

**LITTLEBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2013**

Present: Parish Cllr Vivienne Spratt (Chairman)
Parish Cllr Mick Giles
Parish Cllr Betty Jeffries
Parish Cllr Pamela Evans
Parish Cllr Geof Welch
Parish Cllr Mike Gallagher
Parish Cllr Cate Reid
City Cllr Brian Staley *
Kent County Cllr Michael Northey *

Ms Amanda Sparkes, Clerk to the Council
There were no members of the public

* for part of the meeting

153. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Spratt welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Parish Cllr Geoffrey Barrett (annual leave), Parish Cllr Ken Shaw (abroad) and PCSO Elaine Cannadine.

154. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

There were no declarations of interest.

The Localism Act 2011 has taken away the dispensation for Cllrs to take part in discussion and set their precept. SLCC's advice note was followed. CONSIDERED and RESOLVED to delegate the decision to the Clerk for a request that all Cllrs be given dispensation to take part in discussion and setting of the precept budget for 2013-2014 (as all or most of the members have a Declarable Pecuniary Interest, and without the dispensation, the number of members or co-opted members prohibited from participating in the business would be so great a proportion of the body transacting the business as to impede the transaction of the business)

155. CLERK VACANCY

The Chairman read the Clerk's letter of resignation. The Clerk had explained there were many reasons for her resignation but she cited insufficient contracted hours to do the job properly. Cllr Jeffries asked that it be noted that she appreciated all that the Clerk had done, especially in clearing and cataloguing the Archives cupboard which had been an immense task.

Cllrs Spratt, Giles, Gallagher and Barrett have been dealing with the recruitment process and finalised the application package that the clerk had drafted. The vacancy has been advertised in the Canterbury Times, Kentish Gazette (including their website) and the KALC website. The Chairman has sent out 33 application/information packs and so far four have applied. Closing date is 21 January. Then Cllrs will sift the applications and short listed for interviews to be held week commencing 28th January. The council is looking to appoint for 1 March to enable a handover with the present Clerk, whose last day would be Thursday 28 March 2013.

156. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 DECEMBER 2012

Cllr Giles proposed and Cllr Welch seconded to accept the Minutes as a true record of the meeting.

157. ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

As there were no members of the public present there was no adjournment.

158. KENT COUNTY CLLR REPORT

KCC Cllr Michael Northey spoke about the Dilnot Commission report. The Clerk had given all

Cllrs a copy of a leaflet about it. Basically, it recommends that older people would not have to pay more than £35k to cover the costs of care in the old age, and would not have to sell their home to cover costs of care as there would be a charge put on it instead.

With the present system if a person has capital above £23,500 they have to provide for their own care – the Dilnot recommendation is that this be raised to £100k.

KCC are urging all residents to lobby them to lobby central government to bring these changes in by 2015. Cllr Northey urged all Cllrs to register their support with KCC either on line or by post, and to spread the word.

Cllr Northey also said he was pleased to see work on the new bollards in Jubilee Road has started, with the costs being met from his Members Highways Fund.

Cllr Northey explained he had just attended a Communities Cabinet meeting – the paperwork was 282 pages long, with 100 plus pages about access to the countryside.

In addition he knew of queries with footpaths currently and these were trying to be resolved on an individual basis. The sheer volume of work is leading to delays.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Northey for his help with coppicing operations causing problems on public rights of way and mud on the A257 road. Howletts will make repairs to the track, they are waiting on prices, and they will also install cautionary notices for motorists about the mud on the road. Howletts has another meeting with highways scheduled. A resident and the parish council has asked Howletts to clean the roads more often.

159. CITY CLLR REPORT

City Cllr Brian Staley explained there is a proposal by Canterbury City Council to go to the electoral commission after the next elections to reduce the number of city councillors. There will be costs which would be met by the local tax payers.

Cllr Staley explained he is supportive of the idea for town councils for Whitstable and Herne Bay and of changing the system of power that currently all lies with the city council Executive. He would like to see it revert back to a fairer system

Cllr Staley advised that the Rural Area Member Panel have a funding pot of £10k. Members are to spend this collectively in parished areas, the decisions on what and how to distribute are yet to be made.

