

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BROOK PARISH COUNCIL
ON 19th JANUARY 2023 HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr Tomkins (Chair) Cllr Betts
Cllr Betty Cllr Jessop
Cllr Medhurst

In attendance: 1 member of the public and the Clerk

To be actioned by

1.	To receive and approve apologies for absence.	
	Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Finn.	
2.	To receive declarations of interest (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests). The nature as well as the existence of any such interest must be declared.	
	Cllr Betty declared a personal interest in any discussions relating to the Honest Miller.	
3.	To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 2022	
	The minutes were approved and signed as a true record.	
4.	To discuss matters arising from the above minutes not covered by the agenda.	
	The Jubilee oak tree had been planted. It was noted that the Environment Agency had been on-site clearing the brook.	
5.	Public session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item.	
	Ed Kyrke-Smith attended the meeting. Ed is looking to work with the Brabourne Estate, looking at the cricket field in Brook and working to create a biodiversity study alongside the School and planting an agri-diverse area around the edge of the field. Ed is looking at running the cricket field as a community farm in the long-term. Hoping to work with the AONB to enhance the area and to reduce the chemicals used. This will help the Brabourne Estate to build a better image and hope that this will bring the community together. Ed also introduced the meeting to KLAW (Kent Landowners Assisting Wildlife) which is a group of landowners who are looking at using a circular waste economy etc. The KLAW group currently has 15 members who are all conservation and eco-minded land owners. The meeting suggested that Ed could attend the “drop-in session” on 25 th February at the Village Hall between 10 and 5.	
6.	To receive the results of the questionnaire and agree the next steps towards deciding the future of the play area.	
	The results were received, a copy is kept on file. It was agreed that the following would be taken forward to the next stage: Slide Seesaw Climbing Frame Swings	

	<p>Zip wire</p> <p>Football area</p> <p>The Parish Council will hold a consultation at the Village Hall to engage with the Parish about the design options on each of the above. Seating will be introduced to the area further along the planning process. The Clerk will produce display items for this that Cllr Betts agreed to print on A3.</p>	
7.	To receive the Financial Statement and approve any payments	
	<p>The Parish Council noted £6840.86 in the bank</p> <p>The Parish Council online banking is now working.</p>	
8.	To receive the KALC Report	
	<p>Report to Brook Parish Council of the KALC Ashford Area Committee Meeting 4th January 2023.</p> <p>Cllr Betty attended the meeting which was held at Ashford Borough Council Civic Centre. It is considered that the following topics of discussion are relevant to Brook.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The meeting was attended by Inspector Johnson of Ashford Police Community Safety Unit together with the newly appointed Chief Inspector. The Kent Police neighbourhood review is being finalised and the conclusion awaited, however PCSOs are due to be phased out replaced by police officers. The final decision is yet to be agreed but it is likely the officers will be ward based. There has been a decrease in keyless car crime following several arrests. However, vans have been targeted by criminals and tools stolen. 2. More training sessions on the planning portal for parish councillors are to be arranged by ABC and councillors are urged to put their names forward if they would like to attend. 3. The Land Mapping Commission has now concluded its findings and its report circulated to all parishes. 4. The Chair of Ashford KALC expressed regret at the news that Action with Communities in Rural Kent, a charity that was established 100 years ago to provide help and advice to rural communities, has effectively become insolvent and disbanded. Some of the other member parish council representatives also expressed their sadness at the news. It was suggested that KALC might contact all parish councils to see if they would be willing to make a small donation towards the setting up of a replacement organisation in the form of a Community Interest Company by crowd funding through KCC. <p>The next meeting will be held on 1st March 2023 at 7pm.</p>	
9.	To receive the Planning Report and respond to any outstanding applications	
	<p>The only planning application to be discussed was the reconsultation of application no: 22/00889/AS.</p> <p>Cllr Betty left the meeting due to his previously declared interest.</p> <p>The Parish Council is to respond to the re-consultation stating that the objections raised to the original application still stand.</p> <p>Cllr Betty rejoined.</p>	

10.	<p>To discuss the trees at the Village Recreation Ground</p> <p>a. To receive the arborial report and decide on the actions</p> <p>The arborial report had been received and circulated. The Caretaker had undertaken some of the work but was unable to assist with T1, T2 and T56. The Clerk had received some quotes, it was agreed that the quote for £700 should be accepted.</p> <p>b. To receive communication from a resident regarding trees</p>	
	<p>The Clerk had received a communication from a member of the public who would like to replace the 3 poisoned trees with saplings. The Parish Council was very happy with this generous offer and would like to accept the offer with the caveat that any replacements are not planted with cables overhead. The Caretaker will be asked to communicate with the resident to agree the location of the new saplings.</p>	
11.	<p>To consider any changes to the Risk Assessment</p>	
	<p>There were no changes to the Risk Assessment.</p>	
12.	<p>Any Other Business (for information purposes only):</p>	
	<p>The Village Hall Committee had asked what plans the Parish Council have for the Coronation. The Parish Council does not have any plans as it is not an events organising committee.</p> <p>It was noted that the school are hoping to lease a piece of land for a cr park.</p> <p>The Clerk asked the Councillors to consider creating an “oven-ready” S106 wishlist in order that should a large development come forward during the creation of the next Local Plan (call for sites to begin next Autumn).</p>	
13.	<p>Date of next meeting</p>	
	<p>16th March 2023 18th May 2023</p>	

The meeting closed at 6.20pm

Signed:

Date: