

GOODNESTONE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
WEDNESDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2011

Present

Councillors Phillips, Ellison & Plumptre. Katy Brooks – Head Teacher, Goodnestone CE Primary School.

1. Apologies

Councillor Kittle was unable to attend and sent his apologies.

2. Minutes of the Meeting of the 13th July 2011

The minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting held on 13th July were signed as a true record of events by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising not covered elsewhere in the Agenda

There were no matters arising.

4. Community Policing

The Council understands there is restructuring going on at Kent Police. The Clerk will try to get a Police Officer to attend the next meeting.

5. District Councillors invited to report on DDC

District Councillor Conolly reported the following:

i. Household waste

The new waste arrangements are about to start being rolled out. The first bins will be delivered to Worth and Woodnesborough. DDC are aware the transition will be a difficult time and have dedicated more customer service advisors to deal with it. If any residents have any problems please contact the Clerk or District Councillor Conolly.

ii. Budget

DDC are starting the budgeting procedure for 2012-13. The Council is likely to need to make more cuts or generate more income.

iii. Pile-off

The National Grid has announced plans to bring in a major energy intake from Belgium to Richborough in 8-9 years time. Discussions are in the very early stages and do not involve the District Council yet.

iv. Broadband

“Thanet” is to be included in an area extension of BT’s super-fast broadband, although the exact areas which will have access are yet to be confirmed. This is because although BT has announced the infrastructure upgrade, they have yet to go through the motions of a formal survey in the region.

v. Boundary Commission

The Boundary Commission has made recommendations to say we come out of South Thanet constituency and join North Thanet in a newly named Herne Bay constituency.

6. Goodnestone CE Primary School

Head Teacher Katy Brooks was invited to update the Council on the ongoing building works taking place at the school. Ms Brooks reported the following:

“The new build is underway and on schedule with completion due on 23rd December 2011. The contractors BEC seem to be working well with the community and there have been no complaints received so far.

The Department of Education are pushing academy status onto primary schools. The school find this concerning and worrying. Currently Goodnestone is part of a consortium of 11 schools who work closely together. However academy status means legal costs, pensions, insurance etc. but as a consortium these things could be centralised. Therefore the school is looking at the creation of an umbrella trust.

Regarding parking, parents must start putting safety first as there have been some near misses. Cllr Phillips agreed to speak to the Site Manager of the Manicom Close and to a local resident whose parking can affect the flow of traffic.

The School has been invited to participate in the Canterbury Festival thanks to Leyland Ridings.”

7. Dogs

It was agreed that as the clerk has put a notice in the community news column of the paper as well as arranging for leaflets to be delivered on the subject of dog fouling / dogs on the loose that nothing more be done on this matter for the time being to see if the situation improves.

8. Affordable Housing Scheme

Work is continuing and is on schedule. The clerk will ask English Rural for the list of tenants prior to it being released.

9. KCC Scrutiny Committee Visit

Cllr Plumtre reported meeting with the committee who came out to look at Manicom Close and the Post Office in the church. The committee was made up of various councillors who come out to check on projects they have they have put money into and members of ACRK.

10. Notice Board Maintenance

Ken Birch has quoted £60 to refurbish the noticeboard and this was approved by the council.

11. Planning

The Clerk agreed to contact BT to ask what is happening with the phone box outside Boyes House.

12. Footpaths

Councillor Kittle had not reported any issues to the clerk.

13. Highway Matters

The clerk confirm there are still open cases with Kent Highways including the Cave Lane flooding area, the blocked drain at the end of The Street but these are all being investigated by Kent Highways.

14. Finance

i. Annual Audit

The Chairman approved the annual Audit for y/e 31st March 2011 for the clerk to send off to the Audit Commission. The Audit Commission is due to close in the autumn of 2012.

ii. Payments for Approval

The Clerk's Salary (six months £810.73) was approved for payment; proposed by Cllr Phillips and Seconded by Cllr Ellison

15. Written Correspondence

Following a letter by a member of the parish the clerk reported that Kent Highways are not prepared to take any further action to install signage on the sharp corner at the top of Saddlers Hill as already there are signs warning of the sharpness of the bend. Kent Highways do not permit mirrors on verges, however a mirror can be placed on the land providing there has been planning permission granted and the landowner has given permission. The Council decided this was not a viable option as a mirror would detract from the road and possible make the corner more dangerous.

16. Councillors Reports on Parish Matters

Councillors had nothing to report.

17. Any Other Business

The clerk is to arrange a replacement of the salt bin missing from the corner at the top of Saddlers Hill.

Cllr Ellison reported that Jon Aldington is working on a village website www.goodnestone.org.uk and that other community groups can contribute or contact Jon with a link to their website if appropriate.

18. Date of Next Meeting

A date is yet to be decided.

There being no further items to discuss the meeting closed at 21.16pm.