Cllr Staley gave the Clerk an information pack about rural fuel poverty. He advised that CROP (Citizens Rights for Older People) in Canterbury have raised £1m of benefits for recipients who did not know their entitlements.

160. POLICING, SECURITY AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

KCC Warden, Jon Lodge's report was read to the meeting as follows:

"After I was involved in a multi agency, road safety event held at the Polo Farm, I have contacted a Highway's steward to assess the road speed for possible future signage. Following a call about some possible found "stolen" goods, I contacted PCSO Elaine Cannadine about their retrieval for investigation.

Have spent time on Visible presence through out the hole area.

Currently I am working alongside the NHS to identify local residents who may need some support or advice during the winter months. If any local people know vulnerable residents who would benefit from a visit or would like some advice about what services are available, please give me a call and I would be more than happy to visit them

For more information please find web link www.kent.gov.uk/communitywardens
KCC Warden – Jon Lodge 07969583916".

161. KENT POLICE COMMISSIONER AND DRAFT POLICE AND CRIME PLAN

Cllr Gallagher explained that Ann Barnes, the Kent & Medway Police & Crime Commissioner, circulated and asked for comments on her draft Police and Crime Plan. In it she has set out her vision and priorities for policing and community safety over the next four years, as well as the objectives and targets against which she will scrutinise the performance of Kent Police. She wants to provide a first class policing service in this county, a service that meets the needs and expectations of all communities. She will work closely with the Chief Constable, Ian Learmonth, who has operational responsibility for the delivery of this Plan. The vision is for a policing service in this county that places victims first, focuses on reducing crime and protects the public from harm. Ann Barnes strategic priorities include:

1. Cutting crime and catching criminals
2. Ensuring visible, community policing is at the heart of Kent's Policing Model
3. Putting victims and witnesses first
4. Protecting the public from serious harm
5. Meeting national commitments for policing
6. Delivering value for money

To deliver the priorities within this Plan and to increase police visibility, she is proposing to make a small increase in the police element of council tax of 2%. For a Band D property this means an increase of 5.3 pence per week. The £1.8m raised will fund the additional posts that will consist of 60 Police Community Support Officers, 20 Police Constables and 18 Custody Attendants. Most of these posts could be introduced countywide by the 30th June this year. This move would equate to six uniformed officers on the beat per district.

Any views regarding the Plan and proposed policing precept should be made by 29th January. Download the plan and submit comments through the website

www.policeplan.annbarneskentpcc.co.uk or in writing to Ann Barnes, Kent Police and Crime Commissioner, 1st Floor, Gail House, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, ME15 6NB.

162. PLANNING

The Planning applications and tree works are recorded on Appendix 2 attached to these Minutes.

CANTERBURY DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN

There is still no draft plan out for consultation. The Clerk will contact the city council and ask for an update in when and how long the consultation period is going to be.

163. FINANCE

FINANCIAL MATTERS

- (a) RECEIVED the bank statements for December 2012, and RESOLVED the signature of the Chairman thereon;
- (b) NOTED that the Clerk wrote to the payroll outsourcing company on 28 December 2012 to give the necessary 3 months' notice to terminate the contract. Alternative arrangements will be made for the new financial year.
- (c) NOTED BT quarterly telephone bill to be paid by direct debit
- (d) NOTED a further two advertisers have expressed interest in advertising in the LPC News – the Clerk has devised artwork for them and also sent invoices; payments are awaited.

CCC CAPITAL GRANT

NOTED confirmation from the city council that the parish council's capital application for £2,944 towards replacement of safety surfacing under play equipment scored the third highest amongst the 11 applications. The outcome has been approved by the Executive committee at the council. This award figure is only an indicative figure at present and dependant on the budget still being available when the council set its budgets in February 2103. If there is any

change to the amount of the capital award for 2013-14 CCC will inform the Clerk by the end of February 2013.

(B) AUTHORISATION OF ACCOUNTS

The Clerk ran through the expenditure list previously circulated to Cllrs as Appendix 3 totalling £1,022.15 along with the direct debit schedules for the Clerk's salary, Clerk PAYE and employee and employers NIC, together with a supplementary sheet of expenditure presented to the meeting totalling £1,516.53. Cllr Giles proposed and Cllr Welch seconded and it was RESOLVED that the financial matters and accounts, as set out be authorised for payment.

