

Longfield and New Barn Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held at Jubilee Hall, Main Road Longfield at 8.00pm on
Tuesday 17th December 2013

Present: Cllr S Carlse Chairman
Cllr T Mack
Cllr S Brown Vice Chairman
Cllr J Drake
Cllr J MacDonald
Cllr D Patel
Cllr B Hawes
Cllr Z Snell

T Quilter – Police Constable
P Hassell – Community Warden, KCC

2 Members of the Public

In Attendance: Steve House – Parish Clerk
Jane Tyrrell – Asst. Parish Clerk

2013/485 Declarations of Interest:

Cllr S Brown declared an interest as a member of the Development Control Committee and Member of Cabinet at DBC.

Cllr Drake declared an interest as a member of the Hall Management Committee (Longfield Community Hall).

Cllr Patel declared an interest as Director of Hodgson Pharmacy and Hazelwood Nursing home and as owner of properties in Longfield

Cllr Hawes declared an interest as a member of Longfield Sports and Social Club

2013/486 Apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Cllr M Tamber Cllr S Gay Cllr J Kite and from Cllr Perfitt

2013/487 Tony Quilter & Paul Hassell

Cllr Carlse introduced Tony & Paul and invited their reports and comments.

Tony summarised a seasonal increase in housebreaking and theft from outbuildings in the Parish in the previous month or so. Senior police managers are focused on the issue and operation Castle is in progress day and night actively searching for suspects, on the streets and on farmland.

8:05pm Cllr Patel arrived

Residents are cautioned to watch out for mud or stickers or anything unusual mysteriously appearing on their properties, e.g. front doors. Tony informs that these are markers being left by criminals seeking to determine whether or anyone is at home. Therefore anything of this nature should be removed.

Any requests to establish Neighbourhood Watch schemes should be referred to Tony or Paul. Cllr Carlse said that she would circulate NW information in her neighbourhood and invited other Cllrs to do likewise.

Tony offered to provide contact details for the PCSO and confirmed that henceforth he would provide monthly crime reports, excluding road traffic accidents.

Cllr Hawes advised Tony that emails he had sent to him had gone unanswered. Tony advised that this was a temporary issue caused by the switch over to a new email system.

Cllr Patel asked for more information about a major recent incident at Longfield station involving police and emergency services but Tony had not been involved and could offer no details. Cllr Patel went on to ask about symbols mysteriously appearing on properties, which Tony was able to explain as coded messages to criminals meaning, for example, 'property already robbed'.

Cllr Drake reported that a telegraph pole in Fawkham Rd remained unsecure following a vehicle impact and said that not enough information was coming to Council on accident black spots. Tony suggested that enquiries should be directed to Police HQ.

Cllr MacDonald referred to questionable night-time usage of the Long Valley car park. Assurance was given by Tony that the situation has long been known to the police and is being monitored. Discussion ensued on the installation of CCTV but an overwhelming case in favour was not apparent. Further consideration required.

Paul responded to remarks by Cllr Hawes about a torch wielding man acting suspiciously in his neighbourhood late at night by recommending the establishment of a NW scheme. Further he invited reports of such activity directly to himself or by dialling 101.

Cllr Carlse closed the discussion by emphasising the need to raise public awareness and vigilance without instilling fear and panic, especially with the elderly. A sense of community spirit and cooperation is key to success. In this context Tony and Paul were directed to a lady resident in Northdown Rd needing reassurance.

Cllr Carlse expressed gratitude on behalf of the Council to Tony and Paul for their contribution.

2013/488 Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 26th November 2013 were circulated and approved as an accurate record of the meeting by those present.

Proposed by Cllr Hawes **Seconded** by Cllr Drake

2013/489 Matters Arising

None

2013/490 Public Question Time

Cllr Carlse invited members of the public to speak at 8:40pm.

Public 1 voiced concern about the prevalence of persons attempting to make doorstep sales in his neighbourhood. T Quilter & P Hassell informed that all such sellers must present a peddlers' licence and gave assurance that the police would actively pursue any abuse. Concerned residents should report concerns in this respect by telephoning 101.

Public 2 asked if Council was aware of any proposed windfarm (or similar) development in Longfield, expressing concerns about public rights of way especially on the Gallops. Cllr Carlse assured that no such plans were known to Council and suggested that it may be a matter relevant to Southfleet Parish.

Cllr Hawes mentioned that permission had been granted for a new housing development at Hook Green Farm and Cllrs Brown and Carlse confirmed that Council permission would be required for a development of the kind referred to.

Public 2 asked if the Parish Council would post meeting information to its website and Cllr Carlse responded that this was a project for 2014.

Public 1 advised that following a review KCC had revised the routes of footpath reference DR210, rendering it unusable due to passage through private buildings. **Action Item: Parish Office to investigate.**

2013/491 Chairman's Report

Pinden Liaison Meeting attended on 6/11 with representatives from DBC, Pinden, KCC, Southfleet Parish Council and Darenth Parish Council present. There was no environmental group representation. Minutes from the meeting would be submitted by Pinden Ltd in the near future.

