

## SHIPBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Meeting held in the Village Hall on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2008 at 7.35 p.m.**

PRESENT: Mr. M. Miles (in the Chair)  
Mrs. L. Cohen, Mr. S. Davies, Mrs. S. Lee, Miss L. Sargent, Mr. J. Sheldrick

IN ATTENDANCE: 1 Member of the Public  
Mrs. Y. Tredoux (Clerk)  
Mr. M. Brockman (Contractor for the village sign)

Prior to the Meeting, Councillors attended a site meeting to discuss the proposed location for the village sign with the land owner. Mr. Brockman had been invited to the site meeting and produced a life-size sketch of the sign. Members were very pleased with the design.

*Councillors were reminded to disclose personal and prejudicial interests on matters to be considered at this Meeting.*

1. **Apologies**

Mr. M. Beadle's apology was noted.

2. **Minutes of the last Meeting**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2008, previously circulated, were approved and signed.

3. **Borough & County Councillors' Reports**

No reports were received.

4. **Questions from public**

The questions from the Member of the Public were taken elsewhere during the Meeting.

5. **Matters arising**

5.1 Village sign (See Minute 8.1 – Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> May 2008)

The previously agreed location was thought to be the most suitable site to represent the centre of the village. The exact dimensions, etc. of the sign were discussed and Mrs. Cohen offered to confirm these in writing with Mr. Brockwell. Mr. Sheldrick would obtain a quotation for a metal sleeve to locate the post in the ground, and also a quotation for erecting the sign.

The Clerk was asked to write to the landowner, setting out the dimensions and other details of the proposed sign. The Clerk would complete the relevant planning application forms and a payment of £167-50 in respect of planning application fee, was approved.

5.2 Interactive speed sign near The Chaser (See Minute 8.3 – Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> May 2008)

Kent Highway Services (KHS) had not yet responded to the previous correspondence and the Clerk would write again to KHS.

5.3 "Little Mead" (See Minute 8.5 – Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> May 2008)

No progress reported.

5.4 "Green space" outside Wightwicks Row (See Minute 8.1 – Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> May 2008)

The initial application fee to register the land cost £40. The Clerk warned that further costs may be incurred at a later stage during the registration process.

Councillors agreed that it would be beneficial to the village if the Parish Council could register this land and that it would be the Parish Council's responsibility to maintain it.

*It was agreed that the Clerk complete the first registration application forms to the Land Registry and a payment of £40 in respect of the application fee was approved.*

- 5.5 Mr. Miles had received a copy of a letter from Fairlawne Estate to Mr. Chapman regarding the Newsletter article of June 2008. The article, "News from the Parish Council", suggested that Public Footpath MR397 had been upgraded to a Public Bridleway, however, this information was incorrect and should be amended to :-  
*"The most southern part of MR397 (to the east of Hoad Common joining up with the A227) has been upgraded."*  
 On reflection it would seem that the draft Minutes lacked clarity and that Mr. Chapman was only copying the wording from the draft Minutes. It was hoped that the amendment would be noted in the July newsletter.

- 5.6 Mrs. Lee, whilst visiting the Farmers Market recently, had received a number of complaints from residents regarding the poor state of the churchyard. The grass had not been cut and the whole area was very overgrown. Miss Sargent also noticed during a previous visit to the churchyard, that some grass cuttings and strimmings had not been removed from the graves after the previous cut. The Clerk explained that she had contacted the Contractor prior to the Meeting, who advised that it had been very difficult to cut the grass due to the recent wet weather.

It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Contractor, asking whether more frequent cuts could be made during the growing season and collect grass cuttings each time.

## 6. **Annual Parish Meeting**

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2008, were noted.

## 7. **Planning**

7.1. The following decisions were noted:

7.1.1 TM/08/00943/FL – Valley House, Shipbourne Road

Proposal: Alternative scheme to TM/07/03359 for conversion of barn into dwelling

Decision: *Permission granted, subject to conditions.*

7.1.2 TM/07/04257/LRD – Kentish Rifleman, Roughway

Proposal: Details of roof materials and hanging tiles submitted pursuant conditions 2(a) and 2 (f) of Listed Building Consent TM/07/01768/LB: Restoration of roof structures, general restoration and refurbishment throughout following fire, first floor extension to rear.

