

**LITTLEBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 DECEMBER 2014**

**Present:** Parish Cllr Vivienne Spratt (Chairman)  
Parish Cllr Mick Giles  
Parish Cllr Mike Gallagher  
Parish Cllr Cate Reid  
Parish Cllr Geoffrey Barrett  
Parish Cllr Betty Jeffries  
Parish Cllr Geof Welch  
Parish Cllr Ken Shaw  
Parish Cllr Pamela Evans

Mrs Gail Hubbard, Clerk to the Council  
Dr Wendy Le-Las Chartered Planner & Researcher

**149. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from City Cllr Brian Staley, County Cllr Northey, PCSO Elaine Cannadine and Community Warden Gary Moore.

**150. DECLARATIONS OF CLLRS INTERESTS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensations.

**151. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 NOVEMBER 2014**

It was then proposed by Cllr Reid and seconded by Cllr Giles to accept the Minutes as a true record of the meeting. The minutes were duly signed.

**152. PCSO REPORT**

The following report from Elaine was circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting;

Please accept my apologies as I am unable to attend the December parish council meeting. Littlebourne has been very quiet on the whole with nothing major to report.

- I received a report of a missing tortoise and after enquires I am happy to report the tortoise has been returned safe and well to its owner.
- A concerned resident and parent telephoned police with details of a suspicious male in the vicinity of the recreation ground at school drop off and pick up times daily. A good description was given and I was able to identify the male. An intelligence report has been submitted with the male's full details. I will stress that everything was in order and I am satisfied that the male is merely going about his daily business.
- Fly tipping is on the increase and I have recently investigated a report on Stodmarsh Road. Unfortunately there was no supporting evidence ie cctv, witnesses or indefinable rubbish. The report is no longer being actively investigated but remains on the system pending any further information. I have emailed the Chair with details of a website that is dedicated to fly-tipping, [www.tacklingflytipping.com](http://www.tacklingflytipping.com) On the website you will find details of an app that can be downloaded enabling you to report fly tipping easily, when you see it.
- Burglaries to properties and outer shed buildings are occurring. Burglars mess with your head not just your home. A burglary in your own home is an upsetting experience that can affect you and your family long after the clear up and the insurance paperwork is complete. While you're at work, so are they. Make sure the measures you take at night are also taken during the

morning before you leave home, make sure you lock all your windows and doors, and don't leave valuable items on display.

- Light your home by lighting dark or hidden entrances with low wattage security lighting, or use timer switches to turn on lights/radio. You can invest in a 24hrs segment timer for under £5. Remember to use an energy efficient light bulb.
- List your belongings, such as mobile phones, jewelry and games consoles for free by registering all items with [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) the UK National Property Register. Logging details help Kent Police to return them to you if we find or seize them.
- On Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December 11am to 3pm I will be holding a community engagement event outside ASDA superstore, Sturry Road. The event is to promote crime prevention and safety over the Christmas period. Kent Police, KCC Wardens and KFRS will also be in attendance.
- Please visit Kent Police Website: [www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk) for details of surgeries and police contact points in your area.

### **153. ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING**

There was none.

### **154. DISCUSS/UPDATE ON OUR RESPONSE TO CA/14/02417/OUT THE LIST**

The Chairman explained that we have employed Dr Wendy Le-Las as our planning consultant and welcomed her to the meeting. This was Dr Le Las' first opportunity to look at the hard copy of the plans so whilst she familiarised herself with the plans the Cllrs briefed her on our main areas for objection and concern;

- 2 years ago when a village meeting was held 75% of those who visited didn't want this development in the village
- There is already a Doctors surgery on the cards for the village, on Court Hill. This has the PC's full backing, so we don't require another one
- LPC have the backing of both City and County Cllr
- LPC have already written to Julian Brazier
- LPC have produced the flyer within our December LPC News which encouraged all resident's to write in to CCC, this gave full details of all the contacts to write to.
- LPC have met with KCC Highways to discuss the plans

Cllr Gallagher mentioned some key points;

- The 15% increase in village size (both in no of houses and population) which is a significant sudden increase.
- One single point of access/exit would see a 30% increase in vehicle movements on this stretch of road. Giving an increased chance of a collision on the A257. Average speeds on this stretch are 31mph coming towards the village and 38mph going out.
- Increased congestion on the hill due to volumes of traffic. There is a degree of congestion already which is caused by the traffic calming kerb extensions.
- Accessibility for emergency vehicles via one entrance

Various traffic surveys have been carried out over the past few years and Cllr Gallagher is to provide full details of the most recent one, to see how this compares to the developers results.