164. FINALISATION OF PRECEPT FOR 2013-2014

The Clerk attended a briefing meeting at Canterbury City Council on 4 January regarding the changes to the council tax base and the implications therefore on parish council's precept budget and budget setting, plus the uncertainty of whether capping of parish councils will be brought in as for local authorities in the next or a future year. She had put together a report previously circulated as Appendix 3c. In the past when a parish council has set its precept this has been raised through people paying their council tax and Council tax benefit. However, the Government has abolished Council Tax benefit from 1 April 2013 and replaced it with locally designed Council Tax Reduction Schemes.

Each local authority may devise its own local scheme, but funding handed to them from central government will only be at 90% of the current expenditure on Council Tax benefit – so Canterbury City Council has to devise a scheme within 90% of the current budget. Canterbury City Council has consulted on the proposals for its area and the Scheme is due to be approved by Council in January. In order to reduce the impact on benefit recipients they have brought in changes to second homes and empty homes charges.

One of the implications of the Government's changes is that it changes the way that the tax base is calculated, and this has an impact on parish councils. This is because the council tax base is used to convert a parish precept into an amount per band D equivalent property. Under the new arrangements, the tax base will be reduced to take account of the reduction under the new scheme. The tax base figure, which is calculated on the number of dwellings paying council tax and the number receiving council tax benefit, is divided into the precept which then gives the Parish payment, equivalent to band D of the Council Tax invoice. Each parish council tax base is being calculated differently under the new regime, and all tax bases are reducing.

So, if Littlebourne wanted to keep its precept the same as 2012-13 for 2013-14, the council tax per property would increase as the tax base would be lower, and the result would be a higher amount payable by residents, even though the parish council would only be trying to raise the same amount of funding as the previous year.

In order to remove this unintended consequence and impact on parish councils, the Government is giving each billing authority extra funding to support the town and parish councils in their area, in order to avoid a tax burden on rural households. For the Canterbury district this is £72,000.

The city council finance officers have explained that there is no guarantee of a further cushioning grant for next year but if they do receive anything then the funding will just be 'rolled in to' the city council's Revenue Support Grant (RSG), not ring-fenced for use as alleviating the parish council's precept. This means that the city council could spend it on anything. The Clerk has sought an assurance that the city council retain the general principle that it stays for this intended purpose although any central government grant percentage cut to the RSG would also apply to the parish councils' grant awards. Early indications are that the cut imposed by central government on Canterbury City Council for 2014-15 is likely to be 12.5% reduction.

BUDGET CAPPING

The Coalition Agreement committed the government to relinquishing control over excessive Council Tax increases and giving that democratic power directly to local communities. This was legislated for through the Localism Act. Council Tax increases would trigger a referendum, if they exceed 2% for most principal authorities.

The news release by Eric Pickles MP via DCLG has confirmed there is no capping regime for parishes for 2013-14 but there may be in future years. This means parish/town councils can put forward an increase in precept for 2013-14 without fear of a referendum and the associated costs.

The one off grant figure has to be deducted from the amount the parish council propose to precept. From next year, Parish Councils will only be able to precept on the lower figure (just the precept element not including the grant) and may be capped on any increase over 2%. The advice to parish councils is to consider an increase in precept for 2013-14 if only to provide a cushion for the following years when the transitional grant is withdrawn. Many parishes are already facing cuts in concurrent function grants from their district/borough councils, which is likely to be reduced further in later years. So there is a need to consider the budget needs beyond 2013-14 and plan accordingly.

There had been a lot of discussion about this at the KALC meeting. All Cllrs were in agreement that the parish council need to allow for future projects and the need to avoid a referendum. Littlebourne parish council, like most of the district's parish councils is following DCLG advice to set a higher precept this year in case a capping regime is implemented next year and especially in view of uncertainty also over further concurrent award cuts. Despite the parish council items being reduced by £552 the overall increase of 19.4% is due to:

- Central government changing the tax base calculations as a result of abolishing council tax benefit and replacing it with a locally designed Council Tax Reduction Scheme. And
- Canterbury City Council imposing a concurrent functions award shortfall for items such as grass cutting and grounds maintenance of £6494.

