

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BROOK PARISH COUNCIL
ON 6th JULY 2022 HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr Tomkins (Chair) Cllr Betts
Cllr Betty Cllr Finn
Cllr Jessop

In attendance: 51 members of the public and the Clerk

		To be actioned by
1.	To receive and approve apologies for absence.	
	Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Medhurst.	
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.	
	There were no declarations of interest to be declared.	
3.	To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 19th May 2022	
	The minutes were approved and signed as a true record.	
4.	To discuss matters arising from the above minutes not covered by the agenda.	
	There was nothing to report.	
5.	Public session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item.	
	There were no comments at this time.	

6.	Planning Report			
	<p>Cllr Betty provided an update regarding the previous planning application (21/01569/AS) for the Honest Miller and the 3 new applications (2 planning applications and 1 listed building consent) – application numbers: 22/00889/AS, 22/00892/AS and 22/00893/AS.</p> <p>A member of the Save The Honest Miller group gave an update of their position.</p> <p><i>Comments from the public:</i></p> <p>A member of the public said they were disturbed that the agent marketing the “15-20 year lease on the Honest Miller” might not be in a position to demonstrate that there has been any interest. It was confirmed that the all expressions of interest from the Save the Honest Miller group had been formalised in writing to the agent. An audit trail is being kept.</p> <p>A member of the public asked if 2 houses would be acceptable if the pub was re-opened. Those in attendance felt that 2 houses were not acceptable.</p> <p>If someone were to take on the lease would the pub be refurbished for the leaseholder? The Honest Miller is being advertised as “undergoing full refurbishment.” However, there appears to be no works being carried out on site at this time.</p> <p>The Planning Policy states why this site should not be developed.</p> <p>What were Ashford Borough Council going to say to the original application (21/01569/AS)? It is understood that the officer was minded to refuse, all the documentation will be available to the Planning Inspectorate as to why the decision was not made in a timely manner and also how documents were still being submitted by the planning agent right up until the appeal was lodged, this did not provide the officer time to make a decision, write a report and have it authorised.</p> <p>Due to the strength of feeling in the room, these applications will be decided by the Planning Committee if the Officer is minded to support.</p> <p>It would appear that the activation of the ACV caused confusion at the Borough Council because to activate the ACV, the property must be being sold or leased on a 25 year lease, neither of these are being undertaken.</p> <p>Can the owner be served with notice that the buildings must be maintained to preserve the fabric of them? Because the buildings are listed, the Planning Enforcement department at Ashford Borough Council are required to ensure the owner preserves the buildings. However, the buildings must be at risk and the Honest Miller does not meet Historic England’s at risk register so this is not an issue at present.</p> <p>The Save The Honest Miller group offered to write to Churchill Trading to express concern regarding the building and the apparent lack of maintenance.</p> <p>A neighbour to the site reported that he had not been consulted as yet regarding these applications. The Parish Council had also not been consulted. Ashford Borough Council Planning Department are to be contacted.</p> <p>A member of the public asked how the 2 houses are outside of the village confines red line. The red line runs along the edge of the neighbours back gardens and so the area is outside of the village confines as set out by Ashford Borough Council Planning Department.</p>			
7.	Financial matters:			
	<p>a) To note/authorise the following:</p> <p>i. To note the Parish Council’s financial position. The current financial position was noted as £6842.09 in the bank</p> <p>ii. To authorise any payments The payments to be made were approved as follows:</p> <table><tr><td>Vistaprint – playground sign</td><td>£ 20.99</td></tr></table>	Vistaprint – playground sign	£ 20.99	
Vistaprint – playground sign	£ 20.99			

8.	To receive any updates on Highways/Environment.	
	Cllr Tomkins was still discussing Bockham Lane with Kent Highways.	
9.	To receive a Caretaker Report.	
	The Chairman had no further information to report.	
10.	Any Other Business (for information purposes only):	
	The Clerk had received confirmation of grants of £1500 towards the £1541 for the defibrillator and cabinet. Discussions are ongoing with the Village Hall regarding siting and installation of the cabinet and it is hoped that there will be a positive outcome.	
11.	Date of next meeting – 15th September 2022	
	<div> 17th November 2022 16th March 2023 </div> <div> 19th January 2023 18th May 2023 </div>	
	The meeting closed at 9.00pm	

Signed:

Date: