

**LITTLEBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 JANUARY 2016**

Present: Parish Cllr Mike Gallagher (Chairman)
Parish Cllr Cate Reid
Parish Cllr Pamela Evans
Parish Cllr Paul Coakley
Parish Cllr Sylvia Wilson
Parish Cllr Mick Giles
Parish Cllr Brian Hurlow
City Cllr Stuart Walker
County Cllr Michael Northey
PCSO Kerry-Ann Pearce

Mrs Gail Hubbard, Clerk to the Council
There was one resident present.

155. THE CHAIRMANS OPENING REMARKS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Moore (unwell), Cllr Ken Shaw (prior engagement).

156. DECLARATIONS OF CLLRS INTERESTS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensations relevant to this meeting.

157. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 9 DECEMBER 2015

It was proposed by Cllr Giles and seconded by Cllr Evans to accept the Minutes. The minutes were duly signed.

158. POLICING AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Clerk to ask Community Warden to provide a written report if he cannot attend the meeting.
PCSO Kerry Ann Pearce arrived at 7.05pm and introduced herself as working alongside Lisa Williams and covering our area on a temporary basis. Another 4 PCSO's have left to become Police Constables locally leaving cover thin.

PCSO Report

The Police held a speed session half way up The Hill on Sunday 10th January, two motorists were stopped.

Period 1/12/15 to 13/10/16

There had been 16 crime report incidents for Little Stour, including the following in Littlebourne;

- Reports of common assault by beating (battery)
- 3 reports of non-crime domestic violence
- A breach of a restraining order
- Criminal damage caused to a vehicle parking in St Vincent's Close.
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There had been 52 police rated incidents for Little Stour, including these for Littlebourne;

- A257 RTC – vehicle rolled on corner
- Drunk driver stopped and detained
- Neighbour dispute
- Abandoned vehicle on A257, owner identified and recovery organised.
- RTC non injury – vehicle aquaplaned and left road
- Suspicious vehicle, driving badly, investigated, owner established.

Cllr Walker arrived at 7.15pm

The Chairman thanked Kerry Ann for attending the meeting and giving her report.

159. ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

Resident Mr Irish addressed the council saying that since his requests regarding the water pipe and the height of the hedge at the nature reserve, he feels that he and his wife have been ousted by the members of the nature reserve group. The statement was noted.

160. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Northey mentioned the large hole left in the A257 by BT, several vehicles had driven in it and claims were being filed to BT for damage to cars. Highways had reacted quickly and filled the hole.

Operation Stack consultation open on two sites just off the M20 which should mean;

- Manston will not need to be used
- Up to £250m has been made available for the project
- Will stop 'stack' happening
- Mitigate 'tap' operations at Dover and Folkestone
- Should mean far less overnight parking in lay-bys
- Should be a full truck stop with proper facilities
- Will take 3600-4000 capacity
- 60 acres of land is needed

Currently there is no authority to shift HGV's out of lay-bys, neither Police nor Local Authorities have this power. They can stop lorries parking on the hard shoulder of the motorways though, 300 have been moved on and 900 spot fines issued.

KCC want to make it illegal not to use this lorry park, to force drivers to go there.

161. CITY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Walker reported that he had been pleased to deliver six Lord Mayors parcels had been to Littlebourne prior to Christmas. The full agenda is back at CCC tomorrow after a quiet Christmas break.

Cllr Northey and PCSO Kerry Ann departed at 7.55pm.

162. PLANNING/TREES

It was noted that a second quotation had now been received for the London Plane tree removal and it was hoped this could be removed in the next month.

The planning items on Appendix 2 were discussed and noted – attached at end of minutes

The initial exhibition for the options for The List had been held on Saturday and had been well attended; the second session is this coming Saturday 16th 9.30-12.30pm.

Cllr Giles reported that Alan Legge and himself had met with KCC to look at the drainage in Pinewoods and onto the site this week, further discussions are to be had.

Cllr Walker departed at 8.25pm

163. FINANCE

- (a) RECEIVED the bank statements for December 2015, and RESOLVED the signature of the Chairman thereon;

- (b) NOTED £11.99 will be taken from our account by DD on 15th January for our 1x1 website
- (c) NOTED a direct debit will be taken from the account on 17th January from BT for our quarterly bill for phone and broadband totalling £160.54.

END OF 3rd QTR EXPENDITURE

The figures laid out in Appendix 3b were previously circulated to Cllrs and represented the expenditure in all areas for the 3rd quarter of 2015-16. This was proposed by Cllr Giles and seconded by Cllr Hurlow to be accepted.

AUTHORISATION OF ACCOUNTS

There were receipts totalling £78.14 NOTED this month. The expenditure list previously circulated to Cllrs as Appendix 3 totalling £1806.01, together with Appendix 3a presented at the meeting totalling £458.21. These were proposed by Cllr Reid and seconded by Cllr Giles so it was RESOLVED that the financial matters and accounts, as set out be authorised for payment.