The Chairman referred to a letter received by the Parish Office requesting information on the size and weight of lorries accessing the site and advised that this had been satisfactorily replied to by KCC and Pinden.

It was noted that the report arising from the Pinden site visit by J. Wooldridge had been received by the Parish Office on 5/9/13.

It was noted that a meeting had been held with the Hall Management Committee on the morning of 17/12/13. Guttering issues and the installation of a new ramp were specifically mentioned. In response to a question by Cllr Hawes the Chairman confirmed that responsibility for the cost of the ramp would be governed by the terms of the lease for the property with a possibility that DBC would be liable for a portion. **Action Item: This matter requires further investigation by Parish Office.**

The cost of the telltale indicators installed to monitor subsidence effects on the Hall had been discussed with the Hall Committee who had agreed to pay 50%. Cllr Drake mentioned that one of the indicators had been torn off. **Action Item: This matter requires further investigation by Parish Office.**

The Chairman closed her report by thanking Councillors for their support and attendance in 2013 and wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, seconded by the Vice Chairman.

2013/492 Correspondence

Item no 2 Recovery vehicle costs re illegal encampments – Cllr Carlse reported that a response had been received from C. Newmarsh at DBC. Cllr MacDonald commented that any agreement by The Parish Council in respect of costs must be subject to a specific financial limit and it was advised by members that NALC should be consulted on the matter. There was further discussion on the possibility that Parish Council grounds at Long Valley might be used for illegal encampment but Council felt that this was unlikely given the limited access.

Action Item: Parish Office to seek clarification of potential liability with DBC or NALC as appropriate.

Item no 24 Repairs to damaged fence in the car park behind the Hall – responding to a query by Cllr Hawes the Asst Clerk advised that DBC had referred to an incorrect lease clause, ref 4.43, in their response. **Action Item: Parish Office to follow up.**

2013/493 Committee Reports and Recommendations

i) Finance and General Purposes

- a) Cllr MacDonald drew attention to the £702.16 paid to South East Water in respect of Whitehill Road Allotments and a discussion ensued about options to control usage. **Action Item: Parish Office to check with South East Water as to whether a meter could be installed to govern the supply.**

Receipt and approval of receipts and payments for December:

Proposed: Cllr Patel **Seconded:** Cllr Hawes

- b) Cllr Brown stated that the Finance and General Purposes sub-committee had not convened as it had not been quorate. He advised that an EGM would be convened in Jan 2014 to discuss the budget.

ii) Development Control

Cllr MacDonald gave a verbal report of the meeting held on Tuesday 17th December 2013.

Cllr Carlse reported that DBC had submitted further information to DC&LG concerning travellers' sites relevant to Nurstead Stables subsequent to the 20/6 hearing. DC&LG have passed this to the travellers' legal representative Dr Murdoch, whose response is expected by 10/1/14. The Secretary of State's decision is scheduled for 3/3/14.

iii) Highways and Lighting

Cllr Patel commented that a response was still awaited from KCC in relation to part-night lighting.

Approval of minutes from the meeting on 26th November 2013:

Proposed: Cllr Carlse **Seconded:** Cllr Drake

iv) Longfield Festival

Cllr Brown recommended that a reminder be set to hold a festival planning meeting. **Action Item: Parish Office to diarise a meeting for Feb 2014.**

v) Longfield Community Park

Cllr Carlse advised nothing to report.

Cllr MacDonald expressed concern about continuity vis-à-vis the responsibilities and liabilities currently attached to the Hall Management Committee Trust bearing in mind its proposed transition to Friends of Long Valley, mentioning specifically Government funding.

Cllr Carlse assured the Council that a further meeting was to be arranged for additional discussion of the HMC and the Trust. The Hall Management Committee has offered dates to meet with Parish Council.

2013/494 KALC – Dartford Area Committee

Cllr MacDonald informed that she had been reviewing consultations issued dealing with electoral procedures and Councillors with multiple responsibilities. The next meeting is scheduled for 20/2/14.

Cllr MacDonald advised that she wanted more information about the disparity of DBC funding amongst Parish Councils and the £25K purportedly available on a bid basis.

2013/495 Borough and Parish Councils Forum

Cllr Carlse advised nothing to report.

2013/496 Dartford Borough Council – Matters to Report

Cllr Brown reported that:

- The carol concert on 11/12 had been a success with 550 in attendance and that the Dartford pantomime was up and running.
- Concerning consultations on the planned additional river crossing, Option B had been rejected.

It was also mentioned that SLCC should be informed of the new Parish Clerk appointment and, in conjunction, that a notification was required concerning the change of RFO. **Action Item: Parish Office to submit relevant notifications re appointment of new Parish Clerk.**

2013/497 Kent County Council – Matters to Report

No members present.

Date of next Extraordinary Finance Meeting

TBC

**Date of next Development Control Committee Meeting – 28/1/14 @ 7:30pm
at Jubilee Hall, Main Road.**

**Date of the next Full Council Meeting - 28/1/14 @ 8:00pm
at Jubilee Hall, Main Road.**

Meeting Closed at 10:00pm

Signed

Date.....