

**LITTLEBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 FEBRUARY 2016**

Present: Parish Cllr Mike Gallagher (Chairman)
Parish Cllr Cate Reid
Parish Cllr Pamela Evans
Parish Cllr Melanie Moore
Parish Cllr Sylvia Wilson
Parish Cllr Mick Giles
Parish Cllr Brian Hurlow
City Cllr Stuart Walker

Mrs Gail Hubbard, Clerk to the Council
There were five residents present.

170. THE CHAIRMANS OPENING REMARKS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Coakley (unwell), Cllr Ken Shaw (holiday), County Cllr Michael Northey (attending another meeting), PCSO Kerry-Anne Pearce and Community Warden Gary Moore (both off duty).

171. DECLARATIONS OF CLLRS INTERESTS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

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

172. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 13 JANUARY 2015

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

Cllr Walker arrived at 7.05pm

173. POLICING AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The Clerk read out the following report from PCSO Kerry-Anne Pearce;

There were (9) crime report incidents for Little Stour, some recorded below are for Littlebourne.

- Criminal Damage to a mesh fence next to a hedge. Crime report taken for incident and under investigation.
- Three reports of Common Assault By Beating (Battery) Crime reports taken for both incidents and investigated.
- Arson in the gateway of Turners Orchard. Investigated and filed pending any further information. No suspect offender(s).
- Burglary other than dwelling. No items taken. Investigated and filed pending any further information. No suspect offender(s).

There were (49) police related incidents for Little Stour area, some recorded below are for Littlebourne.

- Three calls in relation to suspected Drugs activity in St Vincent's Close. Call Logged for information.
- Six 999 abandoned call/ silent line.
- Suspicious male seen in St Vincent's close offering services for tree cutting and landscaping; supposedly choosing specific houses to ask. Area Search no trace for male. Call logged for Information.

- Concern for Welfare. Male seen to be walking up the A257, possibly intoxicated. Male found, stopped and given words of advice.
- Attempt ID theft. Male has had his card used falsely by an ex-housemate. No money taken and words of advice given.
- Neighbour Dispute. Crime report taken for Assault by Beating (Battery).
- Suspicious male knocking on doors in Ellen Court. Car index noted no offences but call logged.
- Suspicious male following caller whilst dog walking. No offences, logged for information.
- Criminal Damage to mesh in hedge. Crime report taken.
- Civil dispute in relation to a boundary hedge. Both parties spoken to.

The Clerk read out the report from Gary Moore, Community Warden;

The last months have been very busy indeed. There has been an increase in minor crime which I have been able to provide back to several incidents by providing reassurance visits to those affected.

I am also dealing with several on-going neighbourhood disputes which I hope can be resolved by mediation, even if long term. The recent incident in the orchard with the fire is obviously of great concern and several names have been put forward to me and passed onto Police for possible action. So far I have not been able to speak with those involved but will keep trying.

I have noted a marked increase in fly tipping in and around the villages and have marked several places with smart water in case they turn up around the village. I have also been engaging with several local youth and feel that a good working relationship is developing especially in the area of information given on alcohol and drug use which is encouraging.

Cold callers remain a problem in the villages and I have moved a number of door steps sellers on. Scam mail is also still a problem and I have spoken to in excess of sixty residents of late about the dangers of replying to these letters and phone calls.

Thankfully the rivers have not risen as much as other years and I continue to do River watch from Barham all the way along. It's been noticed that there as has been an incident involving the overflow section with items removed which I am currently looking into and will report on as soon as I have news.

174. ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

A resident raised three matters;

Tree roots on public footpaths around the village, especially the path to the rear of the club and the path alongside the school. Agreed we would speak to school again regarding the trees and also approach other residents whose trees are causing roots to raise the pathways.

Missing No cycling sign from the rec end of the path alongside the school. Clerk to report to KCC Highways to replace.

School sign down on Church Road. Already requested by Clerk to KCC Highways to repair/replace.

