

Minutes of the meeting of Borough Green Parish Council held at 7.45p.m. on Monday 2 November 2009 in The Annexe to the Church of the Good Shepherd.

Present: Cllr S Perry(Chairman), Cllrs. J Bailey, Mrs E Howden, Mrs J Lucas (late arrival), Mrs V McWilliam, Mrs S Murray, Cllr T Shaw, M Taylor, C Willsher, M Yianni
 Apologies: T&MBCllr D Evans
 There were 13 members of the public in attendance

Action

Declarations of Interest In the course of normal business being conducted and in particular, in connection with Planning and proposed Planning items, all Councillors confirmed that that they are open-minded and that any comments they make are done so without bias, pre-disposition or pre-determination, irrespective of personal comments made outside the meeting. Councillors will take into account any relevant information put before them and not rule out any factors before reaching a final decision.

Item 137 Proposed Youth Shelter: Cllr Taylor advised that he would abstain from any vote taken

121. **Minutes** of the meeting 5 October 2009: item 113 RAFA Floral Display – delete ‘residents’ add ‘Hsg Assn’. The amended minutes were signed as a true record.

122. **Matters Arising**

It was confirmed that parishioners can meet with the Clerk in the Parish office by appointment and this will be advertised each month in The Voice and on the website.

123. **Planning Matters**

TM/09/02429/FL Extension – 28 Conyerd Road. No observations.

TM/09/02648/AT Illuminated fascia sign & projecting sign – 42 High Street. No observations.

TM/09/2028 Relaxation of time to restore landscape & aftercare – Borough Green Sandpits: application for consideration by KCC committee 10am 3.11.09. Chairman and Cllr Taylor had prepared a BGPC verbal statement: agreed that Cllr Taylor will attend the meeting and read that statement.

Managing Development and the Environment DPD. Chairman has advised T&MBC that BGPC will be making a written representation reinforcing comments made in May 2009. For further consideration under item 133 of the agenda.

MT

Cllr Mrs Lucas arrived.

Decisions

TM/09/1402 Replacement garage + 3 apartments – 21 High Street. Permission refused.

TM/09/1403 Extension – 21 High Street Road. Permission granted.

TM/09/1768 Demolish garage and construct 1no dwelling – 1 Crouch Lane. Perm. refused.

TM/09/2028 Relaxation of time to restore landscape & aftercare – Borough Green Sandpits. For KCC committee consideration 10am (as considered above).

124. **Correspondence**

Noted:

KCC Trading Standards alert messages Oct. 2009 (copies to all Cllrs)

T&MBC PPP: mtg 5.11.0.9 agenda + minutes 10.09.09 (copies to Chairman & Cllr Taylor)

T&MBC Standards Cttee. agenda 20 October 2009

KALC AGM 14.11.09 Agenda + minutes 8.11.08 + annual report 2008/09

Action with Communities in Rural Kent Annual summary 2008/09; Autumn magazine; community halls advice session Lenham 23.11.09; newsletter Set.2009

The Kent Men of the Trees Highly Commended certificate received for this year’s entry + report (Copies to all Cllrs). Cllr Wilsher was thanked for his liaison work + Cllrs Mrs Lucas and Cllr Mrs McWilliam for assisting

BMPOS Minutes of the meeting 20.08.09 (copies to all Cllrs)

T&MBC Campaign to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour: publicity

Kent Rural Towns Website www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core

CPRE Magazine Autumn 2009; AGM Lenham 13.11.09; minutes of the AGM 28.11.08

T&MBC Wise-Up magazine October 2009: Food, safety and health matters

T&MBC Summary of accounts and review of the year 2008/09

West Kent College Food Safety courses 2009/10

KCPFA Autumn newsletter (copies to all Cllrs)

Kent Police Survey 2010/13 available at

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=ZTh2SrFCEf6uiQciUBEB9w_3d_3d

124. Correspondence (Continued)

KALC Power of Well-Being training Headcorn 28.11.09
 New Allotment Co Ltd New allotments Tonbridge/T Wells area (copies to all Cllrs)
 BTCV Kent Heritage Trees Project
 KCC Changes to Mobile Library service (copies to all Cllrs)
 T&MBC Community Safety Ptnrship bulletin 2.11.09 (copies to all Cllrs)
 Kent Police Policing Matters publication no 2 (copies to all Cllrs)
 KHS West Kent Parish Seminar Tuesday 9am 24th November, Maidstone.

KCC Playbuilder Funding workshop 18.11.09 and guidelines (copies to all Cllrs).
 Advice received from T&M: consider guidelines, await PPP meeting when this will be discussed, attend workshop if think appropriate, identify a scheme, decide if the help of a consultant is needed. Agreed that Chairman or Cllr Willsher will attend.

BGVHMC Booking charges w.e.f 1 Jan 2010: 5% increase will be applied. For consideration when preparing next year's budget re BGPC Pop-In, Foot Clinic donations .

Leybourne Grange Riding Centre Invitation to attend Nativity & Blessing 1pm 11 Dec. 2009.
 Chairman will try to attend.

