

**LITTLEBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 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  
Parish Cllr Ken Shaw  
City Cllr Brian Staley  
County Cllr Michael Northey  
PCSO Lisa Williams

Mrs Gail Hubbard, Clerk to the Council  
There were three members of the public

**199. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Community Warden Gary Moore.

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

There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensations.

**201. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 JANUARY 2015**

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

**202. NHW**

Cllr Spratt continues to forward round the various messages received through NHW. If you are interested in receiving crime related emails from NHW please email [vivienne.spratt@btinternet.com](mailto:vivienne.spratt@btinternet.com)

**203. PCSO REPORT**

PCSO Lisa Williams introduced herself to the meeting, she is covering for Elaine Cannadine who is now working in Herne Bay. She will try to attend our meetings but submit a report if she cannot attend. Her report as follows;

There have been 9 crime report incidents for Little Stour, covering Stodmarsh, Wickhambreaux and Littlebourne.

- 3 incidents of theft, in Bekesbourne Lane, Stodmarsh Rd and Littlebourne
- 1 dangerous driving report in the High Street Littlebourne
- 2 burglary's from dwelling/other than dwelling, in Swanton Lane, Littlebourne and The Street, Ickham
- 1 theft from a motor vehicle, Grove Rd, Wickhambreaux
- 2 assault incidents, in St Vincent's Close and High Street, Littlebourne

Cllr Reid reported the damaged purple car that is still in Pinewoods, following a suspected accident. It has been there for at least 3 weeks.

Lisa said that anything that can be sold quickly is desirable; items are sometimes traced through the 2<sup>nd</sup> hand electrical shops in Canterbury. It is important to list serial numbers and photo belongings (especially jewellery) as this can help the Police to recover these items. You

can list your items with the immobilise property register [www.immobilise.co.uk](http://www.immobilise.co.uk) and create a free inventory of your personal property.

To contact Lisa you need to call 101 or in an emergency 999

Lisa departed at 7.20pm

#### **204. ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING**

Mr Nick Henwood wished to address the council regarding the planning application CA/14/02595/FUL which is a proposed extension to Thorpe in Church Road. Mr Henwood's property is to the rear of this house and will be affected by these plans. He showed the Cllrs some marked up photos of how the dormers might look.

He wanted to make the following points and ask the PC to object to the application;

- The plans are more a replacement property than an extension
- It is in a conservation area and the amount of plastic cladding is not in keeping with other properties in the area
- The 3 dormer windows will overlook their property and garden, one of these windows has a proposed window seat
- The site has already been cleared of trees and shrubbery. Little landscaping left.

The Chairman explained the planning committee had viewed the plans for this application and would be making an objection along similar lines to the above.

Mr Henwood departed at 7.28pm

#### **205. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The other planning items on Appendix 2 were noted. Responses would be made to applications following the circulation of the documents.

#### **206. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

Cllr Northey reported the Kent Secondary School results from last summer, they were only validated two weeks ago. These are based on number of children gaining 5 GCSE C grades or above (incl Maths and English);

	Kent	National
2013 results	63.1%	59.2%
2014 results	58%	53.4%

So our results are 4.6% above the national average. The reason for the 2014 results being lower, is that re-sit results no longer count. It is based on the first result each child has.

Cllr Northey then mentioned the new lighting system for street lights in Kent. There are 120,000 street lamps in Kent, half of these are switched off as part night lighting. The new system being introduced will cost £40million but will make huge savings as they will be LED, which are much more energy efficient, and will be guaranteed for 20 years. Works will start later this year and will take 3 years to complete, residential areas to be done first. All lights will be back on full time again under this scheme.

Cllr Northey is to be discussing the reporting of 'episodes' on the roads (accidents that go unreported) with officers at county hall.

KCC council tax is to increase by 1.99%, Cllr Northey said a referendum would cost up to £3million.

Cllr Spratt reported that the lease for Ladybirds still remains unsigned, they are operating on a temporary one on a day by day basis. Cllr Northey said he would chase it up on Ladybirds behalf.

Cllr Welch asked Cllr Northey about the findings that had been announced today with regard to the 'worst A road in England' – said to be the A28 from Sturry to Margate. Cllr Northey was not aware of this but will look into it.

## **207. CITY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

Cllr Staley first spoke on the matter of road safety and how it was such an important topic, especially on the A257, he highlighted Bramling as the most vulnerable point.

Cllr Staley said CCC would probably cap their budget at 1.99% also.

