

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF YALDING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 7 OCTOBER 2014 AT 7.30 P.M. IN YALDING VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT

Geraldine Brown (Chairman)
Ken Gough (KG)
Michael Stuart (MS)
Symon Wilson (SW)

Jason Bryant (JB)
Angela Seckleman (AS)
Vivienne Robinson (VR)

Maidstone Borough Cabinet member for Community and Leisure Services, Cllr John Perry, Sarah Robson Community Partnership Manager.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Nick Thomson sent his apologies due to work commitments and Councillor Andy Sanders sent his apologies due to holiday; both apologies were accepted.

Maidstone Borough Councillor Steve McLoughlin sent his apologies.

2. PUBLIC SESSION

Mr Tim Reader attended the meeting but didn't wish to speak.

Mr Paul Lilley attended the meeting in relation to planning application 14/501229/FULL

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF COUNCILLORS IN ANY ITEM

3.1. DECLARATION OF CHANGES TO THE REGISTER OF INTERESTS

None were declared.

3.2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There was none requested.

3.3. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

There was none requested.

4. DECISION TO TAKE AGENDA ITEMS UNDER CLOSED SESSION

It was agreed to take items 26, 27, and 28 in Closed Session.

5. POLICE MATTERS

PCSO Nicola Morris sent her apologies, she will be present at the next farmers market. She will be focusing on resolving the issue of pavement parking.

6. PLANNING.

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

Planning decisions are recorded at the end of the minutes.

CHANGES TO MBC PLANNING PROCEDURE

An auditor has been appointed to look into the new planning system, The Chairman has been invited to meet with him as a representative of the parishes. The Chairman felt that clerks should be involved and will be taking several clerks representing different size parishes with her.

7. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2 SEPTEMBER 2014

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

8. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

8.1. LIGHTING JUNCTION BENOVER ROAD AND TOWN BRIDGE

The post has been delivered and needs to be fitted.

8.2. WAR MEMORIAL WATER SATURATION

The proposal needs to be shown to Highways before work is carried out as the water could overflow onto the road. The Chairman will contact John Reynolds.

8.3. THE KINTONS FOOTPATH TO THE HIGH STREET

Work is now complete

8.4. THE SIGNS ON THE LEES PONY FIELD

A cattle grid and a height restriction to be fitted at the entrance and exit to the car park as well as a grid at the village end of The Lees, with a budget of up to £5,000.

The Clerk has received a quote and artwork for the signs on The Lees Car Park and The Pony Field which she will review with the Chairman.

8.5. WEBSITE

Photographs of Councillors will be put on the website.

8.6. THE TATT

The Chairman will write up the proposal for car parking, which will be circulated for comment. She will also get an estimate of the costs to draw up a legal agreement.

The Clerk will attempt to establish who is currently parking there and who has legal access and the ownership of the land in front of 1 & 2 The Tatt needs to be established.

8.7. POST OFFICE

There have been no further complaints and the existing postmen seem happy.

8.8. SIGNS

The Clerk has received a quote and artwork which needs to be reviewed for the required signs. It was agreed to go ahead and purchase two moveable banners advertising "pick up your dog waste".

8.9. REMEMBRANCE DAY

The road closure has been approved.

8.10. WATER BILL

SW reported that there is a bill going through parliament which will affect residents insurance and he will circulate.

8.11. LADDINGFORD CHRISTMAS TREE

The Chairman has spoken with the Laddingford electrician who will liaise with The Chequers to ensure any necessary repairs are carried out in good time.

8.12. FLOODING

A call has gone out for flood warden volunteers.

RC has been asked to update the welcome pack to include flood information.

The Chairman will write to MBC asking for their assurance that all flood risk assessments accompanying planning application are post the recent floods.

8.13. DAMAGED TREE ON LEES ROAD

It appears that the verge is owned by British School of Ballooning, who has appointed Robert Body to look at the tree etc.

8.14. LOCK UP

A site meeting will be arranged to discuss.

The Chairman will chase the quotations for the door.

8.15. ST MODWEN

The Chairman wrote to St Modwen but her email was not passed to the correct person, Colin Chatt, until after he had made a visit. He has emailed to say he will make contact and make another visit shortly.

8.16. YALDING HIGH STREET - REVIEW GAS WORK REINSTATEMENT

These have been reinstated by our contractor.