165. CLERK REPORT CORRESPONDENCE

- Action with Communities in Rural Kent "Rural News" electronic newsletter
- An update and timescale on KCC's campaign to get all households quicker broadband.
- Copy of the KALC letter to the Prime Minister over precept budget uncertainties, difficulties and concerns this year by all parish councils.
- The link to Canterbury City Council's budget consultation page at:
<http://www.canterbury.gov.uk/budgetconsultation>
- Kent Association of Local Councils "Parish News" newsletter
- Kent Adult Education 2013 Course directory

NEW BUILD at No. 3 SCHOOL PATH

NOTED a letter, received from the builder, who asked that it be read and recorded to the meeting:

"Dear Villagers

As you are probably aware the construction of our new family home on 3 School Path, is underway, the wonderful British weather has not been to our advantage but we are battling on. We have the majority of the groundwork's and foundations completed. I would like to apologise if the extra lorries have been an inconvenience to anybody and especially the residents living near the access route. We are doing all we can to keep this to a bare minimum, we are extremely excited about moving to the village, and becoming part of village life in the near future."

The resident then gave his email and mobile contact details which may be obtained from the Clerk if anybody wants to contact him.

Cllr Spratt advised he has also said that he will be on site from 28 January and will cut the overgrown hedge in the first week in February.

NEW DOCTORS' SURGERY, COURT HILL

Cardys contacted the Clerk and Chairman on 21 December 2012 with an update: Cardy Construction are making progress to secure funding for the new surgery but it has been a very difficult path in the current economic climate. The current reorganisations within EKNHS and the local PCT organisations have also not helped – and made even more difficult due to government budget cut backs which mean they still have insufficient funding for the Littlebourne scheme. Hopefully this will start to improve once the new organisation becomes established (hopefully after April 2013). Meanwhile Cardys are looking to secure alternative 'bridging' funding to progress things, and it has also been necessary to look at the building design to see if we could perhaps adopt the proposal to allow further alternative medical services to help supplement rental income (i.e. possible dentist, physiotherapy, optician etc).

Any funding will of course be conditional upon Full Planning Permission being in place plus evidence from the developer that a substantial commitment to the development has already been funded and carried out. Cardys therefore propose to commence the next stage of the work comprising the alterations to Court Hill to create the access/exit to the site, the additional section of public footpaths, the pedestrian crossing (which will also assist traffic calming) and also a connection facility for road drainage.

Cardy Construction agreed to keep the parish council and local residents informed as to progress and have written to all those likely to be effected by the works (within Court Hill) and have also provided them with a copy of the engineers plan indicating the extent of the works to be carried out in this latest phase.

PATH FROM THE LIST TO COURT MEADOWS

At the November 2012 parish council meeting Cllr Giles explained he had been approached by some residents about the path from The List in to the Court Meadows estate, which needs some maintenance as it has some dangerous potholes. The Clerk has contacted the housing associations for their comments on ownership and responsibility. They are waiting on a land registry search which was chased on 11 January 2013

COMMUNICATION RECEIVED FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

On 10 January the Clerk received a message from the Environment Agency (EA), that significant rainfall since April means groundwater levels near the Nailbourne, Little Stour and Petham Bourne rivers are high. The EA are monitoring the groundwater levels throughout the area so they can inform communities and take action if needed. EA teams are out along the Nailbourne, from Lyminge to Barham. They will be out daily, checking screens, clearing debris and talking to local residents to let them know how they manage the water to keep disruption to a minimum. They will do this while the river flows are high. The EA have prepared an update on the current situation for local residents to let them know what is happening and what they should do if they are concerned. They are working with Kent County Council and Canterbury City Council and the emergency services to ensure everything possible is done to reduce the impacts from this situation. They would encourage members of the public to sign up to a free groundwater Flood Alert/Warning service by calling Floodline on 0845 988 1188 or registering online at www.environment-agency.gov.uk “

166. ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk advised that the city council is undertaking a scrutiny review of the Canterbury district's allotments, and the Clerk has given a lot of information about Littlebourne's allotments and their management to a city cllr, who has promised to send a copy of the final report.

