

**Minutes of Brook Parish Council Meeting held in the  
Brook Museum Room on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

<b>Present</b>	Peter Webb in the Chair	John Tomkins
	Erica Forbes	Bob Scarfe
	Jim Benson	Tony Dunn

In attendance: William Howard

To be actioned by

The meeting started at 7.00pm	
Apologies had been received from Cllr Peter Wood.	
<b>Declaration of interest in items on the agenda</b> Cllrs Dunn and Tomkins declared an interest in the Pantomime. Cllr Forbes and Webb declared an interest in the Church.	
<b>Minutes</b> of the Meeting on 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2012 were approved as a true record.	
<b>Matters Arising from the Minutes</b> <b>Beacon</b> – The Parish Council have some wood ready for the bonfire beacon on the recreation ground. The Village Hall Committee will help/assist and will also be asked to run a barbecue/bar. Grants are available for the parish to have their jubilee events paid for, or contributions towards them. This is to be considered once costs have been discussed further. A turf cutter is to be sought, perhaps hired from the Golf Club. A volunteer bonfire building will be organised and advertised. <b>School Shelving</b> – An invoice has been received. <b>Brook Sign</b> – Sean Pierce has not completed this as yet. <b>Cleaning of Post Box and Box</b> – if this has not already been completed Cllrs Dunn and Tomkins offered to undertake this. William Howard will source some Post Box paint. <b>Footpath Sign</b> – Sean Pierce is to be chased for a quotation to undertake replacing rotten legs and reseating the sign. Cllrs Dunn and Tomkins will approach Mr Pierce. If his quote is in excess of £75 + VAT, the Clerk is to give the go ahead to Kent County Paths Partnership.	PW/JT PW AD/JT WH AD/JT
<b>Brook Panto</b> The play reading went well. Auditions are to be held in June/July and the pantomime will then be cast. Rehearsals are planned to begin in September.	
<b>Christmas Lights</b> The Clerk has contacted Gala Lights and costings were over that agreed so no order has yet been placed. It was agreed that 2 x 20m 200 LED warm white lights with green cable at £63.20 each +VAT and Delivery.	TB
<b>Finances</b> The Financial Statement was circulated. The following cheques was signed: Brook School – Shelving for £100.00 Janet Medhurst – Cinderella Scripts for £55.58	
<b>Tree Wardens Report</b> The tree warden was thanked for his comprehensive report this month. The jubilee tree type was discussed and it was agreed that the Parish Council would ask Pat Forbes to source a Wild Service Tree. The PCC are discussing organising a fund raising event to be held at the same time. This is to be discussed further.	PF

<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>There have been a number of cases of dog fouling reported to the Parish Council. The Clerk will report this to the dog warden and investigate costs for dog fouling signs.</p> <p>A village clean up will be discussed at the next meeting.</p> <p>A letter has been received from the Brook Churchwardens thanking the group that cleared the yew tree. They were so impressed with the work and for the clearing of the area.</p> <p>Peter Webb asked about the poor quality of broadband speed in Brook. The Broadband Project application has been submitted. The link that registers interest in faster broadband is to be forwarded to Peter Webb.</p> <p><b>Update from William Howard</b></p> <p>The Borough is awaiting a borough wide policy for speed limits to be set at 30 mph for any rural settlement in the borough of Ashford.</p> <p>Council Tax has been frozen for the next year.</p> <p>Each Borough Council has been given £2,750 for the next year to send on their communities. From this William Howard says he is prepared to give £250 per Parish Council to spend on Jubilee Celebrations. Brook Pantomime could also benefit from some of this money, too.</p> <p>The Borough is looking at devolving powers of planning a landscaping/general maintenance to Parish Council level as part of the awaited Localism Bill. Planning is likely to be devolved to Borough and Ward Members with greater consultation with Parish Councillors.</p> <p>The handyman Project which takes care of small maintenance items has been working in Aldington well so it is hoped that this will be rolled out to other Parishes.</p> <p>Ashford 2030 has been written and the Councillors were urged to look at this.</p> <p>The market is to be brought back to the Town Centre, this is to be placed on original land or possibly on shared space. There is to be a parking fee review.</p> <p>Youth provision has increased, the cafe for children, called “House” that is situated in the old Stour Centre reception. “Hang 10”, the roaming bus for kids has been helping with Anti Social Behaviour, giving ownership of areas to children. Another bus is planned for rural areas, more of an MPV than a bus.</p> <p>The Borough has been focussing on London 2012, Jamie Staff and Kelly Holmes have both visited the Borough. The Olympic torch is coming to Ashford on 18<sup>th</sup> July. The route will be in the paper and other events will be advertised in the press.</p> <p>William Howard explained that he had been very busy with planning applications, particularly in Ruckinge and Brabourne and Smeeth. Enforcements have been carried out recently.</p> <p>William was thanked for his time.</p>	<p>TB</p> <p>TB</p>
<p><b>The next meeting</b> was confirmed as Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2012, the Clerk would like any items for the agenda by Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April, please.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 8.50 PM.</p>	