164. CLERK REPORT

CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Thank you letter received from Mrs Clayson for her Christmas bonus.
- B. Thank you letter received from Derek and Jenny Whittaker for our £100 award on their retirement from scouting in the village.
- C. Letter received from a resident asking if the entrance to Cherry Orchard/Builders Square could be widened. A number of the large vehicles accessing Builders Square are damaging the grass verges as they turn in.
- D. Invitation for The Chairman and another to the Lord Lieutenant of Kent's annual civic service at All Saints Church Maidstone on Tuesday 15th March 11am. Clerk to RSVP.
- E. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG)**

Have issued a consultation on proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/national-planning-policy-consultation-on-proposed-changes>). The deadline for responses is Monday 25 January 2016.

DCLG advise that the consultation is proposing changes in the following areas:

- Broadening the definition of affordable housing, to expand the range of low cost housing opportunities for those aspiring to own their new home
- increasing residential density around commuter hubs, to make more efficient use of land in suitable locations
- supporting sustainable new settlements, development on brownfield land and small sites, and delivery of housing allocated in plans
- supporting delivery of starter homes

F. The Department for Communities and Local Government

Just before Christmas they published documents on the provisional local government finance settlement. The key point on referendum principles for our sector is that the Secretary of State does not plan to extend the principles to the Parish sector in 2016-17. This is set out in the DRAFT "The Referendums Relating to Council Tax Increases (Principles) (England) Report 2016/17" in paragraph 10 on page 5, which says "Accordingly no principles are specified for local precepting authorities for that year [2016-17]".

Separately DCLG have said that they expect town and parish councils to behave responsibly and protect their taxpayers from excessive precept increases; if they fail to do so, government

has the option of making Councils subject to the referendum principles in future. LPC have already set our precept budget with no increase on last year.

All other correspondence was noted.

165. EMERGENCY PLAN

Cllr Reid reported that she had updated the Emergency Plan and would be sending a revised version round shortly.

166. QUEENS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Celebration events for the country are set for Sunday 12th June, Cllr Reid is to meet with a representative from Wickhambreaux and Cllr Walker to discuss the organisation of the event. Possible funding from CCC is to be discussed at the RAAC meeting on 25th January which the Chairman and Clerk are to attend. In principal LPC are happy to join forces with other villages to put on a joint larger event. LPC would want to invite Wimille. Various suggestions for activities were put forward. Cllr Giles to look into inviting a classic car group.

We would want to advertise in the next LPC news so would need to decide soon on the event and timings.

167. NATURE RESERVE

Cllr Evans reported links now established with additional schools. Some things planned for this year;

- Two weekends of children's art classes
- Riverbank planting and continuing work with the Environment Agency
- An audit of trees in the village with the tree warden
- They would like to organise a tree heritage trail for the village

168. FLOODING

Cllr Giles is keeping in close contact with the CCC engineer.

169. HIGHWAYS

Concerns were raised over the large electronic sign on the A257 advertising the forthcoming water mains replacement roadworks. The wording is causing confusion and it is causing a visual obstruction in the road. Cllr Reid to take up with highways.

The public meeting closed at 9.30pm and a confidential item followed.

The letter addressed to Mr Irish from the Nature Reserve Group was read to Councillors.

Dates of future meetings: 10 February, 9 March, 16 March APM, 13 April, 11 May, 8 June, 13 July, 14 September, 12 October, 9 November, 14 December 2016.

Signed..... (Chairman)

Date.....

New Applications

CA//15/02604/FUL David Stewart	Installation of outside light to the front of dwelling. 8 Bekesbourne Lane, Littlebourne, CT3 1UY	No objection from LPC
CA//15/02670/FUL Guy Wilson	Removal of a ground floor internal wall between the dining room and kitchen 28B The Hill, Littlebourne, CT3 1TA	No objection from LPC
CA//15/02750/FUL Louise Daniels	Two-storey rear extension and raising of roof to form two-storey building. 40 The Hill, Littlebourne, CT3 1TA	No objection from LPC
CA//15/02378/FUL	Re-positioning of entrance door to side with canopy over; single-storey rear extension; and loft conversion incorporating roof lights to front elevation with enlarged dormer window to rear. 51 Nargate Street, Littlebourne, CT3 1UJ	Amendment to plans – 3 x velux windows to front of property removed. LPC had not objected to the initial plan in any case.

Notifications

CA//15/01903/FUL	Side extensions with loft conversion, porch and garage. Thorpe, Church Road, Littlebourne, CT3 1UA	WITHDRAWN
CA//15/00662/FUL	Proposed two-storey side and rear extensions and detached double garage, including modernisation and internal reconfiguration (Revised scheme). 87 Nargate Street, Littlebourne, CT3 1UJ	GRANTED 21/12/15

Trees

TRE/15/09751	To reduce several Beech Trees, located on the South boundary, to their previous cutting points. To Cut back the branches of several Hornbeam, Holly and Cypress Trees, located on the hedge line of the neighbouring garden, to their previous cutting points. Conifers, Church Road, Littlebourne, CT3 1UA	No objections
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