

Little Bromley Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on

Thursday 20th December 2012 at 7.30pm at the Haywain Public House, Little Bromley.

In attendance:-

Councillor S. Wilcox	Chairman
Councillor R. Middleton	Vice Chairman
Councillor K. Hatch	
Councillor M Ashmore	
Mrs S Shute	Clerk
11 members of the public.	

97 12/13 Introduction and Welcome.

The Chairman welcomed the public and press to the meeting.

98 12/13 Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from Councillor R. Christmas.

99 12/13 Acceptance of Minutes.

The minutes of the meetings dated 25th October were accepted as read and signed by the Chairman.

100 12/13 Declaration of Interests.

The Chairman, Councillor Wilcox, declared an interest in minute number 91 12/13 and he said he would leave the meeting at this point. Additionally, he explained that he and Councillor Hatch would have to declare an interest in the Amenity Organisation as both are members. When this item is discussed he explained that he would close the meeting and re-open after its discussion.

101 12/13 Public Participation.

A resident requested that the road safety issue at the war memorial corner is re visited and felt it is not satisfactory to just dismiss the issue in the face of difficulty in getting agreements. Also the feasibility of a footpath through the village should be re-opened as it is very dangerous for pedestrians and school children. It was felt that now the country is coming out of the recession we should be able to prepare for any possible availability of funding and endeavour to get footpaths installed at least in the most dangerous sections of the village. Sections identified were north from the council houses to the corner of Ardleigh Road and south from "Pampas" to the "Headlands" development. Councillor Hatch suggested white lines are painted through the village in the hope of improving safety.

A member of the public requested draft minutes be published prior to the meeting.

Mr Knott, parishioner, objected to the increase in the precept and made some comments in a manner in which the council found offensive. The Council felt he implied that the councillors were only working for their own financial gain and not for the good of the village.

Councillor Stock said that there is a cost for democracy. A Parish Council can influence local issues and this is good use of taxpayers money. Councillor Stock added that it is normal practice to claim expenses; he said that his claims to Tendring District Council amount to approx. £4000 per year. Mr Knott continued to make remarks particularly regarding the clerks salary despite the legal obligations of the PC being explained to him.

The clerk became upset and temporarily left the meeting at this point.

102 12/13 To pass a resolution granting a general exemption from DPI in relation to the setting of the annual precept.

The Chairman read out the following resolution:-

"Little Bromley Parish Council grants it's councillors, elected or co-opted, a general dispensation from restrictions imposed by Section 31(1) and 31(4) of the Localism Act 2011, enabling members with beneficial interests in land within the administrative area of Little Bromley to participate and vote on issues related to the setting of Precepts under the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

This Dispensation is granted under section 33(2)(a) of the Localism Act 2011, on the grounds that without the dispensation each member of the Parish Council would be prohibited from participating in the business of the determination and setting of the annual Precept. This General Dispensation shall remain in force until the next

Parish Council elections in May 2015.

Little Bromley Parish Council is empowered to grant this Dispensation as a Relevant Authority as defined in section 27(6)(d) of the Localism Act 2011.”

The resolution was agreed by council. Proposed Councillor Middleton and seconded by Councillor Ashmore.

Item discharged.

103 12/13 Matters arising from the meeting held on 25th October 2012.

9 12/13 Restoration of War Memorial

Councillor Middleton reported that the stonemasons have completed all the work they intend to do and no longer intend to re-lead the lettering as included in their original quote. The invoice will be disputed accordingly. Councillor Middleton said that he has secured a grant from the War Memorial Trust of up to 50% of the final cost. Two quotes have so far been obtained for the required foundation work, a third is still awaited.

Item continued.

11 12/13 Dog Fouling.

A bin has now been installed in Chequers Road.

Item discharged.

26 12/13 Vehicle Activated Sign.

It was reported that the Tendring Highway panel have agreed the use of the mobile VAS and Little Bromley will be the first village on the programme to make use of it.

Item continued.

28 12/13 Bus Shelter

It was agreed to send a question to Tendring District Council, to be asked at their next meeting, why they have refused to give permission to erect the bus shelter on a small piece of their land.

Action: Clerk

7812/13 Village Risk Assessment

It was stated that a draft report has been written which will be presented to the councillors in due course. Although there was nothing major to report it was stated that some road signs are missing and others need cleaning.

Item continued.

