

**Minutes of Brook Parish Council Meeting held in the
Village Hall on Thursday, 20th June 2013**

Present	Peter Webb in the Chair	Erica Forbes
	Bob Scarfe	Jim Benson
	Tony Dunn	

To be actioned by

The meeting started at 7.00pm	
Apologies had been received from John Tomkins and Cllr Jane Martin.	
Declaration of interest in items on the agenda There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.	
Minutes of the Meeting on 16 th May 2013 were approved as a true record.	
Matters Arising from the Minutes Brook Sign – The sign framework has been erected and the sign itself has been painted, this will be put up early next week. The Parish Council are grateful to Sean Pierce for his time on this project. The Clerk is to write a letter of thanks. Posts at the Village Hall – Another post was knocked down at the weekend. Village Clean Up – The clean up took place on Saturday, the Parish Council are very grateful to those who helped. Waste – It was noted that there is a lot of waste littering Plumpton Road. It was recommended that this is registered with Ashford Borough Council via a smart phone and their new Recycle App. Brook School – There will be an Acting Head at the School from September and an appointment will be made in time for the Winter Term. Pantomime – There are plans for another pantomime with a meeting planned to take place in the Honest Miller. Play bark – 144 bags of play bark had been delivered and spread earlier today. Thanks go to all who attended.	
Plan-It Ashford Daniel Carter from Ashford Borough Council was welcomed. He gave an introduction to the Local Plan and explained what Plan-It Ashford is. Plan-It Ashford is an opportunity to investigate how the future of the area may need to change in the next 15 years. What are the aspirations for the future in this area? What would Brook like to do to carry this forward? There will be new developments in the Ashford area but these will be evidence based and need to be sustainable. The presentation by Daniel was very comprehensive and a session with Ashford Borough Council and the Parishioners is to be considered by the Parish Council.	
Finances The Financial Statement was circulated. The following cheques was signed: R Scarfe for bolts - £10.70 Paint for the Village Sign - £6.28	
Tree Wardens Report Simon Betty is the new tree warden. It was reported that he had been on a course and has had a hand-over session with Pat Forbes. The Clerk is to have his email address so that he can have	

copies of the agenda.

It was reported that the Jubilee Tree has wilted leaves and some bugs on it. Samples have been given to 2 tree specialists.

NB. The tree specialists have come back with recommendations:

The first was from David Carey, professor (I think) at Hadlow College, to whom photos of the bugs were sent by one of the Tree Warden group. David identified the occupants of the leaves as hoverfly larvae, feeding off the aphids, and says they are on the side of the angels (!)

The second was from the nurseryman at Palmstead Nurseries near Wye with whom I left a bottle with the affected leaves and some photos of the tree. He said that the premature autumn colouring and leaf dying was most likely to be the general stress suffered by trees planted out from pots in the early stages before their roots have adapted to the new conditions - a common problem. He didn't think the bugs caused the apparent distress, only any holes appearing in the leaves. The high winds we have had may have contributed to the stress. He says the tree should be fine next year when the root system has developed more and in the meantime suggested nothing more than TLC (meaning keeping it watered as necessary during this summer and possible adding some fertilizer, although the latter is not recommended in the manuals).

This seems to suggest that we should not undertake any spraying, etc. and just wait to see how the tree develops next spring, without going in for any drastic action.

Andrew Wickham

Cllr Andrew Wickham was welcomed to the meeting.

He reported that although BIFFA are provided the waste collection service, if residents of Brook wish to, they can still use Wyecycle as their waste collector.

School Parking continues to be a problem and there is no easy solution to this.

The speed limit for Brook is an issue. Andrew would like to see this reduced to 30mph and this should be achievable. There is currently a pilot taking place in Kent for 20mph by Schools and a campaign to lower speed limits by Schools.

Pot holes are an issue county wide, there are more find and fix teams out this spring but pot holes can still be reported online or by calling the 24 hour help line on 08458 247 800, once reported pot holes should be fixed within 28 days.

Andrew has access to a member fund of £10,000 to divide between his 18 parishes this is for funding projects. He also has a Highways grant of £25,000 for Highways and a Capital Projects Grant.

Cllr Wickham was asked about where the new signs were, as the Parish Council had requested AONB signs some time ago. Cllr Wickham said that Brook would not have the signs yet as the original ones were not in a poor state of repair.

Cllr Wickham was asked about the possibility of a new build at Brook School, to alleviate parking and provide better buildings for teaching in. Cllr Wickham agreed to find out where Brook School is within the capital programme for new buildings.

Cllr William Howard

Cllr William Howard was welcomed to address the meeting.

Cllr Howard explained that the bi-election has seen Cllr Jane Martin elected as a Ward Member for Saxon Shore, a role the 2 Councillors will share.

Cllr Martin had produced a note which was read to the meeting, apologising for her absence and detailing the following points:

Food Festival

There will be a food festival in Ashford town centre on 21st & 22nd June and it will be a great day out for all the family

Traders can still take a stall – restaurants and local producers by contacting steve.miller@ambermarkets.co.uk

This would be a great way of marketing Saxon shore and if anyone wishes more details please do contact me.

Re-cycling

There are now extra call centre staff to help with your queries. By now everyone should have had a letter explaining what they will receive in terms of caddies and bins. As Cllr Howard said a few weeks ago, the goal is that residents try the new system first before decisions are made to make changes to bin sizes etc – we will only know exactly what we need once we begin to use the system.

One Roadshow is remaining on:-

Friday 28th June 9am -5pm

Asda Superstore Kimberly way

For queries anyone can call 01233 330706 (hotkey no 8)

Handyman

A number of villages have expressed interest in pursuing this further and a meeting will be arranged to discuss in detail how this may work. Brook will of course be invited

Contact Data and Newsletter

My Council Email: jane.martin@ashford.gov.uk is now up and running and our first Newsletter will be delivered next week to all homes in the area.

William Howard requested those present to trial the new system with BIFFA for a month before flagging any issues they may have.

William also pointed out that Wyecycle have been given opportunities to discuss and negotiate the issues and a way of working forward together with Biffa. These negotiations fell through. All recyclables and residuals are staying in the South East; composting will be undertaken at Blaze Farm in Maidstone.

Biffa have been asked to keep off the verges in the villages.

Biffa was asked about where we are with Make Kent Quicker. BT is rolling out faster Broadband and Kent will be complete by 2015. £42,000,000 of funding is being put in with the aim that the slowest speeds will be 2mb/sec. The wireless system could not have covered entire village areas. KCC are contributing £10,000,000.

Any Other Business

The 2 Councillors were thanked for attending the meeting.

Brabourne and Smeeth Fete had a Speed Watch; the Clerk was asked how much the training etc would be for this to be done in Brook. TB

Cllr Scarfe is to call the Highways Inspector for Brook regarding pot holes in Brook.

Mrs Betty asked that Jonathan Longley be thanked for sorting her brown bin so swiftly. TB

The Council were asked if they would have any objection to the placing of signs for the school fete in Brook. The Council has no objection assuming but request that the signs are removed on the same day at the end of the fete.

Public Participation A new resident was welcomed to Brook.	
The next meeting was confirmed as Thursday, 18 th July 2013, the Clerk would like any items for the agenda by Monday 8 th July, please.	All
There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 9.00 PM.	