8.17. WELCOME PACK

JB has offered to support the layout and the printing of the welcome pack and AS will do the research. The Clerk will organise the distribution. The Clerk has asked for copies of the bus and train time table to add to the pack.

8.18. THE LEES CAR PARK RIVERBANK REPAIR

It was agreed that KG will get a quote from Robert Body to do the work however it was agreed that as long as it is below the £18,000 budget, the project should be progressed as soon as possible.

8.19. CONSULTATIONS

One consultation was received in September- DCLG's Technical Consultation on planning deadline 26 September 2014. It was agreed that The Chairman was best placed to review.

8.20. HOUSEKEEPING LIST

The House Keeping list was reviewed and updated, The Chairman will circulate.

It was agreed that Councillors would inspect their area of responsibility monthly and report any issues at each meeting as an agenda item.

8.21. LIBRARY CLOSURES

KCC have reported that the library did not open on Saturday 16th August owing to an oversight in the staff rota. They have reviewed their procedures to address this. They have apologised for this interruption to the service and for any inconvenience to customers in Yalding. Julie Watson, the regular member of staff at Yalding, has recently left to take up another role with KCC. They are recruiting for this vacancy as soon as possible but in the mean time will be covering with relief staff. They have a new Customer Services Officer responsible for managing Yalding Library; Amy Law. Amy is based at KHLIC.

8.22. TRAFFIC ON TOWN BRIDGE

Concerns have been expressed that traffic on Town Bridge is becoming unmanageable and dangerous at peak times. It was agreed to agenda this for discussion at a future meeting and that a cost to appoint an independent traffic surveyor would be investigated. A website search suggests camera's gathering evidence is about £1000 + VAT. Consultancy service for ideas, reports etc is about £1200 +VAT.

8.23. LITTER AND FLY TIPPING

The Clerk has informed The Diocesan agent of the litter in the woods behind the pavilion at The Kintons

The litter around Hampstead Bridge has been reported to The Environment Agency. Community payback has done a very good job tidying along the road by Syngenta.

Both of these areas will be added to the list of jobs for the parish tidy.

Garden waste had been fly-tipped on The Kintons' path. The Clerk has asked MBC to provide signs.

8.24. ORCHARD PLACE

Yalding Parish Council (YPS) comments have not been registered on this planning application, a letter will be sent, however the planning office has said that as it is not in Yalding parish any comments will only be that of a neighbour and councillors may not ask for the application to go to committee.

8.25. FOUL WATER - SYMONDS LANE

The Chair will write to Martin Jeynes, head of Environmental Health at Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) to pursue the problem of foul water on Symons Lane.

9. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

County Councillor Paulina Stockell did not attend the meeting and did not send a report.

10. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Steve McLoughlin sent his apologies and had nothing to report.

John Perry attended the meeting to explain his role. He acknowledged that relation between the parishes and MBC had not been good in recent years and a major part of his role will be to rebuild relations. He reported that the current Cabinet see it as essential that The Borough Council and The Parishes work together. One of the major projects to achieve this will be The Parish Charter.

11. LOCAL PLAN

The MBC Policy Team is in the process of arranging meetings with Parish Councils and Ward Members concerning Parish Liaison/Local Plan. Yalding will meet with them on 9 October at 6pm at Maidstone House.

Whilst the current number of properties is 18600, windfall sites are now being considered. There has also an acceptance that the integrated transport strategy is vital and JTB has been tasked

12. CONSULTATIONS

Two consultations were received this month:

Kent County Council (KCC) Consultation on Community Wardens - 9 November 2014, it was agreed that MS would review this.

DCLG Consultation - Planning and Travellers - 23 November 2014, it was agreed that all councillors would look at this and it would be placed on the agenda again in November.

13. PLAYScheme

The clerk circulated the accounts for playscheme 2014. She reported that for the first time in several years the playscheme gone over budget by £260. This was due to £500 less grants and substantially less attendance. It was agreed that next year the staff numbers will reduce by 1 which will only reduce the intake from 36 to 32. The

clerk will write and thank staff and will write to the other parishes that use the scheme to ask for a contribution. It was also agreed that children from outside the parish or not resident in a parish supporting the scheme should pay the higher rate. It was also suggested that a high rate be charged for none pre-registered places.

14. OUT OF HOURS ROTA

The Clerk will purchase a pay as you go mobile as an out of hours phone. A rota for weekend cover will be drawn up in alphabetical order. It was agreed that KG would not go on the rota as he currently works every Sunday with Community Payback.