Decision: *Permission granted.*

7.2. The following application was considered :

7.2.1 TM/08/01479/LB – Puttenden Manor, Puttenden Road

Proposal: *Listed Building Application – Demolition of outside WC*

*Parish Council's view: No objection*

7.3 TM/06/03861/FL – Tinley Lodge, Hildenborough Road

*Mr. Sheldrick declared a personal interest in this item and left the Meeting.*

Councillors noted a letter from TMBC dated 29<sup>th</sup> May advising that an appeal had been made to the Planning Inspectorate against the previous decision of TMBC. The date of the appeal had not yet been confirmed. It was agreed that the Parish Council would support TMBC's original decision to refuse the application. 5 Letters from residents objecting this application had been noted. Mrs. Cohen and Mr. Davis offered to represent the Parish Council at the appeal.

*[Mr. Sheldrick returned to the Meeting.]*

**8. Removal of BT Phone Boxes in Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council (TMBC)**

TMBC advised that BT was planning to remove 18 payphones within the TMBC district and that the kiosk at Stumble Hill was at risk to be closed. The Parish Council felt strongly that the public phone was essential to the safety of the community.

*It was agreed to oppose this proposal on the following grounds:-*

- a) There is a very poor mobile signal and in case of an emergency (for example a vehicle accident – very dangerous road – A227), the public phone can be used to call the emergency services.
- b) The phone is situated next to a bus stop - in particular school children may use this to contact their parents in the event of transport problems.

**9. Reports from Councillors**

**9.1 Roads / A227**

Mr. Davis would investigate the possibility of a speed gun exercise through the Kent Speed Watch Scheme.

**9.2. Rights of Way**

No reports were received.

**9.3 Commons**

No reports were received.

**10. Village Hall**

Miss Sargent reminded Councillors that a local walk had been arranged for Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June. Refreshments would be served at the Village Hall and donations for cakes were welcome.

**11. Correspondence**

Miss Sargent received a letter from TMBC regarding activities on Cob Acres and asked the Clerk to write again.

Mrs. Cohen pointed out that the Parish Council had responded to a consultation by TMBC "Managing Development and the Environment DPD" in May 2008. Mrs. Cohen read the response from TMBC, which indicated that TMBC had taken note of the Parish Council's comments.

Members noted that the bus shelter had been repaired recently and the Clerk was asked to find out whether grants were available which could be applied for retrospectively to absorb the expense incurred, and to find out whether grants were available for installing a village sign.

Mr. Sheldrick was in the process of carrying out the risk assessment.

*[9.02 p.m. Mr. Miles left the Meeting]*

Mrs. Lee received a request from Mr. B. Taylor of the Farmers Market, asking whether the Parish Council would consider attaching a sign "Award winning Market", at the bottom of the proposed village sign. This request was rejected by the Parish Council.

Mrs. Cohen asked that the Clerk write to Highways requesting that the previous agreed mowing regime (one cut after August) is reinstated in line with the Parish Council's desire to protect small mammals and birds that inhabit the verges and nest in the hedges.

Mrs. Cohen pointed out that at this time last year grass clippings had been dumped on the verges in Shipbourne, and that these piles of grass not only looked untidy, but also generated heat which destroyed the delicate balance of the flora: wild flowers need poor soil to survive.

Residents should be encouraged to put their clippings on their compost heaps or in their green bins.

Mrs. Cohen drew attention to the sad passing of Mr. Paddy Collins and it was agreed that a letter of sympathy would be sent to Mrs. Collins.

## 12. Finance

12.1 The 2007 / 2008 accounts were approved.

12.2 The following payments were approved:-

12.2.1 Duncan Simpson - Churchyard Maintenance : £340-75

12.2.2 Audit Commission – Annual Audit : £164-50

12.2.3 G. Davies – Website Maintenance : £145-00

12.2.4 Mrs. Y. Tredoux – Clerk’s salary : £280-00

12.2.5 Inland Revenue – Clerk’s tax : £70-00

12.2.6 IJS Builders – Repairs to bus shelter : £380-74

12.2.7 G. Wright Builders – Repairs to bus shelter : £369-26

12.2.8 Mrs. Y. Tredoux – Clerk’s expenses : £24-43

12.3 The following receipts were noted:-

12.3.1 VAT Refund : £825-60

12.3.2 Donation from Mr. & Mrs. Wesson in respect of Village Sign : £500-00

12.4 Members declined a request for donation from the Open Spaces Society in respect of the “Green Alert” campaign.

## 13. Date of next meeting

14<sup>th</sup> July 2008

The meeting closed at 9.23 p.m.