

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF YALDING PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2012 AT 7.30 P.M. IN YALDING VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT

Geraldine Brown Chairman (GB)
Debbie Hollingdale (DH) Mike Newman (MN)
Vivienne Robinson (VR) Andy Sanders (AS)
Michael Stewart (MS) Nick Thomson (NT)
Symon Wilson (SW)

County Councillor Paulina Stockell
Maidstone Borough Cllr Steven McLoughlin

ACTION

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Ken Gough due to work commitments, it was agreed to accept his 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 20, 21 22 and 23 in Closed Session.

5. POLICE MATTERS

PCSO Nicola Morris attended the meeting and gave a brief summary of the crime figures. It was noted that there was an incident of criminal damage on the tow path where one of the bollards had been removed.

6. PLANNING.

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

6.2. Planning decisions are recorded at the end of the minutes.

7. TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:

7.1. Parish Council Meeting on 3 July 2012 - Proposed VR, seconded MS and all agreed that the minutes be signed as a correct record.

7.2. Parish Council planning and Finance Meeting on 7 August 2012 - Proposed MS, seconded DH and all agreed that the minutes be signed as a correct record.

7.3. Annual Parish Meeting on 15 May 2012 - Proposed VR, seconded MN and all agreed that the minutes be signed as a correct record.

7.4. Annual Parish Council Meeting on 15 May 2012 - Proposed VR, seconded MS and all agreed that the minutes be signed as a correct record.

8. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

8.1. WAR MEMORIAL

The Stone Shop is now fully operative and will chase the new bronze plaque.

CLK

8.2. ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME

The application pack for the entry level scheme has arrived The Clerk has been through it with AS and is ready to submit.

CLK

8.3. BROADBAND

Four cabinets are now "live". Callflow have been experiencing problems with the software but the manufacturer is preparing a software patch to overcome the problem.

CHAIR/AB

8.4. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) have informed the Chairman that there is a paper going to Cabinet with regard to Council's proposed approach to neighbourhood planning, subject to the Member decision officers will produce the final detailed guidance. **CHAIR**

8.5. SPEEDWATCH

New volunteers have been trained and new sites approved. Collier Street now has a scheme and is sharing our equipment (purchased with a grant from our County Councillor). **NFA**

8.6. LIGHTING JUNCTION BENOVER ROAD AND TOWN BRIDGE

The contractor has been instructed to install the light as per his quotation. **KG**

8.7. COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLANNING

Yalding Parish Council (YPC) has an emergency plan already but it was agreed to put this onto the Kent County Council (KCC) template. The template has been forwarded to The Chairman and SW for consideration. The Chairman has received further information to consider. **CHAIR/SW**

8.8. SYNGENTA

There is no further information at this time. **ML**

8.9. VIABILITY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND

The Clerk has drafted a letter, which AS is reviewing, asking MBC for the guidelines they use when making decisions. **AS**

8.10. GLEBE LAND – VICARAGE ROAD TRACK TO THE KINTONS

Smiths Gore has now delved into the archives and have said they are now ready for a meeting. The Chairman will arrange. **CHAIR**

8.11. FOWLE HALL GREEN

Mark Pritchard of Medway Valley Countryside Partnership (MVCP) has reported that due to this summer's growth conditions, the land is currently ideal for snakes etc and has asked that it is not cut until the end of October. The Clerk and AS will meet with him in October to progress the management plan. **CLK**

MN suggested the possibility of a Queen's Jubilee grant; VR agreed to investigate this. **VR**

8.12. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Bee Keepers association asked for financial support for educational work. As the club has grown significantly Councilors were generally supportive. The Clerk has written to them to get more details. **CLK**

8.13. CRICKET PAVILION

There is interest in forming a Yalding Playing Fields Association and attempting to get grants to build a new multipurpose pavilion. NT would be happy to represent the Parish Council on any committee. The Chair will write to inform the cricket club. **CHAIR**

8.14. SALLY CONSTABLE

A request has been received for a memorial tree for Sally Constable. The Chairman advised that there was no scope for planting trees within the village but suggested possibly The Lees or The Kintons. She has received no further communication (May 2012). **NFA**

8.15. COMMEMORATIVE COINS

There are still approximately 50 coins to give out and a waiting list for spares. **CLK**

8.16. YALDING VILLAGE SIGN

It was agreed that cobbles be fitted around the bottom of the post to aid with grass cutting. However, the contractor does not feel it necessary. **ML**

8.17. REMEMBRANCE DAY

The application for closure of High Street and Vicarage Road for the duration of the parade to the War Memorial and the service has been lodged with Maidstone Borough Council. **CHAIR/CLK**

8.18. LOCK UP

KG reported that the lock up needs extra shelving, The Chairman proposed that a budget of up to £300 be allocated, MN seconded and all agreed. **KG**

8.19. REQUEST FOR BOOT CAMP AT THE KINTONS

A request has been received to hold a boot camp on either the Kintons or Jubilee Field. The Clerk has confirmed with the lady that this is acceptable providing that there was no clash with other users and has agreed a donation in arrears. **ML**

8.20. THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE – REVIEW OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

The total cost of all the Jubilee events including the cost of the coins was £2841.16 against a budget of £3500. MN asked for it to be minuted what an excellent achievement it was to run the event under budget. The Chairman will circulate a breakdown of the costs. **CHAIR**

8.21. CUTTING OF THE LEES

KG has agreed that when The Lees is cut again he will look particularly at the cutting of the corner to improve visibility. **KG**

9. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

PS gave a brief update on the KCC budget.

PS reported that KCC hadn't received feedback from Yalding about possibilities to improve the library. YPC were not aware that this was required. PS will send details to The Clerk who will arrange a meeting to discuss; it was agreed to invite Brenda Stewart. **CLK**

The Chairman reported that the Verges have been measured and she is attempting to get costs.

10. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

SM agreed to supply hard copies of certain consultation documents. SM reported that he will make comments on planning appeals. The Chairman informed SM that he could not take part in a discussion on concurrent functions.

11. CODE OF CONDUCT

Maidstone branch of the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) has made a recommendation that the parishes adopt the Maidstone (Kent) model, which The Clerk has circulated, to ensure a consistent approach. The Chairman proposed and VR seconded that the Maidstone model be adopted, all agreed with no abstentions. The Clerk will issue new notification of disclosable pecuniary interests forms to be completed urgently. The Clerk will issue the code to the Yuletide working party. **CLK**

12. PARISH PICNIC

Sunday 16 September 3pm to 7pm. All arrangements are in place. The Clerk will prepare a risk assessment. Apple juice will be pressed on site this year. All helpers to meet at The Fen at 11 am. **VR/CLK**

13. TREE INSPECTION REPORT

The Clerk has circulated the tree inspection report completed by KCC. It was agreed to get at least 2 quotes to complete all the recommended work. **CLK**

14. THE LEES

14.1. OAK TREES

It was agreed to get advice from The Men of Trees about the removal of the bottom branches of the self seeded Oak trees on The Lees. The Clerk will then get a quote for any required work. **CLK**

14.2. HORSE BARRIER

In the light of horses getting onto The Lees it was agreed to investigate horse barriers or an alternative solution be fitted at the top end of The Lees and under the bridge. **CHAIR**

14.3. HAY CUTTING

Due to the inclement weather this season the usual contractor no longer wishes to take the hay from The Lees and it is too late to find an alternative. It was agreed to get MBC to cut it when they cut the rest of The Lees. KG will investigate an alternative contractor to take the hay in 2013. **KG**

15. CCTV CAMERA

A discussion took place regarding the purchase of a CCTV camera for the parish. It would be a mobile camera that could be moved around the parish as required. Currently, there are four lamp posts adapted to take a camera. The cost for the most advanced model is £5,500 and fitting would be free. A discussion also took place about the possibility of finding a suitable site at Yalding Station car park. MN Proposed, VR seconded and all agreed that the camera be purchased at a cost of up to £5,500. PS agreed to look at the possibility of a grant **CHAIR/CLK**

16. HIGHWAYS

16.1. HEDGES

The highway steward is knocking on doors. He has had some success along Lees Road. A hedge cutter has been purchased. An article has been placed in the Parish Magazine. **KG**

16.2. LEES CORNER/HAMPSTEAD LANE

Moved back from the monitor list. The Chair will again try and progress the safety issues of this site. **CHAIR**

17. FINANCE

17.1. PAY BILLS

A list of bills (as attached) totalling £4,867.45 exclusive of VAT was circulated and proposed VR seconded MN and all agreed that they be paid.

17.2. CONFIRM RECEIPTS

A list of receipts (as attached) totalling £7605.23 was circulated.

17.3. CONCURRENT FUNCTIONS

MN proposed, DH seconded and all agreed that YPC will support Maidstone KALC in whatever actions they see fit to support the parishes in the concurrent functions/parish services debate.

MN proposed, MS seconded and all agreed that as YPC's Maidstone KALC representatives, the Chairman and VR have the mandate to discuss and vote on YPC's behalf.

17.4. FINANCE WORKING PARTY

The Chairman briefed the meeting on the output of the Finance Working Party. Finances are currently on budget. The working party asked the meeting to consider the installation of broadband to the village hall subject to quotes, all agreed. **CHAIR**

17.5. CHURCHYARD GRANT

A Discussion took place as to whether the annual churchyard grant of £500 should continue now that the closed churchyard has been handed over to MBC. It was proposed by VR, seconded MS and agreed by all that the grant should still be paid for use on the burial ground only. **CLK**

18. CORRESPONDENCE

18.1. TEISESIDE NURSERY

A letter has been received and circulated from the owners of Teiseside Nursery asking for support from YPC in the development of the site. Planning history of the site will be confirmed and this will be placed on the agenda for the October meeting. **CHAIR/CLK**

19. PARISH MATTERS

There were no Parish Matters to report.

COMMENTS ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- MA/12/1278 The Elms Lodge, High Street
Erection of a single storey rear extension.
NO COMMENT
- MA/12/0938 Well Cottage, Benover Road
Erection of a replacement garage
NO COMMENT
- MA/12/1384 Kenward Farm Cottage, Kenward Road.
First floor and part ground floor extension. (Resubmission of MA/12/0192)
NO COMMENT
- MA/12/1371 Ramblers, Shingle Barn Lane, West Farleigh
Single - storey side extension.
NO COMMENT
- MA/12/1407 Little Addlestead, Benover Road
Erection of detached garage and biomass boiler room.
NO COMMENT
- TA/0128/12 6, Acott Fields, Yalding
Conservation area notification: Yalding conservation area notification of intention to reduce lateral spread of mid mature oak by approximately 15-20% and crown thin by approximately 10%
NO COMMENT
- MBC PLANNING DECISIONS SINCE LAST MEETING**
- MA/12/0867 Congelow Farm, Benover Road
An application for a new planning permission to replace extant permission MA/08/0163 (Development of existing site including extension to store, creation of new commercial space; creation of new research and development space and creation of new access) in order to extend the time limit for implementation.
GRANTED
- MA/12/1099 3, Lees Cottages, Lees Road
Erection of conservatory to rear.
GRANTED
- MA/12/1098 Beultside, Lees Road
Rear extension and alterations
GRANTED

There being no further business the meeting closed at 22.36 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....