

## KINGSNORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2007, at Kingsnorth Sports Pavilion

PRESENT: Mr. T. Horsman (Chairman); Cllr. Mrs. A. Hicks; Mr. R. Gardner; Mr. M. Ciccone; Mr. N. Shorter; Mr. S. Bates; Mr. J. Sheehan; Mrs. L. Ross; Cllr. J. Wedgbury; Cllr. J. Holland; Cllr. P. Bartlett; Mr. D. Bacon.

1. **Apologies** Cllr. P. Davison; Cllr. M. Angell.
2. **Open Forum** There were no residents present.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting**  
It was proposed by NS, seconded by MC and agreed that the minutes of the last meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> June should be accepted as an accurate record. Apart from a correction to the date of the meeting and insertion of a missing word, it was proposed by NS, seconded by MC and agreed that the minutes of the planning meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> July should be accepted as an accurate record.
4. **Matters arising**
  - (a) Citizens Advice Bureau Mr. Fleming, District Manager, Ashford & Tenterden CAB, was unable to attend this meeting, but would like to the September meeting. Regarding the PC's proposal about subsidising rental of a room at the Rec. Centre for CAB's proposed outreach service, Mr. Fleming said that the outreach plan was still under evaluation and he would keep the PC informed on progress.
  - (b) Park Leisure quote Park Leisure had sent the promised quote for replacement of the safety surfacing under the swings. This would cost £3,714 and painting them £375. It had previously been agreed to obtain other quotes and consider these at the budget meeting in November.
  - (c) Park Farm ponds and Entrance Park Mr. Fry had apologised again for the delay in clearing the pond. There was a problem with the Probation Service and the boat. Clean Kent had in the meantime collected 5 bags of litter which is all they could reach with 2m fishing nets. The boat should be available soon and the work to various ponds will be done during July and August. Clean Kent had been trying to litter pick the Park once a month, but it has now been put on the litter-picking schedule and a fortnightly-regime of litter picking will start in the next month. Regarding litter bins, an order for installation of bins in various parts of Ashford has been sent out to be done within the next month and he will ask for the bins in the Entrance Park to be given priority. RG had taken some photos of the Park showing litter around the seating area and pond which the Clerk would send to Mr. Fry. It was agreed that the area should be monitored and if the clean-up and bin installation was not carried out by the dates Mr. Fry had mentioned, Cllr. Bartlett should be informed. Mr. Bacon reported that he had pulled out 6 trolleys from two of the Park Farm ponds, but there were some which were too embedded for him to reach. RG was concerned that when the new rubbish bins were installed that they should be put on a regular emptying schedule and considered that litter-picking of the new sitting-out area by the entrance wall, when the area was eventually laid out, should not be overlooked. This would be the responsibility of the PC.
  - (d) Sleeper bridges In response to the suggestion that the dyke could be piped and a gravelled path put on the top instead of the sleeper bridges, Mr. Hayes of KCC

responded that it was worth keeping in mind for the future but that it would be a lot more costly. KCC will monitor the new bridge which should last a good number of years.

RG had reported that all the work required on both the bridges had been completed to a very good standard and within the deadline set by Mr. Hayes. The bridge on the 'spur' had been completely rebuilt, while the bridge on the main footpath has been refurbished and the new handrails installed. His visit was in very wet conditions and the bridges were not slippery, supporting Mr. Hayes view that the chicken wire causes more problems than it's worth. The Clerk had sent an e-mail thanking Mr. Hayes.

Regarding the vegetation in the storm ditch that needed to be cleared, Ms Tobitt had forwarded the request to Mr. Fry so that he could arrange for the Probation Service to clear it. TH reported that this had not yet been done.

