

BETHERSDEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 10th February 2010, at 8pm.

PRESENT: Mr K Mitchell in the chair, Mr J Taylor, Mr A Boyd, Mr K Brannan, Mr B Muddell, Mr B Buss, Mrs J Crannis, Mrs P Pearman, and Mrs C Buckley.

APOLOGIES: Mrs Mary Shaw (the Parish Clerk) was unable to attend due to the snow, and tendered her apologies.

IN ATTENDANCE: Robert Taylor, Esq., (Borough Councillor), Mr C. Burwash (Ashford Borough Council "Over 50s Activity" coordinator) and about 25 parishioners.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Mrs. J Crannis and Mrs P Pearman declared an interest in the Orchard Field item.

ORCHARD FIELD.

About 25 residents from Orchard field attended the meeting, and presented each member of the council with a copy of a petition sent to Ashford Borough Council regarding possible development of the green area.

The Chairman indicated that no formal planning application for this site had been received, and that he would be pleased to allow the residents to present their case to the council.

An open discussion followed considering the many aspects of their objections, and the need for them to prioritise the points. It was again stated that residents would be given the opportunity to respond formally to any planning application.

It was also agreed that the response from the Parish Council planning sub committee in the event of a formal application should reflect the views of parishioners.

ACTIVITIES 'OVER 50's SCHEME.

Christian Burwash, the newly appointed Borough Council coordinator for the project introduced himself, and outlined the ways in which the opportunities might be developed within the village. He said that a questionnaire was being prepared for distribution throughout the village, seeking an indication of the type of activities that would be welcomed, and numbers likely to use them.

Discussions followed with helpful suggestions from the residents on times, and facilities preferred.

It was suggested that the questionnaire be included into the next Parish Council Village Society news letter which is sent to each resident.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting; after amendment of the words “Lamberden Woods” in relation to footpaths, it was proposed by Mr Philip Buss, and seconded by Mrs Joyce Crannis, and was unanimously agreed that these were a correct record of the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

- (a) **The Bull lay-by** - nothing further on this.
- (b) **Parish Notice Board** - Mr Buss has carried most of the required maintenance, and will complete this as the weather allows.
- (c) **Road sweeper vacancy** - no response to-date, Mr Sparkes is continuing with this for the time being.
- (d) **Accumulated rubbish** - this is still an ongoing problem.

PLANNING CONSULTATION:

2010/00105/AS Mr and Mrs Todd, Mannering House, Old Surrenden Manor Road, Bethersden. Erection of a single replacement dwelling with attached garaging.

The application was supported.

A28 SPEED REVIEW:

The village appraisal for the speed problem in the village was presented to the Joint Transportation Board at the Civic Centre on 20th January, this had been well received, The Leader of the Council, Councillor Clokie thanked the Parish for a well presented review, and it was accepted by the Borough Council.

The Working group will meet with Jacobs in March to discuss our report. It will then be presented before the Kent County Council JTB on the 1st. June 2010, and Jacobs, the Council's Highway consultants will be notified of the findings of this report. A copy has been passed to Mr. Damien Green, (local M.P.) who will assist as possible.

LOCAL NEEDS HOUSING:

An email has been received from Alison Thompson, Regional Development Manager, English Rural Housing Association, who will make an appointment with the landowner to discuss this issue. Mr. Keith Brannan will attend as representative of the Parish Council.

Mr Robert Taylor (Ashford Borough Councillor) said that there is a new Government circular which has proposals to offer incentives for Landowners to release land for housing needs sites.

WAR MEMORIAL CONDITION:

Awaiting replies.

FORMER DOCTORS SURGERY:

Councillors Brannan and Boyd are looking into a possible layout for housing on this site, which will be sent to Ashford Borough Council for consideration.

CARERS SUPPORT:

This has been advertised, but it would appear that there is no demand for this at present in the village.

FINANCE.

Account as at 29th January 2010 £ 18,909 - 84 (as shown on Statement)

Anomalies on this account have still to be rectified by the Bank.

As the changes to the signatories have been now been approved by the Bank and the Password logged, this will now allow the Clerk to try to resolve these.

