

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE OLD HALL, METHODIST BUILDING, POUND ROAD ON MONDAY 17 OCTOBER AT 20.00 HOURS

PRESENT: Cllrs: Bearman, Crawford, Mrs. Cresswell (Chairman), Cresswell, Gardner, Shead, Street & Whiteside

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs. K Bell (Clerk), County Councillor Long, Borough Councillor Mrs. Holland & 1 resident

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. Boyle & Poole

Before the meeting started the Chairman suspended Standing Orders and read to members a letter which had been received from Mr. & Mrs. Russell who had thanked the PC for its kind letter following the death of their son Philip in the London bombing tragedy.

1. Declarations of Interests

Cllrs. Crawford, Cresswell and Whiteside declared an interest in item 15c(ii)

2. Questions from Parishioners:

A resident drew attention to a number of Highways issues, which had already been identified by the PC and referred to Kent Highways Services (KHS). The resident was advised not only to notify the Clerk of any Highway concerns but also to contact KHS directly and the Clerk would provide him with the contact telephone number.

3. Report from County & Borough Councillors

Borough Councillor Mrs. Holland asked members to reconsider their decision not to pay the full amount in respect of the 4th week of the Summer 05 Playscheme. Mrs. Holland was advised of the reasoning behind the PCs decision and informed that the matter would be discussed further.

County Councillor Richard Long

Drew attention to the following:

- Paul Carter had been elected as the new leader of KCC.
- There would be a reorganization of the KCC Cabinet and the departments.
- Local Board. He had been somewhat dismayed in the way in which the allocation of Community Grants had been handled at a recent meeting and as there was still some funding available in the current financial year urged the PC to submit an application for funding ASAP. In the meantime KCC would be asked to confirm the accuracy of the applications, which had received funding.

4. Parish Council

a. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 05

Cllr. Street advised members that the meeting of the Community & Police Working Group would take place on 20 October and not 07 October. The minutes of the meeting were amended accordingly, following which they were agreed and signed as a true record of the proceedings.

b. Matters Arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda

Minute 3, 19 September 05 - Street Light Energy Referral to Energy Watch

It was reported that a reply had not been received.

Minute 3, 19 September 05 – Presentation of Try Angle Awards

It was noted that the certificates were presented to youth club members on 10 October.

Minute 11, 19 September 05 – Kent Village of the Year Competition

It was reported that in next year's competition entry the organisers would be looking at:

- Progress, new ideas, innovations, community involvement
- Whether East Peckham was responsive to the changing needs of the community
- What East Peckham can offer its residents to improve the overall quality of their life.
- In the environment category East Peckham would be judged on its attitude towards the environment and judges would be looking at sustainable management, long-term improvement of the environment and a commitment to environmental action.

It was noted that this years overall winners had formed a committee who compiled their entry with 'village specialists' who provided the information, which resulted in a broader appreciation of what the village had to offer.

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that TMBC would be asked to streamline the village recycling facilities so that the various recycling banks were in one location.

Minute 13c, 19 September 05 – S136 Grant to EP PCC

It was reported that a letter of appreciation had been received from the PCC

Minute 13g, 19 September 05 - Summer Playscheme 2005: 4th Week Payment

It was reported that a letter had been received from Mr. Styles (TMBCs Chief Leisure Officer) who had expressed his disappointed at the PCs decision not to pay the full amount towards the 4th week of the playscheme. He had drawn attention to the following

- The fourth week costs were fixed and related to rental, workshops and staffing expenditure and did not operate on a pro rata basis and could not be reduced.
- EPPC was the only PC to pay on a pro rata basis this year.
- Every effort was made to fill vacant places prior to the scheme starting.
- An additional project was run in the fourth week relating the East Peckham site alone where children visited the East Peckham Dam and compiled a time capsule. These costs were not passed onto the PC.
- The PC had been asked to reconsider its decision and pay an additional £267.34.

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that Mr Styles would be invited to discuss the matter in person with the PC at the next meeting. Following which members may decide to pay an additional £267.34.

c. Parish Council Website: Progress Report

Cllr. Street reported that good progress was being made and that while it was hoped to present a demonstration to members, due to technical difficulties this was not possible but a presentation would be made to members on 07 November 05.

d. The Standards Board For England

It was reported that a complaint had been made against Cllr. Mrs. Cresswell and that the Standards Board had determined that the complaint was not considered to be serious enough to merit an investigation.

5. **Planning Committee**

a. **Minutes of meetings held on 19 September 05 and 03 October 05**

The minutes of the meetings, which were copied to members, were approved

b. **Circulation of Planning Applications prior to committee meetings**

The Clerk requested that members reconsider the distribution of Planning Applications and went on to explain that should she distribute applications according to members areas she could not take into account whether members were on leave and whether members had an interest in a specific application.

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that in future members would receive an agenda for the meeting and the Clerk would retain the planning applications. If members were interested in receiving any planning application applicable to their area they were to notify the Clerk prior to the Friday before the meeting after which applications would be passed to the Planning Chairman.

