

SHIPBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs. Y. Tredoux (Clerk)

1 Redwell Cottage, Redwell Lane, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9EE

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Minutes of a Meeting held in the Village Hall on Monday, 1-September 2008 at 7.30 p.m.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. S. Murray (Borough Councillor)
Mrs. Y. Tredoux (Clerk)

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr. Miles.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 July 2008, previously circulated, was approved.

Mr. Sheldrick drew attention to Item 7 (Minutes of Meeting 14 July 2008) and informed the Council that he felt he could not be a Member of the Planning Committee, due to having conflicting interests.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Village sign (See Minute 5.1 – Meeting 14 July 2008)

Planning permission from Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council (TMBC) was awaited. Mr. Sheldrick would store the post and other materials until the sign could be erected.

3.2 Interactive speed sign near The Chaser (See Minute 5.2 – Meeting 14 July 2008)

Miss Sargent noted that electricity had been connected to the sign.

3.3 “Green space” outside Wightwicks Row (See Minute 5.4 – Meeting 14 July 2008)

Miss Sargent hoped to report some progress at the next Parish Council Meeting.

3.4 Churchyard Maintenance (See Minute 5.5 – Meeting 14 July 2008)

The Contractor advised that he had been unable to mow the grass in the Churchyard at the end of June and the beginning of July due to the wet weather. The last cut had been on 9th August, and Members felt that this was unacceptable. The general view was that the grass should be cut at least every fortnight in the growing season.

The Clerk was instructed to write to the Contractor asking for the grass in the Churchyard to be mowed as a matter of urgency. Further cuts should be carried out fortnightly in the next couple of months.

3.5 Removal of BT Phone Boxes (See Minute 5.6 Meeting 14 July 2008)

Members noted the response received dated 30th July 2008 from the Rt. Hon. Sir John Stanley, M.P, advising that Mr. Stanley had written to the Chief Executive of British Telecom, strongly opposing the closure of the BT Phone box. A response from TMBC dated 4th August 2008, advising that the Parish Council's views had been taken into account, but TMBC had to have due regard to all the factors involved and reached an objective and justifiable decision and in view of the demonstrable lack of use of the phone box in Shipbourne, the Borough Council did not feel that it could maintain an objection to its removal, was also noted.

The Clerk reported that an email had been received from Kent Association of Local Councils, advising that BT had reviewed the legal and statutory issues surrounding some requests with regard to the significant role that the red telephone kiosks play in the national heritage. It is now possible for local authorities to retain ownership of a traditional red kiosk should they so wish.

BT offered two schemes (a) "The Adopt a Kiosk" and (b) "Sponsor a Kiosk". By "adopting" a kiosk, a local authority can apply to take ownership, which would include maintenance, of a red telephone box effectively free of charge, however the actual phone mechanism would be removed. By "sponsoring" a kiosk, a local authority can apply for the telephone to remain as a public payphone by contributing to towards the cost of maintenance (around £500 per year).

Members felt very disappointed that, despite the Parish Council's best efforts, it was unlikely that the public telephone would remain. In these unfortunate circumstances, it was agreed that the Parish Council "adopts" the red kiosk.

3.6 Casual vacancy (See Minute 9.4 Meeting 14 July 2008)

TMBC advised that no election had been requested for the vacancy within the statutory period. The Parish Council may now fill the vacancy by co-option. A notice requesting applicants for the post is in this month's parish magazine.

4. **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC & PRESS**

There were no questions from Members of the Public or Press.

5. **COMMITTEE AND OFFICER REPORTS**

5.1 Planning Committee

The Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 12 August 2008, Reference P/01/2008, previously circulated, was approved.

5.2 Report from Chairman

5.2.1 Village Hall:

Mr. Bristow informed the Clerk that a statement on the spending of the grant of £3,000 would be available soon.

The storage space in the Village Hall would be discussed at the next Meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr. Bristow to inform that the Parish Council expects the Village Hall Management Committee to consider the storage space as a matter of urgency at their Meeting on 2nd September and that the Parish Council was looking forward to receiving the Committee's early decision.

5.2.2 Notice of diversion : Public Bridleway MT50 (Part), Hildenborough

Mr. Sheldrick declared a personal interest.

Mrs. Lee referred to an email received from Mr. Bristow, informing that a notice had been received for a diversion from Avenue Cottage to Horns Lodge.

Mrs. Lee proposed:

"That the Parish Council has no objection to this diversion."

CARRIED 4 in favour, 1 abstention [Mr. Sheldrick]

5.2.3 M26 Slip Campaign Group

An invitation from a Borough Green resident inviting Councillors to join a group campaigning for the installation of the missing slip roads at Chevening, Sevenoaks, was noted. The group is aiming to raise the profile regarding the volumes of traffic on the A227 & A25. Members supported the idea, but regrettably no one was able to join the Group at this stage.