167. THE BARN

Cllr Jeffries advised Canterbury City Council are supporting the amended application for the formation of a Tea Room at Littlebourne Barn, through extensions to the building to form additional internal floor space.

168. KALC

Cllr Gallagher explained he had attended the KALC meeting last week. The Guest Speaker was Silvester Nicholas from Kent Fire & Rescue Service. Speaking about Fire Hydrants, he said these had to be constantly maintained. There is no specified pressure for hydrants so they have to take water with them to certain places. Heavy lorries constantly both break the heads or bury the hydrants with soil – (mainly on country roads). They have a team of fire-fighters who do a monitoring checks on a 4-year programme, and do repairs and replacements, but would appreciate local parishioners reporting damage or soil coverage to supplement their work. Hydrants are being painted yellow to help in identification. The Clerk had obtained a map of where they are to facilitate this. There are 18 in the village; 8 on the A257 and 10 others on various roads. Cllr Gallagher agreed to walk the village to see which properties were closest to each and to then put a note through the nearest individual's door to each hydrant and ask them to keep an eye on it and report any problems or damage to the Clerk.

Cllr Gallagher explained there has been no response yet to the KALC letter to the Prime Minister around budget setting issues this year. The KALC Chairman is to meet the new Police Commissioner Ann Barnes in February. A big issue currently reported at the KALC meeting is hare housing in Wickhambreaux and Herne. And finally a representative had brought a Manston report – routes to Amsterdam and soon to be offered.

169. EMERGENCY PLAN

Cllr Welch explained the sub-committee is hoping to run an emergency practice exercise to set up a reception centre at the hall. The sub-committee are currently planning this and will involve the Afternoon Club and WI.

170. TWINNING WITH WIMILLE

The Chairman advised she had received a Christmas card from the Wimille committee, wishing to forge strong links in 2013. Also a card from their Mayor.

SCHOOL EXCHANGE PROGRESS

The Chairman has managed to get a confirmed date of Thursday 13th of June for Wimille to bring one class of children to visit with Littlebourne School, they will be there for morning only and will be bringing a packed lunch, they will visit Dover Castle in the afternoon. This will be 30 children plus about 4 adults. She will assist on the day and with the exchange of messages and contacts beforehand. She will also assist at a confirmed visit to pre-school in May 2013. Wimille have asked if Seniors in Littlebourne would come to Wimille in July for an afternoon tea/dance. Cllr Welch explained a lot of the older people don't hold a passport.

St Georges Day event on Saturday 20th April

The Chairman's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Organising is underway – everything to be free of charge. Cllr Evans is handling everything to do with the Dog Show. She will need funds for the Rosettes. It was suggested that KCC Cllr Michael Northey be asked to judge the dog show.

The Chairman has contacted resident Mick Lonergan as to what his input may be, as he was so involved in the event last year.

The Chairman has contacted previous stall holders who are booking places on the Recreation Ground. (or the Barn if it is wet). The Chairman has told the stall holders there is no charge for the stalls (same as last time) but there will be a charity collection later in the day. She has also offered all the village organisations a stall for fund raising or promotion. The Parish Meeting

room is going to be used for an Art Exhibition where the artists can sell their exhibits if they wish.

The Hall is going to be used by The Wimille Majorettes for one performance in the afternoon, with most of the audience on stage (because of the batons during performance). A second performance will be on recreation ground. They will do both of their performances in the hall if it is wet. There will be 60 coming as the youngsters will have parents with them. They will be paying their own expenses, but refreshments are to be confirmed.

Face painting is confirmed, and if the Orchard is not being used Cllr Spratt will ask the Pre School to do a Treasure Hunt. She has Littlebourne School if they want to do anything. Other ideas include a coconut shy, music tent, craft tent, fancy dress, and ice cream van.

Cllr Giles and Cllr Welch agreed to steward cars on to the site.

Crafts, face paints and refreshments will need funding – Cllr Spratt will apply to the new community fund set up from the rent from the shop extension, when final details and costs are known.

Cllr Welch asked that thanks be recorded to Cllr Spratt for all her hard work so far.

