

BETHERSDEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Wednesday, 14th December 2011 at 8.15 p.m.

PRESENT:

Mr A. Boyd in the Chair, Mr K. Mitchell, Mr K. Brannan, Mr P. Buss, Mr T. Carmichael, Mr H. Eyre, Mr B. Muddell, , Mrs J. Crannis, Mrs D. Healey and the Clerk, Mrs. M. Shaw.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr R. Taylor (Borough Councillor) and four members of the public.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting, it was proposed by Mr K. Mitchell, seconded by Mr K. Brannan, and unanimously agreed that these were a correct record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman, Mr A. Boyd. The minutes of the Finance Committee meeting were approved and duly signed.

3. A28 SPEED REVIEW:

Mrs C. Buckley and Mr G. Williams attended and detailed what the final phase of the plans entailed, these being speed restriction of 50 mph from Spratt's Barn to Furner Farm, this is achievable and cost effective, the scheme could cost in the region of £ 3,000 – £ 6,000. The proposals have been supported by Jacobs. Funding would be required from other sources as County Councillor Richard King had used his allowance in previous years and cannot support Bethersden again. It was unanimously agreed that they should pursue this, and that the Parish Council agreed in principle to give financial support.

It was suggested that an interactive speed sign would remind motorists of their speed. It was agreed that the "STOP" sign approaching the A28 from Woodchurch Road should be repositioned to be seen more easily.

4. PLANNING CONSULTATIONS:

11/01093/AS Mrs Kim Osborne, Cedar House, Ashford Road, Bethersden
Change of Garage into habitable living space.
Supported with the proviso that this is not used as a separate dwelling.

11/01276/AS Dr Lawrence Haynes, Land North & East of, Wissenden House Oast, Wissenden Lane, Bethersden.
Certificate of Lawful Development – Existing – Installation of gateway and creation of new access.
Supported.

11/01265/AS Mr Steven Scrivens, Longberry Farm, Etchden Road, Bethersden.
Replacement dwelling.
Objected to, Cllr Taylor is to investigate with the Planning department and requested that it goes to the full planning Committee if Planning Officers are minded to approve.

11/01318/AS Mr A. Boyd, Wissenden Lodge Farmhouse, Wissenden Lane, Bethersden.
Change of use of land for the stationing of 1 no. Mobile Home.
Supported with a condition that this should only be temporary for three years.

11/01276/AS Dr Lawrie Haynes, Wissenden House, Wissenden, Bethersden.
Creation of a new access and erection of gate.
Supported.

11/01289/AS Mr D. Wraight, Barton Farm, Old Surrenden Manor Farm, Bethersden.
Proposed light industrial building.
Supported.

11/01204/AS Mr Grant Kay, Great Chart Golf & Leisure, Bears Lane, Great Chart.
Change of use of land for paint-balling activity.
Supported.

5. GEORGE FIELD DEVELOPMENT:

Planning permission had been approved. The Parish Council should be consulted in relation to the 106 Agreement

6. THE GEORGE CAR PARKING:

This had been refused.

7. LOCAL NEEDS HOUSING:

A meeting had been held this afternoon, it needs a draft overall format before the scheme is progressed and approval by the Parish Council.

8. RECREATION GROUND:

Litter Bin:

The new Litter Bin will be installed by Mr P. Buss in the vicinity of the cycle racks. The existing litter bin has been seriously damaged and it was unanimously agreed to purchase a replacement to match the new one.

Playground Safety Inspection:

Repairs – nothing further.

Trim Trail:

Mr T. Brooks had quoted the sum of £ 498 – 72 to reinstate to its former condition. It was proposed by Mr K. Brannan, seconded by Mr K. Mitchell and unanimously agreed that this work be carried out.

Tennis Courts:

It was understood that progress is being made for the costs of improvements in anticipation of future Grant applications.

Pavilion:

The Chairman had contacted Simon Fuller regarding preventative measures to safeguard the pipes from freezing in severe weather. Mr T. Carmichael reported that there are two options, further consultation to choose the most suitable option and quotes for these are to be emailed to the Chairman. There is another leak in the shower which needs a new unit.

The Chairman had been contacted by Skyline Sports requesting use of the facilities again this year. It was unanimously agreed and that the fee would be £ 75 per occasion.

Gate:

FGS had made adjustments to the gate but this is still not easily accessible.

Youth Shelter:

Rubbish and litter are accumulating behind this, it was agreed that the Street Cleaner be asked to clear this and keep tidy.

9. QUEENS JUBILEE, 2nd – 4th JUNE 2012 CELEBRATION:

A meeting had been held by the Village Society who had agreed in principle to support this event. The road closure form for The Street is being completed by Mr K. Mitchell. Courtesy letters are to be distributed to residents along “The Street” informing them of the proposals.

10. TELEPHONE BOX REPAIRS:

This had been quoted in the region of £1,000 to be sand-blasted etc., it was suggested that this should be inspected by councillors for a more reasonable repair. It was suggested that the Community Pay-Back Scheme could be asked to do this work – Clerk to write accordingly.

