

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at the Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade, on Monday 28 January 2013 commencing at 7.33 pm.**

Councillors present: Mr Ivor Davies (Chairman), Mrs P Brooks, Mr Vic Davies, Mr P Dengate, Mr T Harwood (arrived during item 4.2, left again with apologies at item 12.1), Mr Bob Hinder, Mrs Wendy Hinder, Mr D Holmes, Mrs K Macklin, Mr K Perry, Mr G Smith, Mrs A Spain, Mr A Springate, Mr P Sullivan and Mrs M Waller together with the Clerk, Borough Councillor Butler, and 2 members of the press/public.

**1. Apologies and absences.**

PCSO Hawthorn. Cllr Harwood apologised as he might have to leave early as he was 'on call duty' for KCC.

**2. Declaration of Interests or Lobbying.**

Cllr Spain notified members that she had a Pecuniary Interest in item 11.

**3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 3 December 2012.**

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

**4. Matters Arising From the Minutes.**

4.1 Minute 2487/4.1 Round Wood/Walderslade Woods: members **welcomed** the registration of Walderslade Woods as a village green and thanked the Clerk for all her work on this matter over the past eight years.

4.2 Minute 2487/4.2 Weaving Diamond Jubilee Orchard: the Chairman and Vice-Chairman signed the legal agreement for the lease of the land.

4.3 Minute 2487/4.4 Speedwatch: **noted** a date would be arranged.

4.4 Minute 2489/12.4 Parish Tour: members asked that Cuckoo Wood and Lordswood Lane be added to the itinerary.

**5 Report from the PCSO and Police Issues.**

**Noted and received** the Crime statistics. Cllr Bob Hinder suggested that the stolen wheelie bin may have been swallowed by the refuse lorry along with the rubbish, as this had happened to him and his neighbour. **Action: notify PCSO Hawthorne**

The meeting was adjourned at 7.44 pm to allow a member of the public to inform members that the KCC salt bin for Chatham Road, Sandling, had not arrived. Cllr Dengate added that a salt bin installed in Lordswood did not have the 'for use on the public highway only' notice. The Clerk was asked to contact KCC. It was also reported that serious dog fouling was happening along Chatham Road, Sandling. The Clerk was asked to liaise with the resident about dog fouling signs and also notify MBC. **Action: office.** The meeting reconvened at 7.46 pm.

**6 Draft Minutes of Recent Committee Meetings.**

**Noted and Received:**

6.1 Environment Committee meeting 3 December 2012. Cllr Perry pointed out that changes agreed at the Environment Committee were not shown in the reproduced minutes. **Action: office.**

6.2 Environment Committee meeting 10 December 2012.

6.3 Estates Committee meeting 11 December 2012.

6.4 Environment Committee meeting 7 January 2013. Cllr Perry pointed out that changes agreed at the Environment Committee were not shown in the reproduced minutes. **Action: office.**

6.5 Finance Committee 8 January 2013.

**7 Finance.**

**Noted and Received:**

7.1 Payments made out of meeting 03.12.12 – 21.01.13. Appendix A.

7.2 Receipts for the period 27.11.13 – 21.01.13. Appendix B.

7.3 Account balances as at 21.01.13. Appendix C.

- 7.4 Authorised payments of accounts. Appendix D.  
 7.5 Parish councillor financial audit: Cllr Dengate offered to undertake the work.  
**Action: Clerk and Cllr Dengate.**

## 8 **2013/2014 Precept and Budget.**

After giving members an opportunity to highlight any concerns over the budget the chairman proposed that **"the Finance Committee's recommendation that the 2013/2014 budget be adopted is accepted"**. This was **unanimously agreed**.

Members **received** the advice from MBC, which had arrived only on 25 January, that total funding from the Parish Services Scheme would be £14,244. Members noted that this was better than expected but asked the Clerk to check whether it included the £400 payment for having a play area.