175. CITY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Walker reported that all risk assessments were currently being reviewed at CCC. The budget is due to be set tomorrow (Thursday 11th Feb) and then to be approved next week. £7m savings to be found. Cllr Walker had attended a meeting regarding the proposed new A2 junction and slip roads layout at Bridge/Bekesbourne, the current proposals bring many concerns to the parishes and CCC as it is not the full 4-way junction that was initially discussed. This will have implications further afield to those villages that use this route to access the A2.

Cllr Walker reminded us to apply for RAAC funding towards the Queen's Birthday celebrations.

176. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

The Clerk read out the report from Cllr Northey as follows;

Tomorrow Thursday KCC sets its budget. We propose a KCC Council Tax rise of four per cent. The government gave us fractionally more money yesterday so we have had to revise the budget but there will not be many changes to the published proposals.

Please continue to send in thoughts to the KCC Consultation on proposed changes to the mobile library service. There will be some lesser times and some greater times and for some a new Saturday service, but it is proposed that some runs be ended and all will be fortnightly not weekly. I have spoken to the Cabinet Member on three occasions to let him know our local thoughts and he promises to listen and take everything into account.

The decisions on LED street lighting and the timings will be made in a recommendation this Friday by the relevant Cabinet Committee but the final decision is the Cabinet Member's. I am not on that Committee but am going to observe it.

I have been in constant touch re the closure of Bekesbourne Lane at the railway bridge. It is hoped the road will be reopened on Friday.

177. PLANNING/TREES

As attached appendix 2

CA//16/00150/FUL – Thorpe, Church Road Littlebourne

Mrs Hart the applicant came to address the councillors, she made two points;

- The application has been revised following recommendations from the planning officer, some internal layout changes and obscured glass added to a window.
- Trees have already been ordered to go in the corner of the garden to screen the neighbours property. These are semi mature trees; Pleached Phottonia.

The Clerk then read out a letter from Mr and Mrs Henwood, neighbours to the rear of the property, this detailed their concerns over the application.

It was AGREED the previous stance of no objection to the application remained unchanged.

Mrs Hart departed at 7.50pm

178. FINANCE

- (a) RECEIVED the bank statements for January 2016, and RESOLVED the signature of the Chairman thereon;
- (b) NOTED £11.99 will be taken from our account by DD on 15th February for our 1x1 website
- (c) NOTED the clerk has prepared the 3rd QTR VAT reclaim totalling £161.65.

- (d) NOTED £17.96 will be taken from our account by 1x1 internet on 10/02/16 for our website for our website (quarterly fee)
- (e) NOTED renewal invoices issued to 4x LPC advertisers for annual renewal March edition

AUTHORISATION OF ACCOUNTS

There were receipts totalling £20.00 NOTED this month. The expenditure list previously circulated to Cllrs as Appendix 3 totalling £1687.54, together with Appendix 3a presented at the meeting totalling £571.00. These were proposed by Cllr Wilson and seconded by Cllr Moore so it was RESOLVED that the financial matters and accounts, as set out be authorised for payment.

179. CLERK REPORT CORRESPONDENCE

A. KCC Library Consultation

The consultation includes information on why KCC is re-designing the mobile library service, the criteria they are proposing when reviewing stopping locations and the impact it would have on the current service. The consultation document proposes to withdraw stops that have only had, on average, 2 or less visitors over the period October 2014-September 2015. The consultation document shows that this would reduce the number of stops from 651 to 283. Redesigning routes would allow KCC to implement a number of proposed improvements and changes to the stops:

- Each stop would be on a new, fortnightly schedule
- Increasing the minimum stop time from 10 minutes to 30 minutes,
- improving the stop length for more than half of the stops
- Changing the days we operate to Tuesday through to Saturday
- to mitigate the impact of Bank Holiday Mondays on our current schedules and to increase opportunity for wider use
- In addition, we expect the redesigned routes will result in better fuel efficiency and improve the environmental impact of the Mobile Library Service.
- It will also deliver a saving for KCC.