Cllr Giles raised the environmental impact on the village and the impact on the quality of life

Cllr Gallagher has been in contact with Kent Fire & Rescue regarding the accessibility issues and is awaiting further details back.

Cllr Giles raised the matter of the sewage system, which is 60 years old and cannot cope with the present demand. Last winter regular tinkering was required to take excess sewage away from Littlebourne. At periods of high ground water the system cannot cope. In November 2014 tankering has also been required due to slight mechanical problems. Cllr Giles and Cllr Shaw to provide full details of flooding and sewage problems over the last 10 years.

Dr Le-Las explained that unfortunately this site would be classed as windfall land on the local plan, it doesn't matter that it is not included in the new plan.

Dr Le Las encouraged us to get as many local residents to write in to CCC as possible and also when it goes to the Planning Committee at the Guildhall to get as many as possible to attend the meeting. She aired caution against a petition as they are usually rubbished by the developers.

Dr Le-Las departed at 8.10pm

#### **155. CHAIRMANS COMMENT**

Following Dr Le Las' departure the Chairman took the opportunity to inform the other Cllrs that she would not be standing for election at the Parish Council elections in May 2015.

#### **156. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Planning items on Appendix 2 were noted.

The London Plane tree outside the shop was raised with regard to the roots pushing up through the block paving. It was agreed the clerk should seek advice from the tree surgeon and delay any plans to prune the tree until we had this information.

#### **157. FINANCE**

- (a) RECEIVED the bank statements for October & November 2014, and RESOLVED the signature of the Chairman thereon;
- (b) NOTED £11.99 will be taken from our account by DD on 15<sup>th</sup> December for our 1x1 website

#### **AUTHORISATION OF ACCOUNTS**

There were receipts totalling £2430.31 NOTED this month. The expenditure list previously circulated to Cllrs as Appendix 3 totalling £1784.57 together with Appendix 3a presented at the meeting totalling £423. These were proposed by Cllr Gallagher and seconded by Cllr Welch so it was RESOLVED that the financial matters and accounts, as set out be authorised for payment.

#### **158. CLERK REPORT**

##### **CORRESPONDENCE**

A. Kent Resource Partnership – campaign 'Pledge4Plastics'

Details of a new campaign to increase recycling. In essence, the Pledge4Plastics campaign seeks to encourage residents to recycle more plastics items from rooms around the home, especially plastic bottles. The national capture rate of plastic bottles (and pots, tubs and trays where collected by councils) is known to be a long way less than the potential. Capturing more of these items provides better value for money for councils, increases recycling performance, and reduces use of virgin materials in the production of new plastic items. Residents will be receiving leaflets through their doors.

B. Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan (MWLP) 2013-30

Has been submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination by a Planning Inspector. Subject to confirmation from the Inspector, they anticipate that the 'Examination in

Public' (EiP) could commence on Wednesday 11th February 2015 at Oakwood House in Maidstone, potentially running for two weeks until Wednesday 25th February 2015. If the Inspector calls a Pre Examination Meeting, this would be held six weeks prior to the possible EiP date, on Tuesday 6th January 2015. Dates and further details will be confirmed at a later date.

The examination will determine whether all the legal and policy requirements have been observed, and whether the Kent MWLP 2013-40 provides reasonable and effective planning responses to the issues identified. This will involve a review of the submission version of the Plan, relevant evidence and the formal representations received. The EiP is also a formal hearing that is held in public, where representors can be invited to speak if they have submitted formal representations to the Plan. It should be noted that, at this stage in the plan making process, there are no further opportunities to make any further written comments.

C. Copping behind Pineside & Hillcrest

LPC had received a letter from Mr Holdstock confirming that there is no connection between the current coppicing taking place and the Rydon Homes Application. Coppicing takes place routinely every 15-20 years and is necessary to keep the chestnut healthy. If it were not cut, the trees would get too large and unstable and become very prone to being windblown. There is no question of this strip of land being used for access and it does not directly adjoin the proposed development.