6. **TMBC**

a. **Parish Partnership Panel: Minutes from meeting held on 01 September 05**

The minutes were noted with interest and copied to members.

b. **Local Government Finances: Motion passed by TMBC on 27 September 05**

The motion had been copied to members. It was noted that TMBC had demanded fair and equitable Government support for the residents of the Borough.

c. **Grants to Voluntary & Community Groups**

It was reported that information and guidelines had been received regarding the grant scheme. The information was noted with interest and copied to members. The Clerk informed members that she had passed the information to the editor of the Parish Magazine for publication in the next issue so that local voluntary and community groups were aware that grants were available.

7. **Groups & Organisations**

a. **Committee of Sports Hall & Playing Field Management**

(i) **Report from Representative**

Attention was drawn to the following:

- The next committee meeting would be held on 31 October 05.
- New gates had been installed on the entrance to the childrens play area.

(ii) **Installation of new equipment on the Playing Fields (Update):** Item 15 refers

(iii) **Accounts for the financial year 04/05:** To be presented at the next meeting.

(iv) **To receive details of correspondence from resident**

It was reported that a resident had expressed his dissatisfaction that the car park gates were locked at night and had been informed of the reasoning behind the Committees decision to employ a Security Company.

(v) Installation of a water fountain on the playing fields

Cllr. Cresswell informed members that owing to health and safety implications the committee would not be installing a water fountain.

b. Community & Police Working Group: The next meeting would be held on 20 October.

c. Village Design Statement

Cllr. Whiteside reported that there had not been a recent meeting and that as the past Chairman of the VDS Team had recently returned to the village he was hoping to co-opt him to the Working Party.

d. Allotments

(i) Report of Informal Meeting held on 25 September 05

It was reported that the meeting did not take place.

(ii) Report of Annual Allotment Holders Meeting held on 07 October 05

Cllrs. Gardner & Whiteside reported and drew attention to the following:

- Alan Gardner chaired the meeting.
- 7 allotment holders were present at the meeting
- Mr. Grenham was reappointed to the allotment panel. The allotment holders present thanked him for all his hard work.
- There were currently 8 vacant plots.
- Informal meetings would be held on the last Sundays in March and June 06. The annual meeting would be held on the first Friday in October 06.
- A working party would be held on Saturday 5.11.05 at 10.00 a.m. The specific aim of the working party would be to tidy the allotment site. Members of the Parish Council were invited to participate.
- A suitable non-concussive tap would be purchased and installed on a timer basis of up to 30 minutes.
- An additional water butt would be acquired.
- Individual plots would be marked out with marker posts placed in the corners of each plot.
- The allotment panel would attempt to carry out a long-term repair to the hinge on the allotment gate.
- It was agreed that fruit trees could be planted.
- Water. Robin Whiteside agreed to turn off the water at the end of October. The water would be turned on again at the onset of Spring 2006.

8 Best Village Front Garden Competition 2005:

Following a successful presentation evening held on 10 October 05, the results of this year's competition were confirmed as follows:

Small Gardens	1 st	70 Pound Road
	2 nd	32 Medway Meadows
	3 rd	11 Golding Gardens
	Highly Commended	29 The Freehold
		160 Bush Road
		7 Snoll Hatch Road

Medium Gardens	1 st	24 Fell Mead
	2 nd	70 Old Road
	Highly Commended	8 Strettitt Gardens 84 Old Road
Large Gardens	1 st	519 Bullen Lane
	2 nd	84 Pound Road
	3 rd	4 Strettitt Gardens
Baskets & Planters	1 st	23 Henham Gardens
	Highly Commended	50 Westwood Road
		42/44 Snoll Hatch Road
		84 Pound Road
		15 Henham Gardens

The overall winning garden was 519 Bullen Lane

9. Christmas 2005 Village Lighting

Following a discussion it was **RESOLVED** that:

- A budget of £100 would be made available for festive lighting.
- Cllrs. Gardner & Whiteside would investigate various options.
- The Clerk would enquire whether the proprietor of the Village Stores would be able to accommodate a village Christmas tree again this year.
- Cllr. Bearman would ascertain whether the flats above the parade of shops in Pound Road could accommodate festive decoration.
- The various options available would be discussed at the next meeting of the PC.

10. KCC: Local Board – Report of meeting held on 28 September 05

Minute 3 refers. In addition, Cllr. Mrs. Cresswell reported that she attended the meeting and as well as expressing her dissatisfaction in the way Member Community Grants and Small Community Capital Grants were awarded drew attention to the following issues, which were discussed:

- Vision for Kent
- Youth & Community Issues
- Highways Update
- Second Homes Money
- The next meeting would be held on 06 December 05

11. Speedwatch

The information, which had been prepared by the Clerk and copied to members, was noted. The Clerk informed members that information packs, which would provide information such as supplier's details and costings were due to be distributed by KAPC at their AGM on 05 November. If no member was able to attend the AGM, the Clerk would obtain a copy directly from KAPC. Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the PC would consider the matter when all relevant information had been received.

12. KAPC: Notice of 58th Annual General Meeting to be held on 05 November 05

Cllr. Mrs. Cresswell informed members that she would be unable to attend the meeting. Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that members would notify the Clerk by 31 October 05 if they wished to attend.

