

**LITTLEBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 JANUARY 2015**

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 Pamela Evans
City Cllr. Brian Staley

Mrs Gail Hubbard, Clerk to the Council
There were no members of the public

174. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Ken Shaw (unwell), County Cllr Northey and Community Warden Gary Moore

175. DECLARATIONS OF CLLRS INTERESTS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensations.

176. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 DECEMBER 2014

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

177. NHW

Cllr Spratt explained that she has now taken over Cllr Welch's role as NHW representative Co-ordinator and will continue to do so after standing down from LPC unless anyone else wishes to take it over.

178. ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

There was none.

179. CITY COUNCILLORS REPORT

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Staley to the meeting, following his illness it was good to have him back. Cllr Staley reported that he was now starting to catch up with the backlog of work. He will do his utmost to speak at the Guildhall against the Rydons development, should this be necessary.

180. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Northey had reported to the clerk that the KCC budget was now on their website www.kent.gov.uk with a proposed raise in council tax of 1.99%.

181. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Planning items on Appendix 2 & 2a were noted. Responses would be made to applications following the circulation of the documents.

182. FINANCE

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

- (c) NOTED that £193.14 will be taken from our account on 17th January for our quarterly BT phone and broadband bill.

AUTHORISATION OF ACCOUNTS

There were receipts totalling £73.14 NOTED this month. The expenditure list previously circulated to Cllrs as Appendix 3 totalling £3591.83 together with Appendix 3a presented at the meeting totalling £1163.35. These were proposed by Cllr Gallagher and seconded by Cllr Giles so it was RESOLVED that the financial matters and accounts, as set out be authorised for payment.

CAPITAL FUNDING – NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT

Communication had been received from CCC regarding our Capital funding request, our request was placed as No 8 of the listing, and the recommendation was to fund the top 6 and possibly the 7th. However Chair of the RAMP Executive Cllr Ben Fitter had proposed to fund all 11 applications. We await the final decision on this to see if we will be awarded funding.

The finance Committee have previously agreed to go ahead with the proposals for the play area, which will mean three new pieces of equipment, the basket style team swing and two springers. It was AGREED to go ahead with the quotation from Playdale.

Mrs Clayson had written to thank the Council for her Christmas bonus.

183. CLERK REPORT

CORRESPONDENCE

A. KCC ELECTORAL REVIEW

In the same way that the LGBCE carried out the electoral review of Canterbury City, they are now to do the same for KCC. The consultation runs until 2 March 2015. The review aims to deliver electoral equality for voters across the county, some county councillors represent many ore, or many fewer electors than their colleagues elsewhere in the county. The review aims to correct those imbalances. It will propose;

1. Total number of cllrs to be elected to the council in future
2. The number of divisions
3. Number of cllrs representing each division
4. Division boundaries
5. Names of divisions

This is a public consultation and views are sought. We need to write direct to LGBCE with any comments we have on this. Cllr Gallagher to draft a response to this.

B. KALC election awareness events

KALC are organising 13 awareness events around the County from January to March in the run up to the local elections in 2015 for anyone considering standing for election. The Canterbury one is to be held on Wednesday 28th January at Tyler Hill hall, 6.30pm for 7pm start. I have put the poster on our board to advertise this event.

C. ADVANCED WARNING OF REPAIRS TO WATER MAIN TO WINGHAM WELL

Correspondence received from Wingham PC advising us that the water main running between Littlebourne and the Wingham Well Lane junction with the B2046, via Bramling, is due to be replaced in Spring / Summer 2015. This is bound to cause some disruption to traffic and business / domestic water supply during the work, but should solve the misery endured by some Bramling residents over a period of many years.

The scope of the Wingham Well Scheme is, at least, to replace the water main between Littlebourne and Neavy Downs via Bramling. This will either be to replace the UPVC pipe with polypropylene, or to replace both the UPVC and cast iron pipes with single wider bore polypropylene. The options will depend on spot surveys performed

along pipeline. Surveys will also be made of the off-shoot pipes to see if these also need replacing. Another decision will be to stop work at the bridge into Littlebourne, or continue to the cross-roads.

In the whole of South England, this scheme is 3rd most important on their list. This high priority means it should happen early and should not be cancelled (can never be promised). The work should be complete by end summer 2015. SW will consult with the Gas and Cable companies to see if work can be combined but he said SW are the main drivers, and delays by other companies should not have a knock on effect. He did advise that in the past, excavations such as this have revealed new archaeology which can cause some delays.

Mains replacement will be commissioned in sections. Usually it takes 1 week per 100 metres but work can start in more than one place to reduce overall timescales. There will be temporary traffic lights in operation along different sections of route for the duration. There will also be occasions of domestic and business water outages for approx. three hour stretches from time to time. These will be carefully managed with affected parties.

Southern Water will be consulting with Canterbury City Council, Kent Highways, the affected Parish Councils, and businesses and domestic residences as plans become more detailed, to inform people and to minimise disruption.

D. Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2015/16

In an oral statement to the House of Commons on 18 Dec 2014, the Local Government Minister Kris Hopkins announced the provisional local government finance settlement for 2015/16. The relevant extract of his statement concerning parishes, which mentions referendums but not council tax support funding, is below:

KALC said that referring to the Parish and Town Council increase in percentage terms is totally misleading. DCLG's own analysis shows that the average Band D Parish precept is only £52.37 per year (2014/2015) so the monetary costs are minimal. LPC's band D was £72.03 and we have not increased for the last 2 years.

Both NALC and KALC will be strongly opposing the extension of referendum policies to parish councils.

KCC HIGHWAYS

Missing 30mph sign when approaching Littlebourne from Bekesbourne has been replaced
Small lorry watch signs have been delivered to put up in village

DEFIBRILLATOR

The Clerk has placed an order for an AED IPAD SP1 c/w heated, keypad lockable cabinet (can be locked or left unlocked with the alarm activated) Sound alarm, LED light to illuminate keypad in dark. Clerk was asked to ask James Mccrossan for the monies he had received towards the Defibrillator.

ALLOTMENTS

The majority of the new agreements have now been signed and returned. Clerk has given a list of those still outstanding to LHS.

184. KALC

Cllr Gallagher explained that there are currently a number of issues coming through from KALC. One of these being the operator's licence consultation, which is important we put in a

response. The other being the referendum requirements, NALC and KALC have attended several meetings recently with ministers over this. PC's might be subject to referendum principles with the new government. NALC & KALC are strongly imposing this extension of referendum policies. LPC need to monitor this closely.

185. THE BARN

LPC were approached by CCC Estates Department, which currently own and manage The Barn asking if the Parish Council would consider taking over the ownership/management of The Barn. There is talk of an annual dowry to the PC to offset some or all of the costs associated with running it.

Brief history;

1980s Development of The Barn refused

1991 Public enquiry, development refused

1991 The Barn was listed as Grade 1* (the highest listing possible)

The Barn was bought by CCC with contributions from English Heritage & KCC

The Barn Committee was set up by CCC, The Chairman being Chairman of LPC Betty Jeffries

Used for WI teas, visits by architectural groups, schools, art exhibitions, village exhibitions, produce shows, Christmas markets, weddings, parties, barn dances and musical events.

The Barn Committee have already stated they are not in a position to take on any kind of lease.

LPC reaffirmed the position that there was no way LPC could take it on, financially and man power wise. Even if there was financial assistance from CCC, this may not continue. If they cannot afford to run it how could we? There would be a lot involved from stewarding events, responding to the alarm and arranging the maintenance of the building etc.

There is the concern that the building could be sold off and perhaps developed if CCC do not want to keep it.

It was decided an article would be put in the March LPC News to let residents know what is going on.

186. TWINNING WITH WIMILLE

The Christmas Tea held on Saturday 27th December at the WHM was a successful event and enjoyed by all those who attended.

187. SCHOOL

Littlebourne CEP have had one of the trees along the footpath to school removed, which has improved the state of the pathway.

188. MEDIA

Deadline of 15th February for the March edition of LPC news. The Chairman called for articles from all those Cllrs who were to re stand at the forth coming elections in May, to write a small piece. New potential Cllrs were also asked to do the same.

Nature reserve information to be loaded into the LPC website and given its own page. Cllr Evans to email details for uploading to clerk.

189. FOOTPATHS

Cllr Evans has contacted Strutt & Parker, the agents dealing with the sale of Ickham Mill regarding the routing of the PROW through the property. The definitive map still shows the footpath going round the rear of the property, although the route past the front of the property has been used for over 30 years. It is something to tie up with the new property owners.

The state of the PROW through Pinewoods where Howletts are coppicing was also discussed; the path is extremely muddy and barely passable. Brick rubble had been put down as agreed in a previous meeting between LPC and Howletts, however the rubble was rather large and dangerous to walk on. Woodchips have now also been put down to try and alleviate the problem. PROW officers are to investigate the problem further. LPC will continue to monitor the situation.

190. NATURE RESERVES

Cllr Evans informed the Council that there is a Mink on the river in the nature reserve and permission needs to be sought for trapping it.

Bat boxes are being put up in Cherry orchard to attract nesting bats.

191. HOUSING

Cllr Giles has written an article to appeal in March LPC News, as follows;

COURT & LIST MEADOWS, LITTLEBOURNE – ARE YOU ON THE LIST?

Will anyone in housing need now or in the near future, that is interested in Court or List Meadows please register your interest with LPC and CCC even if you do not fully meet the 10 years qualifying criteria. This will enable any future vacancies arising in these properties which cannot be filled by anyone meeting the full qualifying criteria to be offered to the applicant with the longest residence in Littlebourne. This will ensure the vacancy can be filled quickly and fairly.

There was also some discussion as to whether it was a legal requirement to be part of the Choicebased Lettings scheme. Or if this was just an agreement between local councils and housing associations. Clerk to check with NALC.