D. Community Resilience and Emergency Planning

The KRF(Kent Resilience Forum) would like help in promoting the availability of the electronic version of their handbook "What should I do in an Emergency" to residents and its availability on the Kent Prepared website <http://www.kentprepared.org.uk> I have put this leaflet onto our website and the leaflet on powercuts on the noticeboard. It was agreed we should order a small number of these leaflets to keep handy but we would put the electronic version on our website anyway.

E. The Ford Littlebourne

A letter was received from Littlebourne House regarding the fencing off of the ford, as LPC had written to them. They did not intent to prohibit parishioners from using the river. They were trying to prevent quad bikes gaining access to the river there. Various thefts of parts of the gate and padlocks have occurred resulting in what it there at present. Both the EA and CCC are aware of where they can gain access to the padlock key 24/7.

Cllr Giles felt that the casual comments made to him should not have been taken as the go ahead from LPC. Clerk to respond to the letter from the meeting.

F. Littlebourne Barn

LPC received a letter from CCC regarding the future of the management/ownership of Littlebourne Barn. This letter asked whether LPC would consider taking over the ownership/management of the Barn. The clerk had responded to this explaining that the Parish Council would not be in a position to take over the ownership or management of the Barn, the running costs would be too high to be met by our resources without having to pile money onto our precept for our residents bear.

Cllr Jeffries added that as The Barn is a grade 1\* building, what can be done with the building is limited. Perhaps English Heritage is the next step for CCC.

G. DCLG has just published its consultation on Parish Polls. It can be accessed via the following link <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/parish-polls>. The deadline is 30 January 2015. There are a series of questions to be completed online.

## **CLERK REPORT**

### **KCC HIGHWAYS**

Various faults have been logged for the village. The positioning of the white lines in Nargate street have also been raised again, with a call for them to be put back in the original pre resurfacing position.

### **DEFIBRILLATOR**

Research into various options carried out and advice sought from SECAMB. It was AGREED that LPC should go head and purchase the IPAD SP1 with wall cabinet; this is the latest IPAD model and offers everything we need.

Cllr Giles spoke on the positioning of this AED, which should be situated where it will be covered by the CCTV cameras which should discourage vandalism/theft. We would then be able to leave the cabinet unlocked with just the alarm activated. Near the Rec Club would also be useful. A sign can then be placed on the carpark side advising people there is an AED on the other side of the building.

A volunteer from SECAMB who is a retired nurse has offered to run some community CPR and Defib familiarisation training sessions in Littlebourne when we have purchased and installed our Defib.

### **TREE WORKS FOR REC**

If there are no objections from CCC this work will be carried out early in January.

### **PAT TEST**

The annual PAT test for the office equipment has been carried out, all equipment has passed.

## **159. PLANS FOR ANNUL PARISH MEETING**

It was agreed that we should contact Ray Evison who is Chairman of the Canterbury Area Committee of KALC and invite him to speak at our APM on 1<sup>st</sup> April to speak on Parish Council's and what they do, with a view to attracting new councillors.

## **160. HERITAGE**

The notes from the recent Heritage Group meeting were circulated to Cllrs prior to this meeting. They have agreed to put something together on costs and the future by the WMH's AGM on 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

## **161. TWINNING WITH WIMILLE**

The Christmas Tea is scheduled for Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> December at the WHM, 62 Wimille residents will arrive from Canterbury at approx. 2.45 and stay until 4.15pm. We will serve tea from 3-4.15pm, local residents are invited to come along but please let Cllr Spratt know for numbers.

Some suggestions for 2015 have also been put forward for consideration.

## **162. THE RECREATION GROUND**

The new planting is going well, so far three silver birch trees have been planted along with 900 daffodil and narcissus bulbs. Three other trees have been planted and the enlarged bed along the High street is ready to replant. Three trees along the High street are still to be replaced. Hopefully the Littlebourne sign should be back in position before Christmas.

### **163. TREE ROOTS**

Littlebourne CEP have been back in contact as their contractors have been along and assessed the trees. They cannot do anything about the roots that are coming up through the path and it would have to be referred to KCC.

It was decided to contact the owners of the trees that's roots are pushing up the pathway from the WMH along the rec ground again as a lot of the elderly walk this way.

### **164. LPC NEWS**

The Chairman wished to record our thanks to Geordie Hayward for printing our additional LPC News flyer at such short notice.

