

Little Bromley Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on
Thursday 25th October 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 R. Christmas	
Sarah Candy	County Councillor (for part of the meeting only)
Mrs S Shute	Clerk
Approx 15 members of the public.	

82 12/13 Introduction and Welcome.

The Chairman welcomed the public and press to the meeting.

83 12/13 Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from PCSO Paul Beer.

84 12/13 Acceptance of Minutes.

The minutes of the meetings dated 6th September were accepted as read and signed by the Chairman.

85 12/13 Declaration of Interests.

The Chairman, Councillor Wilcox, declared an interest in agenda item 10 and he said he would leave the meeting at this point.

86 12/13 Public Participation.

A resident of Paynes Lane, Little Bromley, expressed his concern about the recent criminal activities within the village which included break in's, cannabis growing and violence. All these incidents had been reported to the police. The council agree to request that the local PCSO attends the next meeting with a report of these incidents.

The Council replied to several questions regarding training and mileage expenditure. Most training is held at Gt Dunmow. Recent courses attended were "Precept and Budget" and "Roles and Responsibilities". The mileage rate claimed is 40p per mile although the IR rate is 45p per mile. EALC recommended rate is 60p per mile.

87 12/13 Matters arising from the meeting held on 6th September 2012.

16 12/13 Amenity Committee Mandate.

As part of the "Road map" agreement worked on by the Clerk and Councillor Candy, a proposal was read out by the clerk for approval by council.

"1. If you take the balance in the account £3300.37 minus £883.32 (war memorial balance – this is given to the Parish Council) this leaves £2417.35. Of this the Parish Council could gift £1434.8 under section 137 leaving a balance of £982.55 which the Parish Council could give to the Amenity Organisation under the PC's ability to provide entertainment. So all that is needed is a cheque written out to the PC for £883.32.

2. We need to clarify ownership of the village sign. If we agree that the PC owns the village sign. The PC currently insures it.

3. If the Amenity Organisation could agree to pay for any maintenance of the village sign (if needed) up to a maximum spend of £250 until April 2014. From April 2014 the PC could include maintenance in their budget".

The proposal was agreed by both parties. The cheque book was handed over to the group and a cheque for £883.32 was given to the Parish Council. Councillor Hatch thanked the Parish Council for their cooperation.

Item discharged.

9 12/13 Restoration of War Memorial

Councillor Middleton reported that the stonemasons have still not completed their work and the re-leading is still awaited. Two structural engineers has advised that the slabs surrounding the memorial be lifted and aggregate is used to surround the memorial before the slabs are replaced . This will allow movement and reduce stress on the structure. Because of the weather it was agreed that groundwork would be completed in the Spring. Councillor Middleton said that he has re-applied for a grant towards the refurbishment and is waiting a reply.

Item continued.

11 12/13 Dog Fouling.

Tendring District Council have approved the three proposed sites to locate the dog bins and will fund the installation of one bin only. The Parish Council agreed that the bin would be installed at the Chequers Road end of Calves Lane. The Clerk reported that she is still awaiting confirmation of land ownership before the bin can be installed. Any additional bins would have to be funded from the precept at a cost of £300 each. This figure includes installation and emptying for 1 year.

Action: Clerk.

26 12/13 Vehicle Activated Sign.

The Chairman reported that the request for a static sign had been refused, however, a mobile sign may be made available very soon. The Council will ask Highways when the sign will be available.

Item continued.

28 12/13 Bus Shelter

Councillor Middleton reported that he had addressed all the issues raised by the District Council in a letter to them. Even though the Parish Council has received planning permission for the shelter, the portfolio holders have refused to allow the Parish Council to position a bus shelter on their land. The clerk was asked to try and get the planning fee refunded.

Action: Clerk

75.5 12/13 Trees.

The Clerk reported that she does not possess any highway maps.

Item discharged.

76 12/13 Budget Review.

See minute 89 12/13

Item discharged.

77 12/13 Rural infrastructure. Consultation document.

The document has been completed and sent off.

Item discharged.

78 12/13 Village Risk Assessment

It was reported that Councillor Middleton and Mr Rob Poulter, who is an expert in health and safety, would complete the task on 4th November.