13. Action with Communities in Rural Kent: Notice of Annual Meeting - 19 October 05

Cllr. Mrs. Cresswell informed members that she hoped to be able to attend the meeting

14. Correspondence

It was reported that the following items had been received:

- a. **Blue Print:** The Magazine for the Emergency Planning Society (passed to Cllr. Poole)
- b. **The Standards Board For England:** Town & Parish Standard 04 – copied to members
- c. **The Land Registry (Tunbridge Wells Office):** Invitation to register unregistered PC Land
- d. **Arbour (Autumn 05)** – The Journal of the Kent Men of Trees (passed to Cllr. Shead)
- e. **English Rural Housing Association:** 2005 Report & Review
- f. **New Gemini:** Litter bins & recycling products
- g. **Glasdon:** Local Councils News sheet & product information
- h. **The Chiltern Hundreds:** 2005 Festive Menus
- i. **Action with Communities in Rural Kent:** Oast to Coast 05
- j. **Hospice in the Weald:** News (Autumn 2005)
- k. **KAPC:** Annual Report 2004/05

15. Finance

a. Bank Reconciliation as at 30.9.05

The information, which had been prepared by the Clerk and copied to members, was noted.

b. Budgetary Control Information as at 30.9.05

The information, which had been prepared by the Clerk and copied to members, was noted.

c. 2005/06 S136 Basic Allocation:

(i) Analysis of Grants made since 1999/2000

The information, which had been prepared by the Clerk and copied to members, was noted.

(ii) Consideration of applications received in respect of projects relating to Village Halls & Open Spaces

Members were informed that two applications had been received; they had been copied to members and related to the following projects:

- Application from East Peckham Village Hall who subject to Planning Permission being granted were seeking funding of 50% towards the installation of outdoor lighting. It was anticipated that the project would cost £1,796.17 (+ VAT) and funding of 50% had been requested (£898.09 + VAT)
- Application from the Committee of Sports Hall & Playing Field Management who were seeking funding towards the provision of multiplay equipment, the repositioning of existing play equipment and two benches. It was anticipated that the project would cost £23,354 and that funding of £14,057 had already been approved by existing grants (from the Committee of Sports Hall & Playing Field Management, the PC (2004/05 grant) and TMBC) leaving a shortfall of £9,297, the Committee would make available a further contribution of £2,500 leaving a balance of £6,797.

Members were informed that the following monies were available:

2005/06 S136 Funding		£5,937.00
Less amount already allocated	EPPCC	£1,268.00
Net 2005/06 S136 Funding available		£4,669.00
2005/06 Reserve		£6,562.00
Total funding available		£11231.00

Following a discussion it was proposed by Cllr. Street, seconded by Cllr. Bearman and **RESOLVED** that:

- The Village Hall Management Committee would be awarded a grant of £898.09 (Plus VAT)
- The Committee of Sports Hall & Playing Field Management would be awarded a grant of £6,797.00 (plus VAT)

b. 2006/07 S137 Grant Applications

Members were informed that village organisations had been invited to submit an application and that only one application had been received. That application was from the Committee of Sports Hall & Playing Field Management who were seeking funding of £11,414.00 towards a youth shelter, a base, excavation work, the removal of the hexagonal swing and the provision of a two-seat youth swing.

Following a discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the PC would support the application, which would be forwarded to TMBC.

c. Financial Transactions

Receipts since 19.9.05

Sept 05	Precept TMBC 2 nd half	£23,950.00
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Payments made since 19.9.05

22.9.05	*D/D British Gas – Sports Hall Gas Supply (S19)	£79.00
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The following payments were approved

Mrs. K Bell	October 05 Salary less deductions plus Expenses (S112/137)	£819.03 Chq 2334/2335
Mrs. J Cresswell	Mileage & expenses	£68.79 Chq 2336
EDF Energy	Streetlight Maintenance Oct (S10)	£324.18 Chq 2337
EDF Energy	Streetlight Energy (S10)	£337.95 Chq 2338
Kent Grassland SVC	*September Playing Field Maintenance (S19)	£446.50 Chq 2339
Sweepclean	Litter Clearing Sept 05 (S137)	£88.13 Chq 2340
KCC (KCS)	*Sports Hall supplies (S19)	£146.68
	Parish Office Printer (S112)	£106.93
		£253.61 Chq 2341
E P Methodist Church	Hall Hire July/Sept 05(S112)	£36.47
	Office Hire Oct/Dec 05 (S112)	£275.72
		£312.19 Chq 2342
Ditton Electrical Contracts	*Sports Hall electrical work	£117.04 Chq 2343
Hills Office Services	Photocopier service & toner	£247.82 Chq 2344
Hever Landscapes	Village/churchyard maintenance	
	October 05 (S164)	£696.39 Chq 2346
Total approved		£3,711.63
*Payments to be charged to the Committee of Sports Hall & Playing Field Grant		

16. **Matters for future Discussion:** There were none

17. **Date & time of Next Meeting:** 21 November 05

There being no additional business, the meeting closed at 21.50 hours.