

SHIPBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

**MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON
MONDAY 12TH JUNE 2006 AT 7.30 PM**

Present: Mr Nicholas Giles (Chairman), Mr Mark Beadle, Mrs Libby Cohen, Mr Martin Miles, Mrs Rachel Simpson, Mr Curtis Galbraith (Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence

Mr James Sheldrick, Miss Lynette Sargent

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The draft minutes of the May meeting were agreed by the council and signed by the Chairman.

3. Election of Officers

Having had further thoughts, Nick Giles wished to resign as Chairman and did so. It was proposed that Mark Beadle should be Chairman, sharing the role mid-way with Martin Miles until the end of the council's term. Rachel Simpson objected to this. Libby Cohen sought the opinion of the Clerk. The Clerk resisted the idea of reverting to the previous 'revolving' chair and said he wished for the parish council to propose someone who wished to carry out the role. He said that no Chairman would be preferable to a 'revolving' one. After further discussion and with no willing candidate, two proposals were put to a vote. Proposal one *that it was preferable to have a Chairman* was carried unanimously. Proposal two *that Mark Beadle serve as Chairman, handing over to Martin Miles mid term* was carried by a majority. Libby Cohen and Nick Giles voted for, Rachel Simpson voted against, Mark Beadle and Martin Miles abstained.

It was also agreed that Libby Cohen should take over the role of Vice Chairman during Lynette Sargent's absence.

Nick Giles was unwell and at the conclusion of this item (8.00pm) left the meeting.

4. Borough & County Councillors Reports

None.

5. Questions from the Public

None.

6. Matters Arising

None.

7. Finance

The bank balances at 1st June were c/a £ 47.18, d/a £ 13241.63. The first grant payment of £2329.00 had been received.

The accounts are completed and it was agreed to appoint Ken Abrahams of Parish Audits for the 2005 internal audit subject to confirmation of his fee of £75.00. The Clerk will write to Nick Ward to thank him for his service in previous years.

It is understood that Nick Giles is awaiting a response from Fairlawne regarding information required in the proposed winding up of the Collin's, Swan and Fremlyn's Charities. Alan Bristow had kindly provided some details from his records

It was agreed to pay the 2005 Audit Fee of £141.00 and £540.00 to S. Gould for Churchyard mowing.

8. Roads / A227

The 'Final' plans of the '50/40/50' scheme have been received from Kent Highways. It was suggested that, as previously, James Sheldrick and the Clerk check these. Valerie Dagger had informed the council that the work to Shipbourne stretch would be completed by the end of August this year. She had passed on details of the Kent Highways project manager for the scheme and the Clerk will make contact.

9. Commons

There has been no response from Fairlawne following the council's reply to the Estate's own letter. Mark Beadle will write to enquire.

10. Planning – decisions, applications, enforcement and other issues

a) Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council decisions:

TM/06/00358/FL – *The Meadows, Hildenborough Road, Shipbourne TN11 9QA*
 Proposal: Section 73a Retrospective Application: Installation of replacement treatment plant. *Amended plan showing position submitted.*
 Decision: *Permission Granted*

b) Planning Applications:

Mark Beadle declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest in Items 1 and 7 as neighbour. Rachel Simpson declared a prejudicial interest in item 2. as owner.

1. TM/06/01083/FL Marchurst, Hildenborough Road, TN11 9QA
 Proposal: *Installation of new cesspool and new pitched roof over existing front extension*
 View (already submitted) *"No Objection to new pitched roof; No Objection to cesspool subject to all necessary regulatory consents being obtained."*

2. TM/06/01346/LB Stone Cottage, Roughway, TN11 9SH
 Proposal: Listed Building Application: *Internal alteration to board over redundant staircase*
 View (already submitted) *"No Objection"*

3. TM/06/01549/FL The Meadows, Hildenborough Road, TN11 9QA
 Proposal: *Installation of replacement oil tank (retrospective application)*
 View (already submitted) *"No Objection"*

4. TM/06/01546/FL School Lane Cottage, School Lane, TN11 9RT

Proposal: *Minor amendment including rear dormer window pursuant to planning permission ref: TM/05/01578/FL (two storey side extension and front dormer window)*

