough (KG)
Mike Newman (MN)
Michael Stewart (MS)
Symon Wilson (SW)

Vivienne Robinson (VR) Vice Chairman
Tony Marshall (AM)
Andy Sanders (AS),

Maidstone Borough Cllr Rodd Nelson-Gracie.

ACTION

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Nick Thomson, work commitments, it was agreed to accept this apology.

Kent County Cllr Paulina Stockell and Maidstone Borough Cllr John Verrall also tendered their apologies.

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 25 and 26 in Closed Session.

5. POLICE MATTERS

The police were not present.

6. PLANNING

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

6.2. There have been no planning decisions since the last meeting.

7. TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:

7.1. Previous Parish Council Meeting on 6 September 2011 - Proposed VR, seconded MN and all agreed that the minutes be signed as a correct record.

7.2. Annual Parish Meeting on 17 May 2011 - Proposed MS, seconded AM and all agreed that the minutes be signed as a correct record.

7.3. Annual Parish Council Meeting on 17 May 2011 - Proposed MS, seconded AM and all agreed that the minutes be signed as a correct record.

8. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

8.1. WEIGHT RESTRICTION

There had been no contact from Kent County Council (KCC). The Chairman will attend the Joint Transport Board (JTB) meeting on 5 October.

CHAIR

8.2. CODE OF CONDUCT DVD

AM has passed the DVD to NT.

NT

8.3. WAR MEMORIAL

The bronze plaque is on order. The Portland Stone is at The Stone Shop ready to go into place.

CLK

8.4. KINTONS PLAY AREA BIN

The bin is still not being emptied, The Clerk to speak to Maidstone Borough Council (MBC).

CLK

8.5. VANDALISM AT THE RAILWAY STATION

British Transport Police have a new telephone number. The Chairman to design a sign and AS will seek approval. **CHAIR/AS**

8.6. VIABILITY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND

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

8.7. FOWLE HALL GREEN

The hedge needs cutting. **AS**

8.8. STORAGE OF WALKCARDS

The Clerk will make the packs up with the new wallets. **CLK**

8.9. BIN ALONG KINTONS PATH - DOG FOULING

Suitable sites have now been identified to erect "pick up poo" signs. Signs have been made and are being laminated. The odd-job man will erect. The spare black waste bin was erected adjacent to the back gate to the Church only to be ripped off the next day. A new, more secure pole has been installed and KG is investigating how to connect the bin to allow for easy emptying. **CLK/KG**

8.10. POND ON THE LEES

The Chairman has put this project to reinstate the ponds on the monitor list as she will not have time to deal with the matter in the near future. **ML**

8.11. CHARLTONS ACCESS DRIVE

This matter now complete but storage of bins needs to be monitored. **ML**

8.12. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The work has been carried out to fit the new electrical point. **NFA**

8.13. BOLLARD JUBILEE FIELD

The bollard has been fitted and a post has been installed. **NFA**

8.14. SCOUTS REQUEST FOR A DONATION

The Chairman proposed, MN seconded and all agreed that a grant of £300 be given to Yalding Scouts. The Clerk has informed the scouts and raised the cheque. **NFA**

8.15. PARISH CLEAN-UP DAY

The day was a great success with 16 scouts and about 30 residents turning out to help. Many more residents cleared up outside their own property. The volunteers from Kenward did not make it and The Clerk was unable to get a team from Community Payback. The Chair will acknowledge the village effort in the parish magazine. The Clerk will check if Community Payback are available on a Sunday in the next few weeks to do any further work. **CLK**

The Clerk has arranged with MBC to get The High Street and Lees Road swept on 25 October, a note will be put in residents doors asking them to remove their cars. **CLK**

8.16. TREES ON WINDMILL PATH

The trees on Windmill Path are not doing very well; it was decided to wait to see if this becomes an issue before replacing them. **ML**

8.17. GOAL POSTS FOR JUBILEE FIELD

The Clerk has informed The Friends of Laddingford School (FLS) that The Parish Council (PC) will purchase the goals as it is PC land and FLS should fund raise to provide a contribution. The posts are now on order. **NFA**

8.18. JUBILEE FIELD BOUNDARY WITH WAYSIDE COTTAGE

AS has arranged for the hedge to be cut. **NFA**

8.19. YALDING BEE KEEPERS ASSOCIATION

The Clerk has written to inform Yalding Bee Keepers Association that there is currently nothing in the budget to support the purchase of a bee hive for their educational work.