Interest added to account on 5th January 2010 **£2 - 91**

Notification that the Concurrent Function Grant for 2010/2011 will be **£ 1,929 - 44**

Cheques approved to be drawn:-

M. Shaw. Clerks January salary £ 331 - 43 and expenses £ 38 - 03. Total £ 369 - 46

B. Sparks, Street Cleaning £ 70 - 00.

B. Sparkes, broom head and rubbish sacks. £ 17 - 08.

South East Water. £ 28 - 83

REPORTS.

HIGHWAYS AND BYEWAYS.

Salt bins have been replenished, and some potholes have been filled.

There is a local telephone number which can be used to report potholes, and this will be posted on the notice board.

It was agreed that we would ask Mike Bennett to put a notice into the Bethersden News column in the Kentish Express asking people to cut back hedges which are growing over roads and footpaths before the birds nesting season.

RECREATION GROUND.

The Working Group reported the following:-

The football pitch will not be available for use for the rest of the season, due to wheel tracks on the pitch. It is recommended that we ask local residents keep an eye open, and if possible to take the registration number of any vehicle being driven beyond the car park area, and to pass this in confidence to a member of the Parish Council or our local warden Kathy. The source of any information would be treated with confidence.

The car park is inadequate for the number of vehicles, and must be enlarged as a matter of urgency. Mrs. Buckley said the aim must be to complete this work by the end of the year. Mr Simon Woodhouse, a local resident with expertise in this area has agreed to act as adviser.

Repairs to activity course and swings.

Due to the costs involved it was felt necessary to obtain more than one quote and a further independent inspection. The Clerk is asked to advise on suitable firms to provide these additional quotes and inspection reports, as a matter of urgency. She is also requested to check standing orders and notify the council as to how many estimates should be obtained.

Electrical inspection certificate for pavilion

Mr Phil Stacey has been instructed to carry out this work, and will contact Mr Taylor for the keys.

Two new litter bins are to be obtained for the recreation field. To replace one damaged, and one stolen.

It was proposed by Mr Taylor, and seconded by Mr. Boyd that this report be adopted. This was accepted unanimously.

PLANNING

Approvals received:-

09/01401/AS Mr David Oliver, Oak Lodge, Ashford Road, Bethersden.
Erection of a Garage.

09/01630/AS Listed Building. Mr Phil Denne, Snoad Hill Farm, Bethersden
The partial demolition of an agricultural building and its conversion to a garage, the demolition of the open barn, the demolition of the stables and the conversion of the Grade 11 listed barn to a dwelling.

Appeal Notification:-

09/00982/AS Mr Kenneth Bristow, Land adjoining Hanover Lodge, Ashford Road, Bethersden.
Change of use of land as residential caravan site for one gypsy family with one static caravan and one touring caravan including laying of hard-standing and formation of new access (retrospective).

CORRESPONDENCE.

In the absence of the clerk these letters were not available for consideration.

With regard the queries of addresses on the electoral register raised by the Borough Council it was agreed to recommend that they go back to the addresses as printed on the previous registers, which were correct.

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

Cllr R. Taylor reported that the new Chief Executive, Mr J. Bunnett, had produced a new 5 year Business plan for the Borough Council. This would ensure that all departments look critically at the way savings, and efficiencies could be achieved.

He apologised in advance that he will not be able to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council.

WEBSITE

226 visits to the site in the past month.
A questionnaire has been drafted to send out to the local businesses, and it would seem that a number given on a previous list may not now be still in business.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

This plan has now been approved by the Ashford Borough Council executive, and will now go to the Planning Inspectorate for their consideration.

It was reported that this plan now contains all the preferred sites as identified by the group of Bethersden residents in response to the invitation by the Borough council.

YOUTH FORUM.

Due to the snowy weather conditions this group did not meet.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA, AND ITEMS OF INTEREST.

It has been suggested that the Parish Magazine should include a page as a regular feature on the Parish Council Meetings, and matters of interest and/or concern. It is understood that this is a regular feature in some parishes. It was agreed that the Clerk be asked to look into this and find some examples for our consideration.

Cllr K Brannan apologised for his absence at the next meeting.

Addition to next agenda "Land adjacent to Hanover Lodge".

Kentish Express

Concern was expressed that the Bethersden News in the Kentish Express has given information not approved by individuals of the Parish Council.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, 10th March 2010

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.20 pm