- (e) Verge maintenance, Park Farm Mrs. Tobitt had responded that overgrown verges were always a problem at this time of year all over the Borough and that the fact that the budget for shrub bed maintenance had been drastically reduced, resulted in the current problems. She suggested that the PC and local ward members lobbied the Council for more resources. In the meantime, she would get the worst areas dealt with. Park Farm members reported that some verges had now been cut but the standard of work was poor; no trimming had been done on the pavement side of the verges. The Clerk was asked to report this to Ms Tobitt.
- (f) Broken lampposts, Park Farm RG reported that work had started on replacing the two broken lampposts. The lamppost in Sheepfold Way had been replaced and was working but the stump had not been removed and had been further vandalised so that the wiring was hanging out. The Bluebell Rd. post was installed but not working and the stump was still in place. RG had reported this to Highways and the Clerk had confirmed it to them by e-mail.
- (g) Future of Community Wardens Mrs. Batt, Secretary KAPC Ashford Area Committee, e-mailed to say that she had received a reply to her letter regarding Community Wardens from KCC. Mrs. Howell assured her that KCC had no intention to cut the budget for the deployment of its Wardens. All Wardens are on a permanent contract and KCC do not intend to reduce numbers. There was therefore no necessity for individual parishes to write to KCC as previously suggested.

## 5. Correspondence

- (a) Closure of road Highways informed the PC on 28.6. that due to Capita Symonds carrying out footway works, kerbing, carriageway works and carriageway widening in the area, it will be necessary to temporarily close Church Hill Road, Brockman's Lane and Cheeseman's Green Lane whilst the works are in progress. The temporary closure will be in operation during the week commencing Monday 16 July 2007 for up to 12 weeks. (The closure was later revised to 23<sup>rd</sup> July). Ms Stone of Barton Willmore wrote to residents on 25.6., with a copy to the PC, to say that construction of the Finn Farm link road is due to commence on 9.7. and should end in Sept/Oct.
- (b) Footway/cycleway works Highways had informed residents and the PC that works would take place to the footway to the west of Antonius Court & Hadrian Gardens between 2-14.7. This scheme forms a small section of a larger cycleway network which will connect residential areas with the local secondary school. Following this scheme a Toucan

Crossing will be installed on Romney Marsh Road near to the Tesco supermarket to provide a safe crossing of the dual carriageway.

- (c) Meeting with Highways Mrs. Wickenden had asked whether PC representatives would like to meet her and one of the Highway Engineers in August to discuss Kingsnorth parish issues. The Clerk would liaise with her and interested Cllrs. to arrange this.
- (d) Distilling pond and Open Space, Myrtle Court NS reported on information received that Legal Services may have to re-write the 106 agreement because of ownership problems of the ponds. As the adjacent public open space with the village sign was such a key site in the parish, it was thought to be very important that it is kept neat and tidy when the land has been made over to the PC. The 106 agreement stipulates that the maintenance fee for the public open space is payable to ABC. The Clerk would write to ABC to ask how much funding ABC would provide for maintenance, if the PC undertook to carry this out.
- (e) Accident at Brisley Farm play area JH had reported that a child had had an accident at Brisley Park play area when he fell between 2 steps of the slide. The play area had been closed by Wards the day afterwards although they had promised that it would be open by the school holidays. He had e-mailed them that day and again requested that it should be opened. There will be a Rospa inspection before ABC will adopt it. There had been a meeting about faults which Wards had said they would remedy. JH reported that he had met a member of the ABC Executive about the problems experienced by the owners of Willowbed Farm and he hoped the PC would be willing to make a small contribution to planting a hedge if Wards and ABC agreed on this.
- (f) Rural development programme - Ashford Urban Fringe Group  
The Clerk reported on the bid that Mrs. Davies of ABC was making for Defra/EU/SEEDA rural development programme Leader funding. This will include land in the wider urban fringe where there will be an impact on agricultural land, which will become less viable because of development. Bids can be made for funding for rural issues such as diversification into non-agricultural activities; basic services; village renewal and development; conservation and upgrading of rural heritage, etc. The Clerk had received a copy of the interim guidance and ABC's proposals. The PC had been included as one of the interested parties.
- (g) KAPC Area Committee Meeting The next meeting is on 1.8. Mr. Reed, the Vice-Chairman, had written that they wish to give the retiring Chairman, Dr. Moorby, a gift in appreciation of her service as Chairman for the past 11 years and Vice-Chairman for about 9 years before that. They wished to make a presentation to her at the beginning of the meeting and he had asked any Councils wishing to make a donation to send it to him or indicate their intention to donate as soon as possible so that a gift can be bought prior to the meeting. Since there would not have been time to decide this at the meeting and still let Mr. Reed know in time, the Clerk e-mailed TH and AH with a copy to JS. They agreed that a donation of £20 should be made.  
Mr. Reed had sent an e-mail about provision of sandbags in the event of flooding in Ashford and there was a discussion about the feasibility of parishes being able to provide these. Cllr. Bartlett said that provision would have been considered in ABC's risk assessment.
- (h) Swift Security Swift had written to say that in view of additional costs put on the security industry for training, wage increases, additional holiday entitlement due to Govt.