15. LITTER BIN AT THE ANCHOR

The new, large bin promised by MBC is only slightly bigger than the existing. If we purchase a bin similar in size to the one at Laddingford at a cost of approximately £500 plus fitting, MBC will empty free of charge. The Chairman proposed that YPC purchase a suitable bin whilst keeping the current one in place. She also suggested we contact the EA to ensure they have a bin available for boat users. MS seconded these proposals, all agreed.

16. FLOODING

16.1. UPDATE

There is a meeting with Helen Grant on 10 October where the EA will give an update on the current status of flood protection. The Chairman and SW has met again with the EA and updated them on areas of concern which they have agreed to address.

16.2. FLOOD WARDENS

A call has been sent out for flood wardens, training will be provided which will be adapted to suit our needs.

16.3. VISIT TO LEIGH FLOOD STORAGE AREA

A visit has been arranged for 18 October, transport has been organised and a crèche is available.

16.4. PRESENTATION TO MBC MEMBERS 29 OCTOBER

A members briefing has been arranged on 29 October 2014, a paper on lessons learnt which is to be presented to Cabinet, will also be presented at this meeting. The Chairman will be involved.

17. PARISH TIDY

17.1. CONFIRM ARRANGEMENTS

The parish Tidy will be held on 12 October, a list of area's that need tidying will be drawn up and a note requesting volunteers will be sent out via Parish News. Bacon butties will be served to volunteers on The Tatt at 1pm.

17.2. HELEN GRANT VISIT

Helen Grant has agreed to unveil a sign to promote the work undertaken by Community Payback at The Tatt, she will be here at 1pm.

18. HIGH STREET VERGES

John Reynolds has been moved to Dartford and has been told to hand over the project to a Maidstone colleague. Sue Laporte has taken over and has reported that the work will be completed by the end of October. She is more than happy to have a site meeting. The Clerk will chase until a firm date has been agreed. If the issue hasn't been resolved by 23 October moving the stalls into the road will be considered.

19. THE FEN

19.1. REMOVAL OF CATTLE

The cattle that were on loan did a very good job and have now been removed by their owner. It was agreed that the three remaining cattle will be removed by the end of October. The Chairman proposed that AS be asked to take them to market, if he doesn't want to Mike Owen will be asked to take them.

19.2. REMOVAL OF TOILET

The toilet was removed at the end of September.

20. TREE AND POND WARDENS

At last The Clerk has managed to find an organisation will to provide training for tree and pond wardens. The organisation provides training, at a cost of £5 per head, quarterly meetings, manuals and an advice website; several residents had previously agreed to volunteer. It was agreed that YPC would fund this. The Clerk will establish if these residents are still willing to take on the role.

21. KENT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (KALC) MEETING 22 OCTOBER

Neither The Chairman or VR can attend the next KALC meeting on 22 October, no one present was available to attend, it was agreed to ask NT if he is available.

22. HIGHWAY PROJECTS

22.1. SPEEDING IN LADDINGFORD

Feedback is still awaited. Correspondence has been received from a Gravelly Ways resident complaining of the speed along the road. This complaint will be passed on to KCC Highways.

22.2. KENWARD ROAD FLOODING

A new pipe is going to be fitted at the bend in a few weeks.

22.3. DARMAN LANE

It is believed that there is a culvert that needs to be exposed.

22.4. VICARAGE ROAD DRAIN COVER

A drain cover in Vicarage Road is in danger of breaking; KG will look at it.

23. FINANCE

23.1. PAY BILLS

A list of bills (as attached) totalling £11,193.28, exclusive of VAT, was circulated; proposed MS seconded VR and all agreed that they be paid.

23.2. CONFIRM RECEIPTS

A list of receipts (as attached) totalling £910.62 was circulated.

23.3. 6 MONTH FINANCE REVIEW

Spend against budget for the first 6 months of the year was reviewed.

The only item that has been spent that is not budgeted is the £6,000 for the flood surveyor, and this money will be reimbursed to YPC from local residents.

23.4. NEW SWING SEATS, THE KINTONS

The Clerk reported that all four of the junior swing seats at The Kintons are damaged although only one is an immediate safety issue. The cost of each seat to replace is £38 plus carriage. Based on the fact that all seats will need replacing in the short term it was agreed to purchase 4 new seats. The Clerk will obtain a quote for fitting them.