192. RECREATION GROUND – TREE WORKS

John Lambourne CCC's tree officer had visited the Parish Office. He was not happy with the amount we had proposed to reduce the Lime Trees on the rec, he felt the 40% reduction would really stress the trees and encourage them to sprout lots of new low level branches. He does not want to impose a TPO on the trees but would not be happy for us to do this much work to them. They are in very good condition and do not need much work doing to them, if we reduce them this much it will make them very ugly. He suggested taking out and dead wood and removing any crossed branches but that's all.

Advice was also sought from Jon Lambourne over the exposed roots on the London Plane Tree outside the shop. He suggested we increase the area round the tree where people cannot walk, ie make a bed, this will reduce the trip hazard, on the car park entrance side we could make a small ramp over where the roots are. Where roots have been cut or damaged when blocks have been laid this has encouraged them to grow more profusely. He would not be keen on the removal of the tree as it is a beautiful specimen. If we keep it under control and have it pruned back to the cutting points every 3 or 4 years it will go on for another 50 plus years.

Concern was expressed by the Council over the roots spreading under the building itself. Clerk was asked to contact Jon Lambourne and ask if he could consider us taking down the tree and replacing with a more suitable one.

193. HIGHWAYS – PARKING REGULATION REVIEW 2014

It is now too late this year to put forward any proposals, they will be put in for the 2015 review, next February.

There were two proposals put forward by residents for 2014;

- Double yellow lines on Church Road, opposite Jubilee Road .On both sides between points 10 metres north west and 20 metres south east of the junction with Jubilee Road
- Removal of yellow lines outside Chapel (This has now been removed as The Annual Review Panel has decided that the proposal to remove the yellow lines in Nargate Street will not got to consultation.)

Clerk to make a diary note for Parking Regulation Review items to be considered (May).

The traffic subcommittee are working with KCC Highways on the Rydons development. The incorrect TRICS model has been used by the developer, this model is to be used in suburban areas. There is another rural one which should have been used for Littlebourne. There is also still concern over the single access point for emergency vehicles.

194. DOCTORS SURGERY

The Chairman read out a letter to CCC planning from Canterbury Medical Practice, Dr M Jones, giving their full support to the new medical centre and enabling project proposed for Court Hill. CA/14/02489/FUL.

195. WAR MEMORIAL HALL TRUST

A complaint has been received from the resident adjacent to the hall carpark, they are concerned about vehicles damaging their fence when they park and suggested a barrier be installed to prevent any further damage. The councillors discussed this matter and suggested that perhaps the reason for the fences lean was more due to wind damage rather than vehicles and perhaps the posts were no longer secure. There is already a kerb stone running the length and small flowerbed/gap to prevent vehicles hitting the fence. Most vehicles do not have that much overhang either at the front or rear once the wheels have touched the kerb.

196. TURNERS ORCHARD

This year's Wassaling is booked for Saturday 17th January 4-5pm onwards.

197. 4VPO

The chiller equipment protection fence is still on going.

198. AOB FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

There were none.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Dates of future meetings: 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.....

New Applications

CA//14/02576/FUL & CA//14/02602/LB Nan Barton	Removal of garage door to front and replacing with a glazed screen. Change of use from garage to habitable room. Erection of a single-storey rear extension. 28B The Hill, Littlebourne, CT3 1TA	No objections. The plans have been adapted well and incorporate requirements outlined by the planning and conservation officers. The replacement of the garage door with French windows makes the property more attractive.
CA/14/02489/FUL Louise Daniels	Erection of a new medical centre (revisions to extant planning permission CA/09/00640/FUL) and erection of 9 houses as enabling development. Land adjacent to 1 Court Hill, Littlebourne CT3 1TX	Letter of full support from LPC sent to CCC
CA//14/02690/FUL Karen Evans	Removal of chimney, connection of existing store to main house and internal alterations. Little Acres, The Hill, Littlebourne, CT3 1TB	No objections from LPC
CA/15/00001/FUL Ben Young	Demolition of existing barn and construction of three detached buildings comprising; (1) five bedroom house; (2) office together with the creation of a new access onto Bekesbourne Lane; and (3) double garage, annexe for applicants father and carer's one bed flat. Manor Barn, Bekesbourne Lane, Littlebourne.	No objections from LPC
CA//15/00027/FUL & CA//15/00029/LB Nan Barton	Flood alleviation works for Littlebourne House and the surrounding area. The works include raising and strengthening an existing brick wall over 30m in length and constructing a timber wall over a length of 20m. Littlebourne House, 2 High Street, Littlebourne, CT3 1UN	Response to be submitted by 6 February

Notifications

CA/14/02303/FUL David Lane	Spare parts storage container for solar farm Land east of Swanton Lane, Littlebourne CT3 1TL	GRANTED 18/12/14
CA/14/02158/FUL Ceri Williams	Demolition of single storey rear conservatory and construction of new conservatory on the same footprint 38 Bekesbourne Lane, Littlebourne CT3 1UY	GRANTED 10/12/14