NFA

8.20. FOOTPATH ACROSS THE LEES PONY FIELD

The footpath has been reinstated and the marker post is in place. The public were notified via the parish magazine that they could continue to use the previous route but at their risk.

NFA

8.21. DE-SILTING THE BEULT

Work will commence on 10 October. Machinery will be brought in via West Street at off peak hours.

NFA

8.22. SUMMER PLAYScheme

The Clerk had a meeting with MBC on 4 October to complete the final grant money documentation. Once the money has been received a summary report will be produced and circulated to Councillors. It was agreed to join KCC early years website at a cost of approximately £400 in order to download current policies and procedures.

CLK

8.23. SPEEDWATCH BENOVER ROAD

The Speedwatch coordinator has held two sessions at this location. The first one caught 14 offenders, the second 17. On both occasions only 2 were going over 40 MPH. The Chairman has further speedwatch volunteers and will attempt to arrange training.

CHAIR

8.24. CORE STRATEGY CONSULTION

An electronic document has been circulated. The Chairman and MN attended a presentation with Marden PC. A summary of the consultation has been circulated amongst Councillors, comments to be passed to The Chair.

ALL

9. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

The County Councillor was not present.

10. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Work has started on the Maidstone High Street improvement project. Work has also started to refurbish Moat Park. The Museum project will be complete at the end of October.

11. TO CONFIRM CHANGES TO 2012 MEETING DATES

It had been previously decided that the January and February meeting would be combined, the date was confirmed as 24 January 2012.

The second Tuesday in June is a bank holiday, therefore the June meeting will be changed to 12 June 2012.

12. SYNGENTA

The planning application for Site 1 is now going to planning committee on 13 October, The Chairman will attend and will lobby members with respect to the conditions the PC wish to have in place. An informal meeting with St Modwen has been arranged for 19 October at 6.30 pm, venue to be confirmed.

CHAIR

13. THE TATT

Medway Valley Countryside Partnership (MVCP) are arranging to complete the fence however, the vegetation is very dense. There will be fence posts and vegetation to be removed. There is also leaves and other vegetation from the parish clean up that needs to be removed. The Chairman proposed that a skip be hired at a cost of £200, all agreed.

CLK

SW agreed to store the wood for the new fence.

A working party will need to be arranged once this project has been complete.

CHAIR

14. THE FEN

14.1. CATTLE

It is the end of another successful season for the cattle which now need to be sold. The next Sussex Cattle auction is on 21 October, there is another potential buyer. The Chairman will check with this buyer and if he is no longer interested they will be booked into this auction.

CHAIR

14.2. FUTURE

It was agreed that YPC involvement with The Fen should continue.

15. PLAY EQUIPMENT

Kenward House previously agreed to complete the snagging for the play equipment and to maintain it twice a year. This has not yet materialised, The Clerk will chase. The Chairman proposed that if work could not be completed soon then the contractor should be asked to complete the work. This was agreed but a quotation should be provided.

CLK

16. BROADBAND

The Chairman updated the meeting on progress. Detailed planning is now underway and BT have surveyed with Callflow on 3 October. The Chairman and AB have had an initial tour to look at potential aerial sites. The Chairman has spoken with property owners and, to date, has had good response. These details have been passed to Callflow

17. ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME

YPC Countryside Stewardship agreement on The Lees has come to an end. This has been replaced by an Environmental Stewardship Scheme that works on two levels, the higher level attracts a higher grant however is more complicated to apply for and difficult to fulfil. MVCP believes that Natural England will give advice and provide a report for free. The Entry level scheme can still be taken even if we qualify for the higher level scheme. It was agreed that this should be pursued.

CLK

18. COUNCILLORS ALLOWANCES

Previously Councillors have waived their right to an allowance. There is currently a review of this allowance by MBC but it was agreed to continue not to accept any payment, other than for out-of-pocket expenses.