Action: Councillor Middleton.

88 12/13 Reports

88.1 12/13 Report from the County Councillor.

No report on this occasion.

88.2 12/13 Report from the District Councillor.

No report on this occasion.

88.3 12/13 Report from the Amenity Organisation.

Ms Spall said that the organisation was formally constituted on 28th September. The constitution was agreed by the committee of 7 members and a solicitors letter has been sent to the Parish Council to allay their concerns regarding the fund.

Forthcoming events consist of the Halloween party, a litter pick and a quiz. Proceeds from the quiz will go to the Amenity Group.

88.4 12/13 Report from the Footpath Representative.

Councillor Ashmore said that he would speak to the volunteers who have come forward to help maintain the footpaths.

88.5 12/13 Report from the Tree Warden.

It was reported that 8 trees will be planted in the village and there are 6 more in pots ready for future planting. This will require agreement of landowners/Highways as necessary.

Report from the Speedwatch / Safety Team.

The team have held 6 speedwatch sessions since the last meeting. Speeding continues to be a problem.

Report from PCSO Paul Beer.

No report received for the second meeting running.

89 12/13 Budget / Precept 2013 /14

A draft budget plan which was circulated to the councillors prior to the meeting was read out at the meeting.

Council agreed to increase the grass cutting budget to £350 and to include a reserve figure of £500. The Chairman said that it is important to build up a reserve fund. An election was an example given for when a reserve fund might be used. The clerk's salary would be discussed in the closed meeting. There were no objections to the draft budget.

Item continued.

90 12/13 Planning Application – Manning Grove - Gt Bromley.

The planning application submitted was for the construction of a reservoir serving some local farms, however, it is believed that the primary reason for the application is to extract minerals, sand and gravel. The original application had been refused but now an appeal has been lodged. The Chairman informed those present that one of the alternative routes for the excavated material is via Shop Road. The Parish Council has submitted an objection to this application and informed the public that more information is available on the Great Bromley web site should they wish to comment.

Item discharged.

91 12/13 Local Plan – Village Envelope.

As the Chairman had declared a pecuniary interest in this item he left the meeting and the Vice Chair, Councillor Middleton took over. Councillor Middleton explained that the Parish Council had been approached by the District Council to identify sites within the village envelope to build 3 houses within the next 10 years. The Parish Council wished to identify plots which would have minimal impact on the village and land at Brook House which was included in the village envelope was identified as a possible site for 2 houses. However, in the revised draft plan this plot has been excluded from the village envelope. During the following discussion it was agreed to write to TDC to find out why the boundary has been changed and to ask them to reinstate the land at Brook House within the settlement boundary and to also ask how the Parish Council can now meet their obligations. Councillor Candy said that she would assist the council in arranging a meeting with the planners.

Action: Item continued.

92 12/13 Snow /Ice

The Parish Council has accepted an offer of bags of rock salt for use within the village. These will be stored at The Haywain for use by residents as required. A notice advertising this will be published.

Action Clerk

93 12/13 Correspondence.

The following correspondence was circulated to the councillors.

ECC Highway Ranger Service – for minor highway works.

TDC Planning Committee - Agenda and minutes.

EALC County Update.

Planning Application – Green Hedges, Shop Road.

Salt Bag Scheme

TDC local Community Resilience Workshop. Response required.

94 12/13 Authorisation and Payment of Cheques.

The following payments were authorised and cheques signed.

Royal British Legion –Poppy Wreath.	£20.00
Clerks salary.	£300.00
Travel expenses – R Middleton 2x £29.60	£59.20
Audit Commission – Audit fee 2011/12.	£60.00
EALC – Training. Budget and Precept.	£43.00
e-on electricity.	£6.88

95 12/13 Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be on 20th December 2012.

The meeting closed to the public and press at 8.50pm.

96 12/13 Clerk's Salary.

It was agreed that the clerk should be paid the minimum Local Government pay scale point 15.

Councillors discussed the budget again and reduced the grass cutting donation to £300 and retained a reserve figure of £500. The revised budget to be ratified at the next meeting.

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