For Littlebourne this will mean a change of day and a change to fortnightly instead of weekly. The proposal is for a visit on a Thursday 1205-1250pm, fortnightly.

The consultation document predicts that 80% of the current visits and 77% of the current book issues would still be delivered through the proposed mobile network
<http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/mobilelibraries/consultationHome>.

B. Letter from resident, Mr Irish

A further letter on the matter of the water supply to the garage blocks at Cherry Orchard was received and details of a contact at Siemens Marketing Services passed to LPC to investigate further.

C. Letter from 4VPO

Copy of letter sent to Trustees regarding the renewal of the Tenant's lease on the Post Office and Shop which would combine the two leases together into one. Cllr Giles added that he would want legal assurance that things were not being changed in the agreement between LPC and the shop. The Chairman assured the Council that this would not change the arrangements between the 4VPO and LPC.

All other correspondence was noted.

CLERK REPORT

LONDON PLANE TREE IN CARPARK

Most of tree removed today, to be cut down to stump tomorrow. Grinding of stump TBA.

ELECTRONIC SIGNAGE ON A257

Clerk has contacted Clancy Docwra, wording was changed and now sign has been removed completely.

GRAFFITI ON NOTICEBOARD

Clerk has removed as much of the graffiti as possible.

SELF CLOSER GATES FOR PLAYAREA

Clerk was asked to obtain a price for self-closer gates for the playarea, this followed request from residents and the problem of the gates being left open. Clerk has been monitoring the situation when doing the playarea checks and the gates have been more often than not all left open. Clerk has made some 'Please close the gate' signs; these were put up a couple of weeks ago so we can see if these make a difference.

DEFIBRILLATOR

Replacement heater unit sourced from supplier, to be fitted,

180. KALC

The Chairman had attended the recent meeting, where the Police Commander had spoken, the issue of PCSO's being front facing and known to PC's had been raised by several PC's. The Chairman had expressed how LPC had been pleased with the reports and attendance at meetings from PCSO Karl Shonhard.

181. PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

The Clerk reported that following an application to Vogt Solar to the Littlebourne Community Benefit Fund, LPC had been awarded £5733 towards the inclusive roundabout project. The remaining cost of this will need to be sourced, it was proposed by The Chairman that the Finance Committee check LPC's position on this and make a decision. This was AGREED by all.

182. TWINNING

Cllr Reid said she was still looking for more walkers for April 30th. A possible Christmas visit was under discussion for either 10th or 17th December 2016. Cllr Reid is also hoping to arrange a visit for our Scouts to Wimille.

183. OLDER PEOPLE

Cllr Moore reported that her afternoon visit to The Afternoon Club had been successful and she plans to attend again. Cllr Moore will be visiting Ellen Court again on Monday morning.

184. QUEENS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Set for Sunday 12th June 2016 on Littlebourne Recreation Ground, various suggestions have been put forward for events and activities. Cllr Reid is heading up the arrangements and would welcome any support and help on the day. Cllr Reid confirmed that she had been informed by the cricket club that there will be no match played at Littlebourne on that Sunday.

An application for funding to RAAC will be put in by the deadline of 1st March.

185. MILLENNIUM AWARD

The clerk read out this year's nominees;

PAUL SPRATT – His efforts and achievements in the furtherance to cricket, for both adult and youth sections are extraordinary. It is a time consuming role and he dedicates a great deal of time and enthusiasm to provide the children with an outlet for their energy, promoting social skills and team spirit. He also applies for many grants to ensure the club has the necessary equipment.

ANNE RIGDEN – Her dedication and commitment to others, in an unassuming way. Her contributions include; flower arranging at St Vincent's, annual collection for Local Hospice, care and attention for an elderly neighbour for many years, member of Turners Orchard Committee and organiser of working parties in the Orchard, other help with village organisations.