Cllr Staley congratulated those that had been given Freedom of the City awards on 15<sup>th</sup> January. Amanda Cottrell OBE, Sir Graeme Odgers DL and Paul Barrett received the honour at a special ceremony in the Guildhall.

Cllr Staley has been involved in assisting with some complaints from residents at Ellen Court, he visited the residents several weeks ago and compiled a list of problems, these have all been taken back to East Kent Housing. He visited again today and found that work has already started on some of these jobs.

Cllr Staley made comment to the number of poor performing schools in Kent, to which Cllr Northey responded that KCC were working very hard on this and although the number of poor performing schools in Kent had increased from 16 to 22, nationally the numbers had gone from 150 to 320.

At this point Cllr Giles left the meeting as his planning application was to be discussed by Cllr Staley.

Cllr Staley had spoken with CCC over our concerns regarding poor communication channels within the planning department and also Cllr Giles application for replacement windows under CA/14/01862/FUL. He has requested a site meeting with Cate Gunning, the planning officer and Cllr Giles to discuss a sensible compromise. CCC had requested that Cllr Giles fit sash windows, but the argument being only one neighbour has sash windows and the rest do not, hence a lack of proportionality. Cllr Staley is awaiting a further response.

Cllr Giles then returned to the meeting

Cllr Northey departed at 8pm

## **208. FINANCE**

- a) RECEIVED the bank statements for January 2015, 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> February for our 1x1 website
- c) NOTED the clerk has prepared and sent out renewal invoices for all LPC News advertisers.
- d) NOTED 1x1 internet will take the quarterly amount of £17.96 from our account on 15<sup>th</sup> February for our domain name
- e) NOTED the clerk has entered a new contract with BT for the office broadband and phone £19p/m for line rental to include 500 free minutes and £24p/m for BT Infinity(cheapest copper line broadband is £25p/m as Government are offering £5p/m

discount to businesses to have Infinity). Previous costs were £19.99 line rental and £31.80 broadband. Changeover to occur on 20/02/15

- f) NOTED the clerk has prepared the 3rd QTR VAT reclaim for a total of £160.43

### **AUTHORISATION OF ACCOUNTS**

There were receipts totalling £65.00 NOTED this month. The expenditure list previously circulated to Cllrs as Appendix 3 totalling £5190.15 together with Appendix 3a presented at the meeting totalling £6827.18. These were proposed by Cllr Reid and seconded by Cllr Gallagher 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; we would be receiving the full amount we asked for towards the replacement play equipment. We would receive the £3042.90 early April.

### **LONDON PLANE TREE WORK**

The payment for the works carried out on the Recreation ground was authorised above, the work to the London Plane Tree(outside the shop) had been put on hold at the last meeting until a decision had been made on how to proceed. It was agreed that clerk should put in an application to CCC for the removal of the tree and the replacement with something more suitable.

## **209. CLERK REPORT**

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **A. Local Government Finance Settlement**

KALC informed us on correspondence from NALC regarding the Ministers statement on the Local Government Finance Settlement and confirming that NO Parish and Town Councils have been made subject to the referendum threshold. This is obviously very welcome news and is one that we, NALC and our member councils pressed for in response to the provisional settlement.

#### **B. Update from Southern Water**

As well as carefully monitoring groundwater levels in the area, they continue to survey flow levels in our sewers to ensure they are in a position to take action as quickly as possible to maintain wastewater services to their customers and minimise any sewer flooding. The rise in groundwater levels has eased off in the last few days following the recent relatively dry weather, with the groundwater now three metres higher than the point at which they started to use mobile pumps last year. This is a good indication of the positive impact of our £1.6 million investment in surveying and sealing the sewer system serving the Nailbourne catchment. They have also made a number of other improvements to the local wastewater network to improve its overall resilience. That said, if groundwater levels continue to rise, it is likely that they will need to rely upon using tanker lorries to maintain services for customers and prevent flooding. It is also possible that over-pumping will be required. They do have robust contingency plans in place for each of the villages in the area, putting them in a position to quickly and effectively react should the need arise. The Environment Agency has also approved their revised Infiltration Reduction Plan (IRP) for the Nailbourne catchment. This sets out the strategy to effectively manage groundwater infiltration of the sewers and the actions being taken by us, Southern Water, to reduce the amount of infiltration, assisted by a range of other organisations. The plan is available to read / download via our website [www.southernwater.co.uk/flooding](http://www.southernwater.co.uk/flooding).