As only the £550 for noticeboards previously confirmed by MBC had been included in the budget recommended by the Finance Committee, members considered how to incorporate the additional £13,694 income. As a majority indicated that they wished to reduce the Finance Committee's precept recommendation by the amount received from MBC, the chairman proposed, seconded by Cllr Bob Hinder that **"The budget be adopted with a precept of £100,988 being set."** Agreed (11 for and 4 abstentions). The Chairman and Clerk signed the MBC Precept Requirement paperwork.

## 9 **Cuckoo Wood.**

Members **received** the Clerk's briefing note. Cllr Harwood suggested that, rather than outright purchase, the parish council could enter into a similar agreement to that for Horish Wood, namely to become part of a consortium that would apply for funding to purchase/manage the land. Discussion then took place on how many parish residents would benefit; the importance of Ancient Woodland and environmental issues. Cllr Harwood proposed, seconded by Cllr Dengate that **"the parish council applies for a value for the land from the Bona Vacantia Division in order that discussion can take place with interested parties"**. This was **agreed** (7 for, 3 against and 5 abstentions).

## 10 **Solar Panels at Beechen Hall.**

Cllr Smith addressed the meeting on the importance of renewable energy; rising utility costs; and the need to set an example for parishioners. Lengthy discussion then took place covering the 'invest to save' ethos; reports of below-forecast power generation; maintenance issues; tariffs and predicted income; and current financial constraints. Cllr Vic Davies proposed seconded Cllr Smith "that Boxley Parish Council releases up to £7,000 from its reserves to pay for the installation of solar panels at Beechen Hall". The proposition was defeated (5 for, 9 against and 1 abstention).

## 11 **Land at Sandy Lane, Boxley.**

**Noted** the legal paperwork was being prepared by the solicitors.

## 12 **Policies and Procedures Review.**

12.1 Review of the Policies and Procedures Calendar 2013–2014: **agreed**.

12.2 Member numbers for committees: **agreed** no change to current numbers.

## 13 **Matters for Decision.**

13.1 The date of the annual meeting of the parish was **agreed** as 4<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

13.2 **Agreed** the Police quarterly newsletter would be supplied to members via e-mail, or paper copy if requested.

13.3 Parishes Police Forum meeting will be 25<sup>th</sup> April 2013 at Headcorn; the Chairman to attend. Members **noted** details of the Police Community Event being held on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March in Hollingbourne. **Action: Cllr Ivor Davies.**

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

Cllr Butler gave a report on matters relating to the parish including notification that there was a vacancy on the MBC Audit Committee for an independent member. He had been informed that some external funding may become available for parish councils and he would keep monitoring the situation and advise the council on any developments.

Members received Cllr Wendy Hinder's written report and it was noted that she had finally managed to get the salt bins installed at Lordswood but that she was concerned at the amount of time it had taken.

**15 Reports from councillors/office.**

The reports were **received**.

- 15.1 Report on Protect Kent – Maidstone Committee AGM held in County Hall on 5<sup>th</sup> December, Cllr P Brooks.
- 15.2 Cllr Brooks Report on my visit to the NEXT presentation at the Hilton Hotel, Cllr P Brooks.
- 15.3 CPRE Meeting – AGM for Protect Kent, Cllr P Brooks.

**16 Matters for Information.**

- 16.1 KALC December Parish News
- 16.2 Rural News issue 124.
- 16.3 Kenward Trust Newsletter.
- 16.4 Thank you, for the grant, letter from Victim Support.
- 16.5 Kent Downs AONB E Bulletin Dec 2012.
- 16.6 KCC Inside Track Nov 2012 issue.
- 16.7 CPRE Fieldwork magazine Winter 2012.
- 16.8 ACRK Oast to Coast Winter 2012.
- 16.9 KALC Maidstone Committee minutes November 2012.
- 16.10 Parishes Police Forum 25/01/13 minutes.
- 16.11 Rural News issue 125.
- 16.12 'Meet Your Police Commissioner' Event on Wednesday 20 February 2013 at the Oakwood Hotel, Maidstone.

**17 Next Meeting.**

Monday 4 March 2013 at Weaving Village Hall, Weaving Street.

Meeting closed at 9.28 p.m.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

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