19. WEBSITE

The Chairman updated the meeting on the parish website. The platform has been upgraded; The Chairman needs time to understand what improvements can be made and how links can be made with the Parish Magazine.

CHAIR

20. ROAD FROM CLAYGATE ROAD TO LEES ROAD

A Laddingford resident has requested that this road be named as she advised that a fire incident in her garden had highlighted that the emergency services could not find properties in this location. Tonbridge Fire Officer has confirmed that a post code is adequate to find a property as have the police. The Chairman will write to the resident informing her of the situation and suggesting that she contact KCC if she wishes to progress.

CHAIR

21. HIGHWAYS

21.1. TO PRIORITISE REQUESTS TO KCC

Due to cutbacks, only emergency works will be undertaken unless funded by Members. We must ensure all safety issues are reported and minuted.

KG

21.2. REFLECTORS ON BEND NEAR TWYFORD BRIDGE

The reflectors have been replaced. It was noted that the additional reflectors that The PC requested for safety reasons have not been completed. This should be put back into KCC Highways system.

KG

21.3. HEDGES

Hedges are monitored.

KG

21.4. CANAL FENCING

It was reported that the fencing along the canal is now in such poor repair that it is dangerous. This has been reported to KCC but needs to be chased.

CHAIR

22. FINANCE

22.1. PAY BILLS

A list of bills totalling £5796.19 exclusive of VAT was circulated and proposed VR seconded KG and all agreed that they be paid.

22.2. CONFIRM RECEIPTS

A list of receipts totalling £655.33 was circulated.

22.3. TO APPROVE MEMBERSHIP OF THE OPEN SPACES SOCIETY

It was agreed to continue membership of The Open Spaces Society at a cost of £40.

23. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

24. PARISH MATTERS

24.1. PARISH TRANSPORT SURVEY

The Community Rail Partnership has requested that Yalding take part in a door to door survey. The PC agreed to support this. It was suggested that forms be distributed via the parish magazine and the postmaster to be asked if completed forms might be returned to the post office.

AS

CLOSED SESSION

25. ENFORCEMENT

25.1. WAGON LANE

At the KALC meeting a motion was proposed on behalf of several south of Maidstone Parishes that a strong letter be written to MBC from the KALC Maidstone Area Committee expressing our immense disappointment at the lack of any achievement with respect to Gypsy policy and pointing out that the peaceful co-existence of the settled and travelling communities (which the circular asks us to consider) is now being threatened by MBC's lack of achievement. In addition the Committee should be updated bi-monthly on progress. Rob Jarman, Senior Planning Officer and Peter Hockney, Enforcement, have been requested to attend the next meeting of the Area Committee to explain. Helen Grant is visiting on Friday 7 October. It is understood that permission for The Stables has been refused.

25.2. RIVERVIEW PARK HOMES

The Riverside Development has planning permission for 17 caravans from 1953. The Chairman has contacted the planning officer to enquire whether landscaping was a condition of that permission as the owner has started to remove the hedge. The owner is using the tow path to get equipment on site; The Public Rights of Way Officer has installed a bollard. It was agreed that should this bollard fail, YPC will install a new bollard similar to those on The Lees.

CHAIR

25.3. OTHER ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

The Enforcement officer is to be reminded of issues at Willow Tree Farm.

The list provided by MBC is not adequate or up to date. The Chairman is continuing to write our own list.

26. THE POST OFFICE –THE FUTURE

Watson Nevill is progressing with the leases.

COMMENTS ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

TA/0146/11 Vine House, Lees Road
Yalding Conservation Area notification of intent to reduce crown of one horse chestnut tree to vicinity of previous pruning points to fell one sycamore and one ash tree, to remove 3/4 stems of one willow back to source and to remove upright and lateral branches which protect above crown of one copper beech tree back to overall profile.

NO COMMENT

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

The planning authority to be reminded of the reasons for conversion of oast houses to dwellings and that this development may be inappropriate.

MA/11/1515 Swan House, High Street
Erection of post and rope boundary treatment including lockable post to vehicle entrance of site

NO COMMENT

MA/11/1516 Swan House, High Street
Listed building consent for erection of post and rope boundary treatment including lockable post to vehicle entrance of site.

NO COMMENT

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.55 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....