#### ***Latest sewer level readings***

The sewer level in Bishopsbourne remains higher than other places along the Nailbourne - the level has increased by 10cm over the last few days compared to 50cm over three days last week. Importantly, they have had no issues reported by customers as a result of the higher levels in the sewer, although they remain ready to respond as appropriate.

The only other location where sewer levels have risen is Patribourne where the manholes are half full – again, they have had no indication of any impact on customers. At all other locations along the Nailbourne, the levels in the sewer have not increased over the last week.

**C. Southern Water Bills 2015-16**

The average combined water and wastewater bill for the coming year (April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016) will be £410, a decrease of six per cent, or £27, compared with last year. This not only covers the cost of our day-to-day water and wastewater services, but will also enable the delivery of a wide-ranging investment programme under our Business Plan for 2015/20. Our average annual bill for customers receiving both water and wastewater services from us in 2015/16 works out at an average cost of £1.12 a day for more than 270 litres of water supplied per household and most of that then taken away as wastewater which we treat and recycle. Hopefully, you will agree this represents excellent value for money, particularly when compared with the general increase in the cost of living.

**D. Concurrent function best value review**

A letter has been received from CCC Strategy and Democracy regarding a best value review they are undertaking on behalf of the council's executive committee. This best value review concentrates on the concurrent function funding process and input from the parishes is considered essential in this review. We have until 28<sup>th</sup> February to respond and there is a discussion session on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February.

**E. Doctors Surgery, Court Hill**

We have been informed that CCC have asked for an extension on the decision date, they want an independent appraisal carried out on the submitted viability information. The date is now 10<sup>th</sup> April.

**KCC HIGHWAYS**

Are to reinstate the white lines on Nargate Street, on the bend round from Church Rd to their original, pre resurfacing position. This should be done in next couple of weeks.

**DEFIBRILLATOR**

Has been delivered and has been added to the PC insurance. The suggested positioning is to the RHS of the fire exit in the main hall (when stood inside) there is an electric point there. Cllr Giles confirmed this would be covered by the CCTV coverage so would be a good location. Clerk to seek quotes for installation.

**TREE WORKS FOR REC**

All tree works were carried out on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January, except work to the London Plane Tree.

**SIGN OUTSIDE THE ANCHOR**

Several complaints have been made regarding the sandwich style board sited in Bekesbourne Lane. KCC highways visited and said the stretch of pavement/slabbing was not highway maintainable so could not have it removed. The pub believes this to be their land. Clerk has had various communications with the owner, the last one he said he would get a price to have it moved. It was expensive to make so he would not replace it with a smaller one. Cllr Evans has also spoken with the manager on a couple of occasions to try and get it moved. It was agreed we should highlight the matter to CCC. People need to be safe on this corner of the road, the sign is too big and in a conservation area.

## **PLAYAREA**

SSP attended on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February and pressure cleaned and de-mossed the play surface under the igloo climbing frame. This keeps being flagged by ROSPA.

An order has now been placed for the new play area equipment with Playdale, the team swing and two springers will hopefully be installed early April.

## **APPLICATION FOR A DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER**

Clerk has prepared evidence forms for witnesses to complete. We will also have to service notice on the land, once we have permission from KCC. PROW have said that, they currently have a long backlog which means that there will be a delay of approximately 2½ years before they would be able to begin working on our application. Forms available from the Parish Office or via email clerk@littlebournepc.org.

## **210. ALLOTMENTS**

The Chairman had passed several complaints onto LHS that she had received. It was also noticed that some of the hedge had been removed on Court Hill. Clerk to ask LHS what the intention is for this stretch.

## **211. KCC CONSULTATIONS**

Cllr Gallagher explained that there are two consultation's out that concern KCC at present, Cllr Gallagher has prepared a response to both;

- The Local Government Boundary Commission Review has been conducting an electoral review of Kent County Council, amongst other things to ensure that the electorate is evenly represented across the County, and has decided that the total number of elected members should be reduced from 84 to 81. The consultation, running until 2 March 2015, is concerned with the reorganisation of electoral division boundaries.
- KCC Consultation on the options for the future of the Libraries, Registration and Archives Service. The Option being put to this public consultation is the creation of a Charitable Trust to take over and operate the Libraries, Registration and Archives service on behalf of KCC. The deadline for comments is 8<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

## **212. KALC**

Cllr Gallagher attended a Chairman's meeting in Lenham, which was attended by all the divisions. KALC have links with KCC in various areas and there have been discussions regarding the Community Warden service. There was talk of setting up an assistant community warden scheme of volunteers (a bit like special Police) who could be placed in larger villages. The question was asked "would PC's be willing to pay to kit out and for ongoing training?" They would however work for KCC. Cllr Giles said it was not acceptable for PC's to be paying for this service. It is a service those in non-rural areas would get without having to pay the extra. It was pointed out that there is an exact parallel between this and the concurrent funding debate.