11. CARE HOME NEEDS:

The Village Society is forming a Working Group

12. BETHERSDEN VILLAGE SIGNS:

Suitable locations to be suggested by the Jubilee Committee.

13. LOCALISM BILL:

Cllr R. Taylor gave a résumé of the Localism Bill and what A.B.C. are doing to understand this; they have formed three task groups to unravel this document and another to consider the Code of Conduct.

14. ELECTRICITY TARIFFS, change of supplier ?

The Chairman will investigate this.

15. FINANCE:-

Account as at 30th November 2011 (as shown on statement) £ 30,483. - 32

Income received:-

Interest on account £ 4 - 77

Bethersden Tennis Club, Floodlighting Tokens £ 177 - 00

War Memorials Trust, Grant towards renovations £ 195 – 00

Cheques were drawn:-

D. Cook, Street cleaning £ 70 – 00

Mrs M. Shaw, Clerks December salary £ 340 less PAYE £ 68 = £ 272 +
Administration expenses £ 91 - 21 total due £ 363 – 21

St Margaret's PCC, Donation towards Churchyard Wall repairs £ 600 – 00

EDF energy, Electricity, Pavilion £ 105 – 00

Floodlighting Ltd, 50 new token for floodlighting £ 25 - 80

The account had been received from K.C.C. Landscape Services in the Sum of £ 807 – 13 second half year. It was agreed to query this as the number of cuts and weed control measures actually done is disputed, this was queried previously but K.C.C. started that this would be amended with the above account, but has not. It was agreed to request time-sheets before any payment is made.

Budget for 2012/2013

Mr K. Mitchell reported on the Finance Committee meeting on 15th November 2011, the Precept had been set and the Budget was finalised. It was proposed by Mr K. Brannan, seconded by Mr H. Eyre and unanimously agreed that the Precept be raised by £ 500 to £ 17,800 and unanimously agreed. It was proposed by Mr H. Eyre, seconded by Mrs J. Crannis that the Clerks Salary be increased by £ 10 per month and that the Budget be accepted, and this was unanimously agreed.

16. REPORTS.

HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS.

There is still a problem with the PROW and the locked gate, it was agreed that Mr H. Eyre inspect.

There is a water leak at Church Hill, also to be inspected.

COMMUNITY WARDEN:

Kathy Carter had forwarded her monthly report, which was circulated and will also go onto the website.

15. PLANNING:

Approvals received:-

11/01231/AS Peter Adams Trust, Thorne Business Park, Forge Hill, Bethersden.
The installation of 42 Upsolar PV panels to the roof of the Estate Store Building.

11/01124/AS Mrs Liz Smith, Inwood, Brissenden Green Lane, Bethersden.
External alterations to convert existing triple garage to ancillary accommodation.

11/01127/AS Mrs Liz Smith, Inwood, Brissenden Green Lane, Bethersden. Addition of pitched roof with clay tiles, installation of new window and doors with weatherboarding to elevations of outbuilding for use as a garage, shed, storage and workshop.

16. CORRESPONDENCE:

- (i) A.B.C. Rural Sports Project – it was agreed to invite Christian Burwash to the next meeting
- (ii) P.R.O.W. Diversion
- (iii) Lords Lieutenants Civic Service 6th March 2012, Rochester Cathedral
- (iv) English Rural Housing Association Annual Report
- (v) K.C.C. Consultation on Household Waste Recycling Centre
- (vi) K.A.L.C. Minutes – Mr A. Boyd had attended and reported thereon, minutes had been circulated to all councillors.
- (vii) A.B.C. Housing News
- (viii) KALC Chairman’s conference

17. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

Cllr R. Taylor had nothing further to add to his earlier report on Localism.

18. WEBSITE etc.

The site had the usual number of “hits” this month.

The idea of the job adverts had not had any interest.

Mr R. Smith of Neighbourhood Watch enquired via the Chairman about alerts being on the website. It was agreed if this is permitted by the Authority.

19. PARISH PLAN REVIEW:

The minutes of the Village Society are to circulate

20. BROADBAND

The possibility of a broadband wireless repeater being placed on the Church tower to improve reception had been raised with the P.C.C. by Mrs J. Crannis, but they require further information before commenting.

It was suggested that an item on Broadband accessibility be in the next Newsletter.

21. MEMORIAL to Mrs P. PEARMAN

In abeyance for the time being.

22. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA and ITEMS OF INTEREST

Dumped three piece suite – a Councillor knew a man who could possibly remove.

Orchard Field - car parking on the left hand side is causing problems, it was thought that the plastic grass protector could help the situation – Mr H. Eyre will investigate.

Cllr R. Taylor will also make enquiries about creation of a lay-by by the bungalows.

At “Holmlea” on the Ashford Road they are selling potatoes and customers are creating serious hazards to other road users – agreed to contact A.B.C. as this is roadside trading.

23. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next Meeting of the Parish Council was agreed for Wednesday, 11th January 2012 at 8 p.m. with the Planning Meeting to be held at 7.30 p.m.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.05 p.m.