89 12/13 Budget / Precept 2013/14

The Chairman explained that some minor changes to the budget have been necessary and the precept will rise from £2247 to £3620. The council tax on a Band D property will rise from £23 to £36 per annum. There will be minimal increases in the following years.

Item discharged.

91 12/13 TDC Local Plan - Village Envelope.

The Chairman left the room whilst this item was discussed with Cllr Middleton temporarily taking the chair.

The Council agreed to support the development of the land at Brook House.

Item discharged.

92 12/13 Snow / Ice.

20 bags of rock salt have now been delivered for use by the village on a first come first served basis. Residents should contact The Haywain in the first instance.

Item discharged.

104 12/13 Reports

104.1 12/13 Report from the County Councillor.

Councillor Candy said that final consultations regarding mineral extraction at Ardleigh have not yet taken place. ECC have adopted a mineral plan and Ardleigh is not listed as a preferred site.

There is insufficient silica sand at Manning Grove to justify extraction; however, that consultation period doesn't end until January.

104.2 12/13 Report from the District Councillor.

A brief report was given by Councillor Stock. He stated that he has now stepped down as Leader of Tendring District Council. Peter Halliday has taken over the role.

104.3 12/13 Report from the Amenity Organisation.

The Chairman closed the meeting at this point.

Ms Spall gave a summary of the recent events held including a litter pick, Halloween Party and Christmas quiz.

The meeting was re-opened.

104.4 12/13 Report from the Footpath Representative.

Councillor Ashmore said that there is now a group of volunteers to help to maintain the footpaths. It is intended that they will commence work in the New Year. A regular report will be made to the council.

104.5 12/13 Report from the Tree Warden.

Trees obtained for planting in the village include. Maple, beech and oak. Some saplings will be grown on by the Tree Warden until they are ready for planting out.

104.6 12/13 Report from the Speedwatch / Safety Team.

The team have held 6 speedwatch sessions recently and further sessions will be arranged as soon as the equipment has been re-calibrated.

Great Bromley will soon be sharing the equipment.

104.7 12/13 Report from PCSO Paul Beer.

P.C Jude Currie attended the meeting but had to leave urgently, however, a report was given.

She said that we must be vigilant. The shop was broken into one afternoon between 1.00pm - 6.00pm and reports of another break in, cannabis growing and violence in the village were all a single crime.

The Chairman said that he would be speaking to the local Police about the perceived increase in crime in the village and a statement will be written for the parish magazine.

Action: Clerk

105 12/13 Planning Application – Manning Grove – Update.

It was reported that there is to be a hearing on 19th February and representatives from Little Bromley, Gt Bromley and Ardleigh Parish Councils will attend. A barrister will be employed by the Parish Councils to fight the planning proposal, however, Little Bromley has insufficient funds to help contribute to this fighting fund. All three councils will meet to plan a way forward.

Item continued.

106 12/13 Horsley Cross Development.

The proposed industrial development at Horsley Cross was discussed at the meeting. Most of the Councillors were opposed to the development because of its large size a smaller development would be more agreeable. A member of the public objected to any industrial development on the grounds that this is a green field site. Once development is allowed it becomes much easier to add to it. The clerk will forward the comments to the District Council accordingly.

Action: Clerk

107 12/13 Flooding – Little Bromley.

The Chairman said that flooding in the village to houses, gardens and outbuilding is an on-going problem but there is no data available to determine the extent of the flooding. Some ditches on the southern side of the village have been cleared and this has improved water flow there, but the north side of the village still have problems. The Parish Council will put a general questionnaire in the Bromley Messenger to ask residents about their flooding experiences. This data will then be used when liaising with Essex County Council who is responsible for land drainage.

Item continued.

108 12/13 Correspondence.

The following correspondence was circulated to the councillors.

- English Rural – Annual Report 2012.
- TDC Summons and Agenda.
- EALC E Bulletin Dec.
- NALC Corporate Communication Strategy- email

109 12/13 Authorisation and Payment of Cheques.

The following payments were authorised and cheques signed.

EALC – Training. Roles and Responsibilities.	£43.00
Clerk – Stationery, postage etc.	£11.68

110 12/13 Meeting dates for 2013/14.

The dates previously circulated to the councillors were agreed, however, it was decided to combine the AGM and the Parish Assembly on one day. The AGM will commence at 7.00p.m and the Parish Assembly at 7.45pm.

Item discharged.

Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be on 7th February 2013.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Approved by:..... Chairman Date.....