## **213. THE BARN**

Cllr Jeffries reported that we had heard nothing further on the Barn situation.

## **214. TWINNING WITH WIMILLE**

The Wimille Group are hoping to come over for a walk on 11<sup>th</sup> April, this is being arranged and a venue for lunch sorted.

It was suggested by Cllr Barrett that we consider putting a ceiling on the amount of visitors Wimille can bring over for each event. They are a much larger town and have many more

people interested in attending events and sometimes it can be too much if two coach loads visit.

#### **215. MILLENNIUM AWARD**

Cllr Welch said that he doesn't think Cllrs or paid people should be awarded this award. Cllr Giles also pointed out that it does not have to be given out every year, if no one stands out in a particular year. The voting slips were then given out to the Cllrs. Cllr Gallagher and Cllr Spratt had both been nominated for the award so did not take part in the voting.

Cllr Gallagher and Cllr Spratt subsequently withdrew from the nominations so could then take a vote on the remaining entrants. The results will be announced at the APM on 1<sup>st</sup> April.

#### **216. POSTAL SERVICES**

Cllr Evans explained the situation that had occurred in the village with the arrival of a new postman. He had left a parcel at one property after having been asked to do so, but then a complaint had been made to the Post Office. The postman is not keen to leave parcels now, as the official ruling is they should be taken back to the sorting office. This is causing unhappiness amongst residents and letters have been written to Canterbury sorting office. However no response has been received. It was agreed LPC should write to the sorting office manager to ask if people are prepared to take responsibility in writing, can parcels be left. Can this happen. Clerk to write letter.

#### **217. MEDIA**

Future editions of the LPC NEWS, including the March edition are to be printed by Haywood Design and Print.

#### **218. FOOTPATHS**

Cllr Jeffries had reported to PROW the slippery state(when icy) of the bridge over to Ickham Mill.

Cllr Giles proposed LPC send a letter from the solicitors to the owners of Littlebourne House asking them to remove the fencing and gate blocking access to the ford. This was agreed by all the Cllrs, clerk to action.

#### **219. PLASTIC FLOOD SIGNS**

It had been suggested by Cllr Shaw that some lightweight plastic flood signs be purchased by LPC to use on Nargate Street when the road becomes flooded. Keith Diamond has offered to store these and erect them in the road when necessary to warn motorists of the hazard. It was agreed to purchase 2 pairs of these signs(back to back ones).

#### **220. HOUSING**

A problem with falling roof tiles has been brought to the attention of the Parish Council by a resident of Court Meadows. The issue has been raised with Sanctuary Housing but no action has been taken, several roof tiles have fallen off different properties in the road, and pose a threat to safety. It was agreed that LPC would follow this up with Sanctuary and see what would be done.

#### **221. HIGHWAYS**

The next A257 group meeting is to be on 8<sup>th</sup> March. Laura Sandys, MP for Thanet South, is standing down and the A257 Group are to make a presentation as thanks for her involvement in the group. It was agreed that Cllr Giles and Cllr Gallagher could act accordingly to the other PC's in making a donation for this presentation.

**222. WAR MEMORIAL HALL TRUST**

Cllr Gallagher mentioned the threat of changes to discretionary business rates next year that would effect the hall. Rates on this hall would be in the region of £4800 and at present none are paid.

**223. AOB FOR DISCUSSION ONLY**

There were none.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

*Dates of future meetings: 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, 11 FEBRUARY 2015**

**APPENDIX 2**

**New Applications**

CA/14/02595/FUL  Karen Cronin	Proposed side and front extension, loft conversion and garage  Thorpe, Church Road, Littlebourne CT3 1UA	LPC to object; Loss of privacy to neighbouring property Excessive use of cladding that is not in keeping in a conservation area
CA/15/00204/FUL & CA/15/00205/LB  Nan Barton	Single-storey rear extension and timber garden studio.  6 Nargate Street, Littlebourne, CT3 1UH	Papers in circulation

**Notifications**

CA/14/02497/FUL  Alison Gravett	Demolition of existing garage and erection of a single storey extension.  68 The Hill, Littlebourne, CT3 1TB	GRANTED 22/01/2015
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**Trees**

None		
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