

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BROOK PARISH COUNCIL
ON 17th FEBRUARY 2022 HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr Tomkins(Chair) Cllr Betts
Cllr Betty Cllr Finn
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.	
	There were no apologies for absence.	
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 Finn declared an interest in the planning application of reserved matters due to the proximity of her house to the application. Cllr Medhurst declared an interest in planning application: 21/000023/AS	
3.	To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 18th November 2021	
	The minutes of the previous meeting were signed as a true copy.	
4.	To discuss matters arising from the above minutes not covered by the agenda	
	The self-closing gate that was to replace the stile has now been installed.	
5.	Public session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item.	
	The member of the public asked if there had been any further news on the pub.	
6.	Financial matters:	
	To note/authorise the following: i. To note the Parish Council's financial position The Parish Council has £5747.43 in the bank with no outstanding payments. ii. To authorise any payments There were no cheques to be signed. The Clerk is to purchase a bench for up to £160.00. 3 quotations had been received for the cutting of the tree at the front of the driveway as highlighted by the arborial report. It was agreed that the Parish Council would accept the quotation from T Gardener Ltd.	
7.	To discuss the management of the brook	
	The member of the public present was invited to speak. The member of the public had a copy of a letter addressed to Damian Collins MP, in this letter Ben Conway from the Environment Agency (EA) had offered to have a discussion with affected persons and the member of the public had contacted Ben Conway but had received a disappointing response. Damian Collins was provided with this response and he forwarded a communication he had received from the EA stating that the EA were getting "winter ready" and were busy with that. 2 employees of the EA were seen in book and the EA were asked what these 2 employees were doing. They have been undertaking culvert surveys on 2 culverts, one near the old chapel and one near The Granary. The member of the public had been told that the EA were unable to share the outcome of the survey so a Freedom of Information request was submitted. This request brought about the understanding that the culvert near the old Chapel is structurally sound but the one near the Old Granary is silted up so it could not be determined how this was in structural terms. The EA have said they will undertake the de-silting of the culvert but they need the financial agreement from their finance office to undertake this.	

	<p>The EA have been told of the flooding issues on the land beside the recreation ground, the farmer has recently undertaken some remedial work and it would appear that the ditch has been re-dug. There is no surface water causing an issue at present.</p> <p>The EA are responsible for the “main rivers” only and not the “alternative water courses.”</p> <p>The Parish Council has offered to assist with communication as necessary.</p>	
8.	To receive the planning report	
	<p>Planning reports have been circulated.</p> <p>It was noted that the reserved matters application is now to be assessed against the Stodmarsh issues of nutrient neutrality following legal advice taken by Ashford Borough Council.</p> <p>The Parish Council raised no objections to the application for Martingales or the application for Manuels.</p>	
9.	To receive the KALC report	
	<p>The KALC report had been circulated.</p> <p>Cllr Betty noted the relevant points and will attend the next meeting on 3rd March.</p>	
10.	To receive any updates on Highways/Environment	
	Cllr Tomkins will report the water issue in Nats Lane.	
11.	To receive any update regarding the Village Hall and to note the request for use of the recreation ground and insurance cover for this.	
	<p>The Village Hall porch had recently suffered from graffiti.</p> <p>The Clerk had received a request for events to be held on the recreation ground. The Parish Council is supportive of these events but will highlight to the Village Hall Committee the need for them to hold events insurance for this.</p>	
12.	To receive any update regarding the Newsletter	
	Work is imminent on the next newsletter.	
13.	To receive a Caretaker Report	
	It was noted that the Parish Council is likely to have to increase its contribution due to the increase in fuel costs.	
14.	To consider changing to bi-monthly meetings	
	It was agreed that the Parish Council will hold bi-monthly meetings in the next PC year, starting from May 2022.	
15.	To consider any changes to the Risk Assessment	
	There is no change to the Risk Assessment.	
16.	Any Other Business (for information purposes only):	
	<p>The Clerk was asked to find out costs for a jubilee beacon.</p> <p>Formal congratulations were extended to the Clerk for passing the Certificate in Local Council Administration.</p> <p>The Clerk explained the implication of the General Power of Competence.</p> <p>Cllr Betty will attend the planning training on 14/3 and also the Litter Hero training on 22/2.</p> <p>The Clerk had circulated some information from the Land Mapping Commission, the Councillors were asked to consider their responses to this.</p> <p>Farm vehicles through the village are causing damage to the verges and not clearing the mud they create. The Clerk will contact Highways as will Cllr Tomkins.</p> <p>There will be a litter pick in the village on 26/3.</p> <p>Cllr Betts sent apologies (holiday) for the next meeting.</p> <p>There was a discussion regarding the upgrading of the play area.</p>	
17.	Date of next meeting – 17th March 2022 at 5.00pm	
	<p>21st April 2022</p> <p>19th May 2022</p>	

	The meeting closed at 6.10pm	
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Signed:

Date: