Minutes of Brook Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Thursday, 22nd July 2010

Present Tony Alcock in the Chair Peter Webb

Erica Forbes Tony Dunn

The meeting started at 7.00pm

Apologies had been received from Bob Scarfe

There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes of the Meeting on 17th June 2010 were approved as a true record.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Cllr Alcock has spoken to the Head Teacher about the rubbish outside the school and on Spelders Hill; Cllr Webb has also spoken to her about this matter. She is aware of the problem.

Cllr Webb has applied 3 doses of weed killer to the driveway.

Hedge cutting

A quotation from Lawncare for the hedge cutting on Spelders Hill and around the recreation ground has been received. It was agreed that the quotation to have the hedges cut back and the lower limbs removed as required around the recreation ground should be accepted at a cost of £160. They will also be asked to trim the hedge at the side of the Village Hall. Lawncare will be asked to contact Cllr Alcock when they are coming in order that all hedge trimming can be undertaken in the area as required.

Road Signs

Cllr Dunn reported that he had cleaned some of the road signs, one on Bockham Lane has graffiti on it and has been reported to Kent Highways, one at the top of Spelders Hill has been bent and also has been reported to Kent Highways. Other signs are in need of repainting, Cllr Dunn is to report the whereabouts of these.

Cllr Scarfe has cut back the hedges obscuring the School signs.

Review of the Parish Plan – subjects 8 - 14

8 – Tennis Courts. The tennis courts in Wye are available, in Brook there is little funding available for this and there would seem to be little interest in it.

- 9 Leisure/Special interest Courses. Fitness courses are currently being run as is a special interest day about dormice in hedgerows. Some art courses have been run recently. The Village Hall Trust is always open to suggestions of events that could be run and therefore would be happy to consider any ideas brought to them.
- 10 Village Shop. Village shops are not viable in many villages and the footfall in Brook is not enough to keep a village shop going, they struggle to get support.

- 11 Post Office. A mobile post office was tried in Brook but there was no support for this and so the service as stopped.
- 12 Brook Gardening Club. The gardening show struggles to get support on an annual basis. There are many similar facilities in local villages that are close by and are thriving.
- 13 More frequent bus service. Kent Karrier has taken over from Dial-a-Ride, it is available Monday Friday 10am 1pm and will take residents to Wye/Ashford, for more information call 01622 605349 or go to http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads_and_transport/getting_around/community_transport/kent_karrier_leaflets.aspx
- 14 Further Education/leisure classes. See subject 9.

The Financial Statement was approved.

Cheque number 000597 had been signed and given to the Village Hall Trust towards their grant for the windows. Cheque number 000598 was signed for Lawncare for £128.

Tree Warden

The tree warden's report was circulated. Mr Simon Betty has offered a Holm Oak sapling which he considered being put on the recreation ground. Other places were considered, by the Church near the bench. This is a very kind gesture and the Parish Council will consider a location but have reservations due to other saplings on the recreation ground being vandalised. Thanks are to be expressed to both Pat Forbes and Linda Cross for the Brook Tree Walk. This was a real treat and an excellent village event with some 20 people in attendance. A PA system might be considered for another time so that everyone is able to hear what s being said clearly. Pat Forbes is to be asked for his thoughts on this.

Any Other Business

Vehicles on the pavement. Cars are being parked on the pavement by the Chapel when there is a meeting in the chapel – the Clerk is asked to contact Clem Oliver asking if anyone attending meetings at the Chapel could be asked to park in a more considerate manner. A van is being parked near Downsway on the pavement which is causing an obstruction to many walkers.

Cllr Forbes asked what is being put on the field near Kimberley. Cllr Alcock explained this was paper waste and is a fertilizer that will be spread and ploughed in.

Cllr Webb had cleared the playground of weeds and thistles with his wife this morning. The weeds had become very overgrown and this area needs looking at from time to time and maintenance being undertaken.

The salt bin at Pickersdane in missing – it is thought that this is because Wye asked for the yellow bin to be removed at they would have it replaced with a green salt bin as they do not like to have yellow bins in their area. The salt bin at Nats Lane appears to be missing again. The Clerk will report this to Kent Highways.

Ms Wall is to be asked when she thinks the bench she is donating to the village for Spelders Hill might be ready.

The Village Hall Trust has asked to be kept informed of any meeting dates that the Parish Council might change. The December meeting is to be changed to 9th December.

The Parish Council is to consider how much it might cost to hire a cherry picker in order to erect the lights safely at Christmas.

The next meeting was confirmed as Thursday, 19^{th} August 2010, the Clerk would like any items for the agenda by Monday 9^{th} August, please.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 8.15 pm.