171. TUBS AND BASKETS

Cllr Spratt confirmed the judging dates as 13-14 July. The judges will be one of the joint winners from last year. Cllr Spratt also reported that Cllr Barrett has suggested a judging for the best Christmas lights in the village. This will be picked up on a later Agenda.

172. MILLENNIUM AWARD

Nominations for the millennium award should be made in writing to the Clerk by 31st January 2013. The decision will be taken at the February parish council meeting in order to award the prize to the winner at the Annual Parish Meeting on 7 March 2013.

The Clerk advised she has received two nominations so far.

173. LITTLEBOURNE NATURE RESERVES

Cllr Evans advised she had received £384 from the Waitrose charity fund for Cherry Orchard. This will buy a display board and heaters for the gazebo.

Cllr Jeffries explained they have been trying to get an estimate for a marsh area – this will need some materials to be paid from the ear marked reserves in due course.

Cllr Jeffries congratulated Cllr Evans on a very successful wassailing event in The Orchard – there was a real mix of people and over 100 attended. Cllr Evans confirmed the event is booked again for 5 January 2014 with Deal Hoodeners again.

174. PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Cllr Spratt advised of a resident's complaints but that the new owners of Little Stour Farm are erecting a small picket fence so this should be resolved. She has also been dealing with KCC Cllr Michael Northey on other footpath issues also.

175. FLOODING AND SAND BAGS

Cllr Evans asked about getting some sandbags. Cllr Giles confirmed residents can apply for sandbags through Cllr Giles and Cllr Shaw, who have 500 useable sacks, although these will not be given out indiscriminately. Cllr Giles assured Cllr Evans that he would get pre-warnings and will take preventative measures if river levels rise to a dangerous level, so there is no need for unnecessary worry.

Since 2000 a complete new system of drains has been installed and a bypass channel provided. Cllr Giles advised Nargate Street flooded in 2000 because the river burst at Scoutlands and water came down the road and in to front doors.

176. WITTERSHAM CLUSTER

DISCUSSED the Wittersham Cluster example of a village caretaker pilot. A group of parishes

Employs a handyman to do work on their behalf. £30k is given by Ashford Borough Council to fund the scheme. All KALC members are in agreement that the issues to do a similar scheme in the Canterbury parishes are lack of funding and which parish would lead.

177. PROW – MODIFICATION TO DEFINITIVE MAP INVESTIGATION RESULTS

The Kent County Council Public Rights Of Way department wrote on 7 September about the parish council's request dating back to 2007 to have two footpaths added to the Definitive Map and Statement:

- A route running between existing Public Footpath CB150 to The Hill at Littlebourne, And
- A route running through Howletts Zoo Park between existing Public Footpath CB152 at Bekesbourne Hill to The Hill at Littlebourne.

The decision notice advised that it is not considered that either of the claimed routes is reasonably alleged to subsist. Cllr Jeffries explained she has submitted another set of comments on the decision – around discrepancies with dates; that the Bridge Blean records and parish council old Minutes stored in the Cathedral Archives cannot be accessed currently as the archives are not open; the map from the British library sent earlier was not followed up by KCC – this clearly showed the footpath at both ends. Sadly a resident that had a photograph of the sign at one end sadly died before the photo was obtained. Cllr Jeffries also commented that KCC seemed dismissive of Mounts' employees. She confirmed she had received an acknowledgement and the Inspector's decision is awaited.

178. RECREATION GROUND ADVERTISING

Cllr Reid explained the Cricket Club are looking to improve facilities and increase income so need to be more commercially minded. They have raised the idea for the cricket club to engage in business sponsorship, where businesses would advertise only on cricket and football match days. The cricket club would be responsible for putting up and taking down the adverts. Advertising boards would go around the boundary and moved at the same times as the sight screens. 25 boundary boards and 6 over the railings of the car park were proposed, size 5 foot by 2 foot. Sponsors could pay for the boards in full or the cricket club provide the board and the sponsor provide advertising on both sides.

Cllr Giles asked if Cllr Reid or the cricket club has done any research on guidance regarding distractions to motorists around advertising regulations. Cllrs also asked if the cricket club is happy that a cricketer might run in to one of the boards. Cllrs asked that a site plan of where the boards would be sited be provided. Perhaps a limited trial in the village for the next season could be considered. The item was again deferred for more information to the next parish council meeting.

179. HIGHWAYS

TWINNING SIGNS

Cllr Spratt explained Kent Highways Services had provided quotes for signs for the village entrances. Discussions are moving very slowly.

HGV CONSULTATION

The Department for Transport has issued a consultation on Examining the Speed Limit for HGVs over 7.5 tonnes on single carriageway roads (see www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/dft-2012-34). The maximum speed limit for HGVs over 7.5 tonnes on these roads is 40mph. The speed limit for smaller HGVs (i.e. those between 3.5 tonnes and 7.5 tonnes) is 50 mph.

The consultation proposes a number of possible policy options including raising the limit to 45 mph or to 50mph. It also seeks views on: road safety effects; air quality, noise and health impacts; and other impacts. Deadline is 1 February 2013. KALC will be drafting a response, which will be circulated early in the new year.

KCC are registering disagreement. Cllr Gallagher explained the documentation states that a lot of the lorries are actually already travelling at 45mph so if increase the limit to 50mph it is

likely they will travel at 55mph. The parish council delegated authority to the traffic sub-committee to reply by the deadline.

180. A257 TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

Cllr Gallagher confirmed that the A257 report had been circulated to all Cllrs. Pertinent points included that nationally last year there was a satellite navigation summit for HGV sat navs to find a way for lorries to get up to date sat navs. Laura Sandys MP for Thanet is making enquiries. She has asked all parish councils to write to her and Julian Brazier MP to chase for action. The sub-committee will draft a letter at their meeting of 22 January 2013.

Cllr Gallagher explained that the potential Rydons development on The List has implications on highways – only one entrance on to the A257 – the A257 group members feel a wider infrastructure view needs to be undertaken.

181. LITTLEBOURNE WAR MEMORIAL HALL

The next meeting is scheduled for 29 January 2013. Cllr Gallagher advised that the city council's Single Grant Gateway has awarded the hall £3,600 for 2013-14 (£1,400 less than the figure applied for) and £5,100 for 2014-15.

182. 4VPO SHOP

Cllrs noted that the Clerk had set up a separate linked bank account for the Community Funding raised from the rent of the shop extension. The Clerk would complete bank mandates to add new signatories of Cllrs Reid, Welch and Gallagher.

The sub committee are meeting on 22 January to set out the group's purpose of facilitating the distribution of rent received and criteria for offering funding. This will be circulated to all Cllrs after the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.

Dates of future meetings: 7 February 2013 – to be held in The Lounge with Guest speaker, Helen Bennington, Canterbury City Council's Environmental Promotions Officer to talk about the new waste and recycling scheme to be phased in from 1 April 2013, (7 March 2013 – the elector's meeting / Annual Parish Meeting with Guest Speakers, Community First Responders), 14 March, 18 April, 16 May, 13 June, 18 July, (No meeting in August), 12 September, 17 October, 14 November, and 12 December 2013

Signed..... (Chairman)

Date.....

New Applications

CA/11/00593/FUL	Tea Room at Littlebourne Barn, Church Road Extensions to building to form additional internal floor space AMENDED PLANS	The parish council has no objection. Canterbury City Council are now happy with the proposal after much negotiation. It will be nice to see the development underway.
CA/12/02150/FUL	Little Stour Farm, Nargate Street Proposed internal alterations, utility room extension, alter rear windows, rear dormer window and block up secondary front door access	The parish council has no objection. There is no significant change to the existing building fronting the street and very little change at rear. The proposed alterations to the rear will not affect the neighbouring property and as most of the work is internal there is no problem from a conservation point of view.
CA/12/02266/FUL	36 High Street Replacement windows with UPVC at front of property	The proposed replacements are the same as the neighbours at number 38. The sash window style is wholly appropriate, and the parish council has no objection.

Notifications

CA/12/02018/FUL	44 High Street Proposed conservatory	Granted by CCC
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Trees

The Mill House, Nargate Street

- Remove a limb, overhanging the garage, from a Horse Chestnut and rebalance the other side
- Raise the canopy of a Chestnut by 1m and lower the top of the crown by 6'.

The parish council has no objection.

Enforcement

None.