### **165. NATURE RESERVES**

Cllr Evans had circulated the Action Plan for the next year to Cllrs. The Chairman expressed thanks to Cllr Evans and the team working on the nature reserves.

### **166. FLOODING**

Cllr Giles and Cllrs Shaw had met with Richard Knight and discussed the long term plans for behind The Green, the EA plan to build up the bank across the fence line and increase the bank along to the bridge. This could be done temporarily this year with sandbags if the water rises significantly.

The wheel has now been removed from Ickham Mill.

The overflow channel at this mill needs to be properly covered for use as a footpath, it will not be good enough to cover with some railway sleepers as in the past.

### **167. HOUSING**

A two bedroomed property has come available in List Meadows and will be advertised on noticeboard's for two weeks and the bidding will open next week. Local Connection will be needed for this property.

### **168. HIGHWAYS**

A highways meeting had been held on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December where the main source of discussion was the Rydens development and parking in the village.

A piece had been placed in the C&V in November asking for residents to be considerate when parking in the village. We have now been approached by CCC asking for any parking considerations for new year's Annual Parking Regulation Review.

The Highways Committee had come up with three main areas that could possibly be tackled with the use of some yellow lines, these being;

- Jubilee Road – List down to Church Rd
- Church Road – opposite the Church
- High Street, bay outside the shop - behind the planter

Some maps had been drawn up with possible positioning of either single or double yellow lines. Residents will be consulted, though not until after Christmas now.

### **169. WAR MEMORIAL HALL TRUST**

A request had been received to site a British Heart Foundation Clothes bank in the hall carpark, it was agreed that the clerk should respond in the negative. Ideally we would like to decrease the amount of bins in the carpark and increase the number of parking spaces. Residents no longer need the glass recycling banks as they have door to door collections for glass. Car parking has to take priority.

**170. TURNERS ORCHARD**

Next year’s Wassaling is booked for Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January 4-5pm onwards.

**171. 4VPO**

Suitable protection for the refrigeration units has now been found, it is now a matter of costings/funding’s.

**172. DR WENDY LE-LAS**

It was AGREED by all that LPC should do the research and put together a letter to forward onto Dr Le-Las for alteration/tweaking before it is sent to CCC.

**173. AOB FOR DISCUSSION ONLY**

Cllr Shaw raised a recycling matter; he had been informed that cardboard now needed to be cut up properly into arm’s length sections. The crushing arms cannot cope with larger pieces.

The meeting closed at 10.25pm

*Dates of future meetings: 14 January, 11 February, 11 March, 1 April APM, 15 April, 13 May, 10 June, 15 July, 9 September, 14 October, 11 November, 9 December 2015*

Signed..... (Chairman)

Date.....

**LITTLEBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL  
PLANNING REPORT, 10 DECEMBER 2014**

**APPENDIX 2**

**New Applications**

CA/14/02417/OUT Steve Musk	Land off The Hill and Jubilee Road, Littlebourne  Demolition of 42 and 42A The Hill and provision of 87 dwellings including up to 26 affordable dwellings, new doctors’ surgery, internal access roads, garaging, parking, attenuation pond and open space all accessed from The Hill.	Response by 19 December As discussed under minute item 154.
CA/14/02497/FUL Alison Gravett	Demolition of existing garage and erection of a single storey extension.  68 The Hill, Littlebourne, CT3 1TB	Response by 09/01/15 The PC have no objections

**Trees**

TRE/14/09163	Littlebourne Recreation Ground, High Street, Littlebourne  Purple and White Lime trees, to reduce by 40%; Yellow London Plane, 35% reduction; Blue Lime, lift canopy to 3m; Green Oak, lift canopy by 2.5m; Red Cherry, thin out canopy 20%.	LPC Application submitted by Goodfellers Tree Surgeons
TRE/14/09159	42 Nargate Street, Littlebourne, CT3 1UJ	

	Removal of rotten tree down to a stump.	
TRE/14/09156	30 High Street, Littlebourne, CT3 1 <sup>SI</sup>	
	Felling of Yew Tree in rear garden.	
TRE/14/09150	Little Court, 5 Nargate Street, Littlebourne, CT3 1UH	
	To reduce four trees at left-hand side of front garden and possible removal of largest Lime tree closest to house.	