ANNE PERKINS & ISABELLE STEPHENS – They have spent the last 8 years working tirelessly on The Cherry Orchard Nature Reserve to make a safe haven for wildlife and native wild plants. They work with local youth groups enabling them to learn about the nature on the reserve.

NANCY WHITE, WENDY GILES & BRENDA LONGLEY (AFTERNOON CLUB TEA MAKERS)- They prepare the refreshments every month, arrange special parties for events during the year. The three of them are also involved with The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, which they organise and collect all the boxes for. They also arrange coffee mornings and afternoon teas for The Poppy Appeal.

A secret ballot was taken by Cllrs to decide this year's winner, to be announced at the APM on 16th March.

Cllr Walker departed at 8.50pm

186. MEDIA

Cllr Moore reported that the LPC Facebook page reached 7000 people following the Turners Orchard fire incident being reported on there. The deadline for the March LPC News will be 20th February.

187. NATURE RESERVE

Cllr Evans reported that the Action Plan for this year has now been produced this sets out the aims of the Nature Reserve Group for this year.

188. FLOODING

Cllr Giles reported that the flood barriers have been put up at Barham, but as a precaution only. The bore holes are lower than this time last year. It has been reported via The Environment Agency that somebody had stolen the control boards on the Little Stour Flood Relief Channel on Sunday night (7th Feb), which meant that it was operating yesterday. They have also stolen the metal bar that locks the boards in place. This has been reported to the Police and now the Community Warden.

189. HOUSING

There is currently a vacancy for 2 bed property; this should be filled by an applicant with the necessary Littlebourne local connection. This has been advertised on the noticeboard, website and Facebook page.

190. HIGHWAYS

Meeting set for 23rd February for Highways group. The question was raised are Highways inspecting road for potholes and repairing or are they totally relying on those reported through?

The public meeting closed at 9.20pm and a confidential item followed. The residents then departed

The results of the survey on The List were explained and discussed by Cllrs. Further investigation of possibilities is required before a final response can be given to Rydons. Results of survey to be released to residents in due course.

Dates of future meetings: 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.....

**LITTLEBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
PLANNING REPORT, 10 FEBRUARY 2016**

APPENDIX 2

New Applications

CA//16/00043/FUL Sian Smith	Proposed two-storey and single-storey extensions and replacement garage Weir Lodge, Nargate Street, Littlebourne, CT3 1UJ	No objections from LPC
CA//16/00150/FUL Bernard Haasbroek	Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of side and rear extension; new front porch; loft conversion with front and rear dormers and garage. Thorpe, Church Road, Littlebourne, CT3 1UA	Revised application Response by 26 Feb LPC did not object to previous application. No objection from LPC
CA//16/00125/FUL David Stewart	Proposed rear first-floor extension with ground-floor infill and internal works. Dawn Chorus, 76 Bekesbourne Lane, Littlebourne, CT3 1UZ	Cards to be delivered to neighbours before response logged
CA//16/00146/LB Kate Gunning	Replacement window to grade 2 listed building. 1 The Green, Littlebourne, CT3 1UU	No objection from LPC

Notifications

CA//15/02378/FUL	Re-positioning of entrance door to side with canopy over; single-storey rear extension; and loft conversion with enlarged dormer window to rear. 51 Nargate Street, Littlebourne, CT3 1UJ	GRANTED 28/01/16
CA//15/02604/FUL	Installation of outside light to the front of dwelling. 8 Bekesbourne Lane, Littlebourne, CT3 1UY	GRANTED 25/01/16
CA//15/02670/FUL	Removal of a ground floor internal wall	GRANTED 03/02/16

Guy Wilson	between the dining room and kitchen 28B The Hill, Littlebourne, CT3 1TA	
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Trees

TRE/16/00040	Eastern border beech trees: crown reduce by c. 40-50% to maintain light and provide for good management of the trees. North Western garden trees: Crown reduce by c.30% to shape and manage growth. Church Cottage, Church Road, Littlebourne, CT3 1UA	No objections
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