

**Minutes of Brook Parish Council Meeting held in
Brook Village Hall Meeting Room on Thursday, 21st July 2016**

Present

Simon Betty (Chair)
Janet Jessop

Alison Finn
Janet Medhurst

1 member of the public

To be actioned by

The meeting started at 7.00pm	
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Tomkins and Linin.	
Declaration of interest in items on the agenda There were no declarations of interest.	
Minutes of the Meeting on 16 th June 2016 were approved as a true record.	
Matters Arising from the Minutes Baptist Church – Cllr Betty had phoned the Baptist Church in Ashford who had put him in touch with a Mr Bartlett. The Baptist Church in Brook has not been used as a place of worship for 10 years and at present a viability study is being undertaken to look at potential uses for the future. Cllr Betty explained that the Parish Council would be pleased to see the building used as a community venue. The flyer with community events and news about dog fouling etc is nearing completion. The Clerk is to send a letter head to Cllr Mrs Finn. The website is to be paid for by KCC after-all so no application for funding will be required.	
Village Caretaker Scheme - To consider a contribution towards a replacement van for the caretaker The current van has some problems and is considered beyond economic repair. It was, therefore, decided that a new van should be purchased. It was agreed that Brook would contribute something towards the cost of the new van but as budgets are restricted it was agreed that £200 was the most that could be contributed. - To agree enrolment as an employer in the Local Government Pension Scheme The Parish Council discussed the need to enrol as an employer in the Local Government Pension Scheme. Cllr Mrs Finn proposed that the Parish Council pass a resolution to join the Local Government Pension Scheme, Cllr Betty seconded this with all in favour. The Parish Council also discussed the grass that is not being collected as raised in an email by Cllr Linin. As was explained at the last meeting the mulcher on the grass is not able to collect wet grass and the weather conditions have not allowed for mulching to be appropriately dealt with. It is hoped that this matter can be rectified in drier weather conditions.	
Finances The Financial Statement was circulated and a budget against expenditure was also circulated. There is £1831.41 available in the bank. There were no cheques written.	
Planning Applications	

<p>There were 2 planning applications</p> <p>One for Downsway for a side and rear extension. The Parish Council agreed that it raises no objection, the owner has followed the pre-application guidance set out by Ashford Borough Council. The other Planning Application was for change of use of agricultural to residential use for part of a field at old Hall Place. The Parish Council raise no objections.</p>	
<p>Correspondence Cllr Linin had sent some comments about hedgerow cutting. The Chairman explained that if a hedge abuts a highway, KCC have to cut the hedgerow using one of their subcontractors.</p>	
<p>Public Participation There were no comments from the member of the public present.</p>	
<p>Any Other Business The Smeeth Parish Council and ABC contract had been circulated. The following points were raised: Is there not an option for the “cluster” to break the contract in the 5 year term? Public Liability Insurance of £10 million seemed a little excessive. Paragraph 13, TUPE – This either will/will not apply, the contract says it doesn’t think it should but then goes on to say, if it does the cluster will indemnify Ashford Borough Council or its contractors for all costs. Brook Parish Council would not want the cluster to be responsible for this liability which could potentially cover 12 months of the caretaker’s costs under TUPE.</p> <p>It was noted that Broadband Fibre optic had been provided to home using the current overhead lines, this is something that took place near Bath but might be of interest to Brook.</p>	TB
<p>The next meeting was confirmed as Thursday, 15th September 2016, the Clerk would like any items for the agenda by Monday 5th September, please.</p>	All
<p>There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 8.00 PM.</p>	