5.3 Report from Borough Councillor

Borough Councillor Mrs. Murray was pleased to be able to attend a Meeting and apologised for not being able to do so in the last couple of months due to other commitments. Mrs. Murray drew attention to Item 8 and advised Members to note the “Special Works Projects” grants available.

8.50 p.m. [Mrs. Murray left the Meeting.]

5.4 Report from Councillors

5.4.1 Cob Acres – Planning Enforcement (See Minute 11.1 – Meeting 14th July 2008)

A response dated 20th August from TMBC addressing the Parish Council concerns, was noted. It was agreed that TMBC would be asked to clarify exactly what type of farming operations the residents of the caravan were employed in and how TMBC ensured that the conditions were complied with. It was the Parish Council’s understanding that the term “vacating” indicated that the caravan would be removed from the site for the specific period when farming operations ceased. In this respect TMBC would also be asked to clarify the term “vacating”.

6. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

6.1 The following planning applications were considered:

6.1.1 TM/08/02364/LB – Fairhill, Riding Lane, Shipbourne

Listed building application – Replacement of existing staircase and other joinery features in entrance hall.

RESOLVED: That the following representation be sent to TMBC:

The Parish Council cannot make an informed decision and Members feel that it is the responsibility of the Listed Building Officer to ensure that the proposed staircase and other joinery features in the entrance hall are in keeping with the appropriate period of the listed building.

6.1.2 TM/08/01045/RD – Puttenden Manor, Puttenden Road, Shipbourne

Details of acoustic fencing submitted to condition 3 of planning permission TM/07/03880/FL : Use (part retrospective) of land and buildings for the training of horses, and the construction of an alternative means of access from Puttenden Road, and the erection of 3 x timber stables and feed store for keeping horses ancillary to the domestic use of Puttenden Manor.

RESOLVED: That the following representation be sent to TMBC:

Recommend APPROVAL.

The Clerk reported that a local resident had expressed concern regarding a number of conditions relating to a previous planning application, not being adhered to. The Clerk confirmed that TMBC had been asked to take an active role in ensuring that the conditions were met. Councillors were of the opinion that it was the responsibility of TMBC’s Enforcement Officer to ensure that the conditions were met. There was very little the Parish Council could do to influence these issues and although sympathetic towards the concerns raised, Councillors advised that the resident took this matter up directly with the Planning Enforcement Officer at TMBC.

6.2 To following decision was noted:

6.2.1 TM/08/01949/FL – Cobtree Cottage, Claygate Lane, Shipbourne

Conservatory on west elevation – GRANTED.

7. **VICTIM SUPPORT (KENT) - REQUEST FOR A DONATION**

It was resolved that a request for a donation received from Victim Support be rejected.

8. **FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH PARISH COUNCILS 2009/10**

TMBC advised that there would be a proposed change to the method of applying annual increases. Due to reductions in central government support and the imposition of council tax “capping”, the Council’s budgets were under severe financial pressure. Councillors were invited to comment on the letter dated 5th August, received from TMBC. It was agreed that no comment would be sent to TMBC.

9. **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Payments in respect of cheque numbers 100316-100325 were approved.

10. **INFORMATION REPORT**

The information report was noted and the papers referred to, were laid on the table.

11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

13 October 2008.

The Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

SHIPBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Payment List – Meeting 1st September 2008

Payments already made in August 2008 (No Parish Council Meeting in August):-

DATE	BENEFICIARY	DETAILS	CHEQUE NO	AMOUNT
12.08.08	Treeservices Ltd	Churchyard Maintenance: Cut 22 nd July 2008	100319	£340.75
12.08.08	Mrs. Y. Tredoux	Clerk's Salary July 2008	100316	£266.40
12.08.08	Inland Revenue	Clerk's Tax	100318	£ 66.60

Proposed payments to be made in September 2008:-

DATE	BENEFICIARY	DETAILS	CHEQUE NO	AMOUNT
01.09.08	Treeservices Ltd	Churchyard Maintenance: Cut 20 th June 2008	100322	£340.75
01.09.08	Treeservices Ltd	Churchyard Maintenance: Cut 8 th July 2008	100322	£293.75
01.09.08	Treeservices Ltd	Churchyard Maintenance: Cut 16 th Aug 2008	100322	£340.75
01.09.08	Mrs. Y. Tredoux	Clerk's Salary August 2008	100324	£300.00
01.09.08	Inland Revenue	Clerk's Tax	100325	£ 75.00
01.09.08	Mr. G. Davies	Website updates	100321	£105.00