BTCV Pond Warden Offer to give advice to residents on wildlife in their ponds + associated problems (copies of e-mail correspondence with Cllr Taylor to all Cllrs). Information will be displayed on the website.

T&MBC Weekend freighter service (copies to all Cllrs) Current site at the station can no longer be maintained. Suggestions for alternative location requested incl consideration of P Mede. Chairman has liaised with T&MBC. After discussion and consideration of other possible sites, agreed that Dene Lodge is the best location and a request will be made for the facility to be made available there every week. Chairman will reply.

Skate Park Cttee Insurance renewal invitation due 30.12.09. Agreed that Chairman will obtain additional financial information and for further consideration at the next PC meeting.

T&MBC Probity in Planning awareness session 25 November 2009 7.30pm T&MBC offices.
 Chairman and Cllr Taylor will attend.

125. Vacancy BGPC

Co-option notices have been displayed throughout the month and copies of two letters of application were given to all members. Agreed that the application period be formally closed with immediate effect. After discussion agreed that Chairman and Vice-Chairman will liaise to arrange a date for interviews. All members will be informed and may attend.

126. Memorial Pavilion

Refurbishment: Chairman advised that there are still some snagging items requiring the contractor's attention. The surveyor has issued the appropriate instruction. It was agreed that until the work to the toilet area has been completed satisfactorily, the facility will remain closed to the public. A quotation in the sum of £8,500p.a had been received from Sevenoaks District Council for a Monday-Friday daily cleaning service of this toilet; they are unable to take on opening/closing or weekend cleaning. Agreed that this is cost prohibitive. Future arrangements will be discussed by the Facilities Cttee.

Cllr Willsher proposed that, in view of public attendance, interest and earlier requests, item 132 of the agenda be taken next. Seconded by Cllr Mrs McWilliam, agreed. Further agreed to discuss this jointly with item 139.

132. Proposed Railhead &139. Kent International Gateway

Note: During the public session immediately prior to the council meeting there had been considerable, strong opposition to the proposed Kent Rail and Freight Terminal and the Parish Council was urged to join other organisations in opposing the scheme (also noted that not all of the 13 members of the public spoke on this issue). Chairman had confirmed to the public that this was the first PC meeting since formal proposals had been published and that it would be premature to make such a declaration in the public section of the meeting before councillors had had a chance to discuss the matter fully.

SP/CW

SP

SP

SP/MT

SP/SM
All

Fac.Cttee

132. **Proposed Railhead &**139. **Kent International Gateway (Continued)**

There was considerable free discussion about the level of support BGPC should give to the campaign groups working to oppose the proposed Railheads. Chairman invited the Chairman of Wrotham PC to give further information: It was particularly noted that 1. if BGPC declares its opposition to the proposal a request would be forthcoming to have a representative on the committee 2. a new national body: The Independent Planning Commission will possibly mean that the planning process for such a project could be completed in less than a year.

After further discussion Chairman proposed that 1. BGPC is strongly opposed to every aspect of the Kent Rail and Freight Terminal proposal as it stands and will oppose any inappropriate development in the Metropolitan Greenbelt and Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty if brought forward but will withhold further comment until firms plans are presented 2. BGPC will join forces with other Parish Councils and other organisations to fight against development of this nature. Seconded by Cllr Mrs McWilliam. Voting was 9 in favour 1 against. The motion was therefore carried. Agreed that the Chairman of Wrotham PC will take this decision back to the committee and ask for two BGPC representatives to join the committee. Chairman and Cllr Taylor volunteered to be the representatives. Chairman will prepare a draft press statement and circulate it to all BGPC Cllrs before sending it to the press who had left the meeting prior to this discussion. Residents are encouraged to join the CPRE/Protect Kent.

SP/MT
SP127. **Potters Mede Pavilion and Pitch Enhancement**

A report from the Steering Group, which included BGPC Chairman's notes on discussions with T&MBC, had been circulated to all members. Particular attention was drawn to matters of confidentiality. The Football Development Plan is progressing. Chairman proposed that the report be accepted. Agreed.

all
VMcW/EH

As there were now no members of the public in attendance, Chairman proposed that the meeting be moved into Pt2 (item 140). Agreed.

The Agronomist's Feasibility Report on Potters Mede had been received. Agreed that Chairman and Cllr Bailey will consider it and decide on a strategy for consideration by the Steering Group. Cemex is progressing the council's grant application: further information is required which Cllr Bailey will provide.

Chairman and Clerk gave further information on the Playbuilder funding scheme and Chairman on potential Sect 106 money re Isles Quarry.

SP/JB
Strg.Grp.
JB

Chairman proposed that the meeting be resumed in public. Agreed.

128. **Grounds Maintenance**

Play Equipment: The new slide has been installed.

Tree Surgery: Cllr Willsher proposed that a £285 quotation from J Lawrenson for a hard cut-back of the Rec. Gd. beech hedge March '10 be accepted. Seconded by Cllr Mrs McWilliam, Agreed.

Ball Park: The facility has been inspected by the manufacturer and the report is awaited. Further information will be obtained from T&MBC. For consideration at the next meeting.

