

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at Tyland Barn, Tyland Lane, Sandling on Monday 8 April 2013, commencing at 7.35 pm.

Councillors present: Mr Ivor Davies (Chairman), Mrs P Brooks, Mr Vic Davies, Mr P Dengate, Mrs Wendy Hinder, Mrs K Macklin, Mr K Perry, Mrs A Spain, Mr A Springate, Mr P Sullivan and Mrs M Waller together with the Clerk, Borough Councillor Butler and two members of the press/public.

1. Apologies and absences.

Cllr T Harwood (holiday), Cllr Bob Hinder (meeting), Cllr Holmes (work) and Cllr G Smith (unwell).

2. Declaration of Interests or Lobbying.

Members **noted** the reminder about the need to declare any interests, requests for dispensation, lobbying or changes to the Register of Interests.

Cllr Spain declared a pecuniary interest in item 8 and would leave the meeting if there were any confidential discussions or decisions.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 4 March 2013.

The minutes of the meeting were **agreed** and **signed** as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising From the Minutes.

4.1 Minute 2514/5.2 Speedwatch: **noted** that a second course will be arranged and that current sites were being reassessed due to changes in the guidance of where volunteers could stand.

4.2 Minute 2514/5.4 Cuckoo Wood land valuation: **noted** that a response was awaited from Crown Estates.

5 Report from the PCSO and Police Issues.

Noted and received the crime statistics. Cllr Wendy Hinder notified members that she had involved the PCSO in dealing with parking at the dropped kerb on Boxley Road.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.40pm to allow a member of the public to brief members on a recent Sandling Residents Association meeting which raised concern about litter in the village especially at the lorry park. The Clerk offered to liaise with the association if they experienced any problems arranging a litter pick. The issue of campers in Cuckoo Wood was also raised and it was noted that the PCSO and other agencies had been involved and the situation was being monitored. The meeting reconvened at 7.45pm.

6 Draft Minutes of Recent Committee Meetings.

Noted and Received:

6.1 Environment Committee meeting 18 March 2013.

6.2 Finance Committee meeting 20 March 2013.

7 Finance.

7.1 **Noted** the payments made out of meeting 05.03.13 – 31.03.13. Appendix A.

7.2 **Noted** the receipts for the period 26.02.13 – 31.03.13. Appendix B.

7.3 **Noted** the account balances as at 31.03.13. Appendix C.

7.4 Authorised the payments of accounts presented at the meeting. Appendix D.

8 Land at Sandy Lane, Boxley.

As no confidential information was being received or sensitive decisions being taken the meeting remained open to the press and public. Due to limitations in the physical surroundings Cllr Spain did not leave the meeting but took no part in the item.

8.1 **Noted** the update from the Working Group.

8.2 Discussion took place on the use and the name of the land. It was proposed from the Chair and **unanimously agreed** that **the land is to be used for allotments**. It was proposed by Cllr Wendy Hinder, seconded by Cllr Dengate,

and **agreed** that the area be called **Boxley Parish Council Allotments – Dove Hill.**

9 **Parish Councillor Vacancy.**

The Chairman formally notified the meeting of the resignation of Cllr Perry. The Clerk then briefed members on the process for filling the vacancy. In the following discussion, it was agreed that ideally this should be by a South Ward resident if there were suitable applicants. Cllr Perry's local knowledge, particularly of Grove Green, had been invaluable. Various publicity ideas were then considered. The Chairman would review the information that is supplied to interested parties. **Action Clerk, office and Chairman.**

10 **Policies and Procedures Review.**

10.1 Standing Orders: **agreed** no change necessary as the document was still fit for purpose.

10.2 Terms of Reference of Committees: **agreed** that:

- The Finance Committee would be renamed **Finance and General Purposes Committee.**
- The inclusion of the following concluding phrase in the Terms of Reference of all committees: **"The parish council may allocate to the committee matters outside of the above remit with the agreement of the Chair and Vice Chair of the committee"**.

10.3 Financial Regulations: **agreed** a change to regulation 11.3 so that it now reads *"Parish Councillor Allowances, **staff salaries and PAYE/NI contributions** can be paid by standing order or BACS as approved by the parish council"*.

11 **Matters for Decision.**

None submitted for consideration.

12 **Reports from Borough and County Councillors.**

Borough Councillor Butler reported on an issue concerning MBC inspection of play areas; the Clerk confirmed that there was currently no problem in Boxley parish. It was noted that MBC had passed its new dog fouling legislation.

Cllr Wendy Hinder notified members of the concern over the litter and other refuse at the lorry park on (Old) Chatham Road which were becoming a health issue and that she had been in contact with MBC. It was **agreed** that letters should be sent from the parish council to the relevant departments in MBC and T&MBC, copied to the Sandling RA and Aylesford PC. **Action office.**

Cllr Hinder gave a brief report to members on the Maidstone Studios parking issue at Grove Green and notified them that a fuller report was being submitted to the Environment Committee.

13 **Reports from councillors/office.**

13.1 Cllr Brooks notified members that she had attended the Vinters Valley Nature Reserve AGM and that Cllr Vic Davies had been elected as Chairman of the Trust. The Chairman congratulated Cllr Davies on behalf of members. It was **noted** that a 'Four Seasons' DVD had been produced by the Trust which Cllr Brooks had placed in the parish office for members to view if they wished.

13.2 The Chairman gave a report on the well-attended KFAS (Kent Federation of Amenity Societies) London Hub Airport Conference on 22/3/13 at County Hall. All the subsequent speakers had noted that the opening briefing by the Mayor of London's aviation adviser had concentrated on possible economic advantages to the county, and these were debatable, with scarcely a mention of the inevitable massive environmental damage of the various proposals.

13.3 Cllr Dengate reported that he had attended a very useful KALC Planning Training conference where concern was raised about large scale housing

developments being put forward for AONBs. The Clerk confirmed that a full report had been supplied to Environment Committee members and various issues identified at the training day would be brought to the agenda for further discussion.

14 **Matters for Information.**

Noted

- 14.1 Boxley Warren and other Events calendar.
- 14.2 Kent Wildlife Trust – Wild Kent issue Spring 2013.
- 14.3 Clerks and Councils Direct issue March 2013.
- 14.4 KALC Minutes of Maidstone Area Committee.
- 14.5 ACRK – Oast to Coast issues Spring 2013
- 14.6 Report from Cllr Smith concerning the Mid Kent Steering Group meeting on 21/03/13.
- 14.7 The 2nd "Meet Your Commissioner" Event – 24 April 2013.
- 14.8 Openness and transparency on personal interests: A guide for councillors (England).
- 14.9 ACRK Rural News issue 127.
- 14.10 Kenward Trust. Thank you letter for the donation.

The Chairman on behalf of the parish council and community thanked Cllr Perry for the 13 years dedicated service he had given the parish and he would be greatly missed. Cllr Wendy Hinder thanked Cllr Perry for his service on the Environment Committee.

15 **Next Meeting.**

Monday 13 May 2013 at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close.

Meeting closed at 8.58 p.m.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

Chairman.....Date.....