24. CORRESPONDENCE

24.1. JUBILEE FIELD - REQUEST TO IMPROVE FACILITIES

A further letter has been received from some residents of Laddingford detailing their wish list for The Jubilee Field, the list was prepared with The Friends of Laddingford School and The Headteacher.

- Redesign the play park to make it more accessible and playable for all ages.
- Improve the sports facilities for the school and the community.
- Make it a community friendly space with more seating.
- Improve the natural areas of the field for the new science curriculum which encourages use of out door areas.
- Explore and find solutions to the barriers of the school using the field at lunch play time.

It was agreed that if this group want to come up with professional proposals to develop the area, then that is fine as long as it is at their cost. Any proposals should be presented to and approved by YPC. Any grants obtained from MBC would have to be match funded and could only be spent on the play area.

24.2. WILLIAM BIRD RESIGNATION

William Bird the river bailiff asked for some posters to be put up on The Lees banning alcohol and keep nets; as this was not done immediately he felt he was being ignored and resigned. This was discussed and YPC do not have the bylaws to do this and would not be able to enforce. The Clerk will write back to Mr Bird informing him of this.

24.3. PUBLIC ACCESS DEFIBRILLATORS

KALC at the request of Member Councils to negotiate discounted prices for top quality defibrillators. They cost approximately £700 and an extra £450 for an external heated box. The Chairman suggested that outside the post office would be a good place for one; more details will be sought.

24.4. DITCH AT ENTRANCE OF ST MARYS CLOSE

A Laddingford resident has asked for this ditch to be cleared as he is concerned that it contributed to flooding. KG will meet with him to discuss. JB will ask Steve Clarke for advice as to how he flooded.

25. PARISH MATTERS

25.1. CIG MEETINGS

VR reported that no stakeholders are attending the CIG meetings, and suggested that some other Parish Councillors attend the next meeting on 8 December, 9.30 - 11 am.

25.2. JUNCTION OF LEES ROAD AND SYMONDS LANE

JB reported that a lot of wing mirrors are been taken off at this location due to the site lines and speeding. It will be reported to KCC Highways but it's unlikely that they will be able to do anything in the near future. Several hedges in the area are being cut, JB will talk to the direct property about cutting their hedge.

COMMENTS ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 14/501229/FULL Glyndale, Laddingford
Change of use and conversion of shop and dwelling to three dwellings, and associated external alterations.
NO COMMENT TO THE DEVELOPMENT
However councillors would like to express serious concerns about the lack of parking provision in this congested area.
- 14/502365/LBC Willow Grove, Lees Road
Listed Building Consent to remove paint from front wall and restore to plain brickwork, together with brickwork repairs as necessary.
NO COMMENT
Councillors wish to see the facade at the top of the house which has been removed, be replaced.
- 14/502993/LBC 2 Willow Grove Barn, Lees Road
Listed building consent for the change of entrance door to facade
NO COMMENT
Councillors request that the conservation officer ensures that the new door facade be in keeping.
- 14/502549/FULL 3 Elveys Cottages, High Street
Ground floor side extension
NO COMMENT

MBC PLANNING DECISIONS SINCE LAST MEETING

- 14/500910/FULL Kenward Trust Head Office, Kenward Road
New extension
GRANTED
- 14/500914/LBC Kenward Trust Head Office, Kenward Road
Listed Building Consent for new extension
GRANTED
- 14/500914/LBC Willow Grove, Lees Road
Listed building consent - to replace the current timber floors at ground-floor level (all modern timbers), at Willow Grove, with solid concrete floors, as a flood mitigation. Measure
GRANTED
- 14/501106/FULL 2 Acott Fields
Conversion of existing balcony into conservatory
GRANTED
- 14/500774/LDCEX The Cottage, Kenward Orchard, Kenward Road
Lawful Development Certificate for an existing use of static residential unit and land as single dwelling.

GRANTED

14/501701/FULL The Chestnut Tree, Benover Road
Construct two floor defence walls.

GRANTED

14/501702/LBC The Chestnut Tree, Benover Road
Listed Building Consent to construct two flood defence walls.

GRANTED

14/501473/FULL 30 Lyngs Close
Erection of single storey front and side extension and detached
outbuilding to rear garden.

GRANTED

There being no further business the meeting closed at 22.45 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....