P Mede Car Park: There is continuing concern about the deterioration of the surface of the area and at the apparent abuse by users. After discussion it was agreed 1. to accept Cllr Bailey's kind offer to arrange for potholes to be filled 2. if it is still not satisfactory, to close the facility 3. to advise Wrotham School that if the facility is not treated with respect, a locking post will be installed, thus making it unavailable for school-related use.

JB

Chairman proposed that item 130 of the agenda be considered next. Agreed.

130. **Half-year accounts and report from the Finance Committee**

All members had received copies of the 6-month budget outturn and notes of a recent meeting of the Finance Cttee. Street lighting maintenance was discussed: Cllrs Willsher and Taylor had met on site with the contractor and reports had been circulated to all members. After discussion Chairman proposed that SEC be instructed to repair 2no columns. Cllr Willsher will check SEC's contract re validity of other repairs that might be carried out in-house + insurance aspect will be checked. Cllr Willsher and Cllr Taylor will advise of exact location for possible new light in Station Road in order that a quotation can be obtained from EDF for supply charges.

Crow Hill FP: there was considerable discussion about making a financial contribution towards maintenance which is a PROW/highways responsibility and not under the remit of the parish council, plus concern about the precedent it would set. Cllr Taylor proposed that a £250 donation be made, seconded by Cllr Yianni. Voting was 3 in favour, 5 against and 2 abstentions. The motion was not carried.

CW

CW/MT

130. **Half-year accounts and report from the Finance Committee (Continued)**
J5 Slips There was discussion, taking into account the Finance Cttee's recommendation that no further grants/non-priority expenditure be agreed this F/Y; the importance of the issue; the size of the grant requested. (Cllr Bailey left the meeting). Cllr Shaw proposed that a grant of £200 be made, seconded by Cllr Taylor. Voting was 4 in favour, 4 against and 1 abstention which was subsequently changed to 'in favour'. The motion was therefore carried.
131. **Cheques for Signature**
Auto-Pay
 £729.58 R Springett - Asst. Groundsman 1/10 - 31/10/09
 £1241.99 H Damiral - Clerk October 2009
 £501.18 W Austin – Caretaker/Groundsman 1/10 – 31/10/09
 £541.26 KCC – Superannuation October 2009
 £60.00 J Stephens – Websites maintenance October 2009
 £56.00 T&MBC – Rates, Memorial Pavilion November 2009
 £104.21 SEC – street lighting repairs: Harrison Rd.
 £214.07 SEC – street lighting maintenance October 2009
 £277.20 BGVHMC – hire of hall Pop-In Sept.-Dec. 2009
 £407.37 Wrotham PC – Skate Park maintenance September 2009
- £126.50 Trevor May – Tennis net supply, installation and inspection
 £2209.84 How Green Nursery Ltd – Hanging baskets (final)
 £8.50 KALC – Representative at AGM 14.11.09
 £133.64 Neat Ideas – Office stationery/printer consumables
 £56.35 SLCC – Clerk's conference day (replacement of £49 chq Oct. 2009)
 £485.00 J Lawrenson – cutting of beech hedge
 £2750.66 R Tucker – Surveyor's fee Memorial Pavilion
 £89.83 Kidmans – Mower repair
 £805.00 Total Turf Solutions Ltd – Agronomist's visit and report, Potters Mede
 £4922.01 Wicksteed Leisure – Slide, Recreation Ground
 £55.80 Kidmans – strimmer repair
- Proposed by Cllr Mrs Murray, seconded by Cllr Mrs McWilliam that the above payments be made. Agreed.
133. **Managing Development and the Environment DPD**
 Agreed that a written report will be submitted. Agreed that Chairman will circulate draft to all members and submit.
134. **Written reports from County & Borough Cllrs. & BGPCllrs. who sit as representatives on local organisations + Clerks' Report**
 All members had received copies of notes/updates on the planning application: Esso Garage redevelopment; proposed Freight Depot and Isles Quarry from T&MBCllr Evans. Noted.
135. **Standing Orders**
 Model Standing Orders not yet received.
136. **Footpaths**
 As discussed under item 130 of the agenda.
137. **Proposed Youth Shelter**
 Cllr Taylor advised of possible benefits to young people. It is understood that the proposal is to be given consideration by the Skate Park Committee.
138. **Traffic Issues & Request for Financial Donation from j5slips.org**
 As discussed under item 130 of the agenda. Agreed that Cllr Mrs McWilliam will prepare a draft letter for Chairman to send to the Leader of KCC asking for assurance that pre-planning process for the by-pass is taken through to completion

SP

VMcW
SP

140. **Resolved to enter into committee**

Chairman will obtain clarification of information re Sect. 106 monies Rock Rd/A25 development and Clerk will subsequently liaise with T&MBC.

SP

Date of next meeting: 7.45pm Monday 7 December 2009 Public session 7.30pm
Duty Cllrs: Saturday 5 December 2009 Cllrs Willsher and Yianni.

CW/MY

The meeting ended at 23.30hrs