View: (a letter previously received from the applicant was read out) *“Objection – In the light of the existing enlarged house, an additional dormer window will add to the bulk and mass of the whole. Additionally it is questionable whether the dormer design with a removable mullion is a safer or even viable alternative to a Velux window. There is no supporting documentation from the Building Inspector that states that this is a safety issue.”*

5. TM/06/01410/FL Tinley Cottage, Hildenborough Road, TN11 9QB

Proposal: *Extension of existing dwelling with minor alterations to original building.*

View: *“No Objection”*

6. TM/06/01619/FL 1 Hoad Hill Cottages, Tonbridge Road, TN11 9PA

Proposal: *Variation of condition to planning permission TM/03/01037/FL to enable the annexe to be occupied for a maximum of 140 days each year between 1st April to 30th October for holiday lets.*

View (already submitted) *“No Objection”*

7. TM/06/01382/FL Marchurst, Hildenborough Road, TN11 9QA

Proposal: *Single storey garage and store*

View: (After discussion the parish council agreed that two questions should be answered by TMBC prior to submitting a view)

8. TM/06/01727/FL 14 Upper Green Lane, Shipbourne, TN11 9PW

Proposal: *Two storey side and single storey rear extensions*

View: *“No Objection”*

c) Enforcement and other planning issues:

TMBC has acknowledged the list of alleged breaches recently forwarded. It has confirmed that with regard to The Meadows, Hildenborough Road, condition 3 of the planning permission has been complied with. The parish council assumes therefore that, from a legal perspective, the foundations have been removed and that the original landscaping plans can be adhered to.

10. Rights of Way

Alan Bristow has reported that KCC has resurfaced part of bridle path MT50 from Avenue Cottage to Horns Lodge, through the wood from the junction with MT49.

11. Village Hall

The Clerk read out a copy of the Village Hall Annual Report. The council confirmed that it will meet the hall's operating deficit of £1017.00.

12. Little Mead

Mark Beadle will liaise with Nick Giles to complete the response letter to Mr Williams.

13. Correspondence (not circulated or dealt with elsewhere)

The Clerk read out a letter received after last month's APM from the Reverend Dr Susan Ramsaran informing of the proposal under discussion by the PCC to allow Orange to erect a telecom mast within the church.

14. Any Other Business

Rachel Simpson said she had recently attended an interesting and informative stakeholder workshop organised by the Mid Kent Downs AONB Unit on its draft Highways/Street Design Handbook.

The Clerk reported that confirmation has been received that Shipbourne School has been saved from closure following KCC's threat of May 13th, because it does not comply with their lower limit for schools, having a maximum of 58 pupils.

The sequence of recent events were briefly outlined: After pledging full support and assuring the Governors that the parish council would do everything it could to oppose closure, the council contacted the Borough and County Councillors to ask for their support. The council wrote to the members of the Schools Advisory Board (SOAB) prior to their meeting on 18 May. SOAB recommended that the school should not close after a vote of 5 against closure, 3 for further consideration and 2 abstentions. The council then learned that SOAB is advisory only and their recommendations are not necessarily followed.

The parish council were informed on Friday May 19 that the Cabinet Members of KCC Education Committee would decide the issue at their meeting of Monday 22nd May. The council worked throughout the week-end and following receipt of draft letters from Libby Cohen, the Clerk emailed strong arguments against closure to all important contacts including all Cabinet Members of KCC, the Borough Councillors and Sir John Stanley MP.

The council argued that the school is a vital and important part of village life and the rest of the village benefits from the school e.g. the mown area of the Green that is cut by Fairlawn, the school bonfire night that is an historical and popular event and that the very successful and small school offers a wider educational choice in the area.

The Cabinet Members decided by a small majority not to close Shipbourne School. The parish council would like to congratulate the Governors of Shipbourne School who worked tirelessly. Their well orchestrated and professional efforts were finally rewarded with a successful outcome.

Additionally, the parish council appreciates all the support and help that Sir John Stanley, MP gave to the school and therefore the community and would also like to thank Valerie Dagger our County Councillor.

The meeting closed at 21.30

Signed: _____ (Chairman)

Dated: _____

Dates of future meetings: (Meetings held on a Monday at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall) July 17th, September 11th, October 9th, November 13th & December 11th