legislation, they will need to put their patrol charges up by 4.7% to £8.50 a visit from the current rate of £8.10. It was agreed that before the next contract renewal, quotes from other companies should be assessed.

- (i) Nature Conservation Forum Next meeting 1.8. AH agreed to attend for the PC.
- (j) Also received: Local Council Review; CPRE Countryside Voice Summer 07; KMN Patient & Public Involvement in Health Forum Members' newsletter Summer 07; Village Sign Times no. 29; English Rural Housing Assoc. newsletter; Ashford Green Corridor Local Nature Reserve info. leaflet & Summer events guide; KCC copy of PROW extinguishment order for part of AW318; Clerks & Councils Direct July; Summer newsletter of the English Rural Housing Association; Weald Watch newsletter summer ed; ABC Housing News; Standards Committee minutes of meeting on 12.7; Policing Kent; plans for 2007/10 newsletter; ABC agenda for Nature Conservation Forum on 1.8; KCC invitation to 'Conversation with Keith Ferrin' on 7.9; ABC Forward Plan of Key Decisions Sept. to Dec. 07; information from KAPC on KCC Member grants; KAPC letter re. nominations to NALC Larger Local Council Committee.

6. **Finance** (a) to approve payments and accounts since the last meeting:

1396 Gibbs & Son, mowing football field in May (VAT £12.25)	82.25
1397 RBS Invoice Finance Ltd, play area surfacing repairs (VAT £179.38)	1,204.38
1398 British Telecom, line rental for pavilion alarm	48.97
1399 British Gas, pavilion supply	242.49
1400 Mr. G. Blackmer, June salary & reimburse grouting for tiling in pavilion	325.25
1401 Miss J. Mills, reimbursement for cost of no smoking sign	4.69
1402 Mr. J. Wilson, fee for internal audit	80.00
1403 Siemens Financial Services, quarterly rental for copier (VAT £29.66)	169.54
1404 Mr. P. Cleave, salary from 2.6 – 29.6.	359.11
1405 KAPC, fee for Chairman's/Cllrs. Info days (VAT £19.24)	129.24
1406 HSBC Invoicing (UK) Ltd, Swift security patrols for June	266.49
1407 Miss J. Mills, salary April – June, tel. allowance and petty cash reimbursement.	1,989.25
1408 Zurich Insurance Co., insurance premium 2007-8	2,212.10
1409 Orlestone Oak Ltd, oak beam for village sign (VAT £86.63)	581.63
1410 Gibbs & Son, mowing football pitch during June (VAT £5.25)	35.25
	<u>7,760.30</u>

Receipts

Bank of Ireland, interest for May	272.93
Ashford Astronomy Club, fee for hire of pavilion	15.00
HM Revenue & Customs, VAT reimbursement	3,315.43
Lloyds TSB, interest on 30 day account for April & May	173.45
Cash, donations for use of pavilion from Tour de France fete stallholders	45.40
	<u>3,822.21</u>

Transfers

22.6. From 30D to Treasurers account	1,500.00
4.7. " " " "	3,000.00

Reconciliation of bank balances with receipts and payments accounts – 1.4.07 to 19.7.07

Lloyds TSB Treasurer's account at 29.6.(plus transfer)	7,103.47
Lloyds TSB 30 day account at 29.6. (less transfer)	38,211.91
Bank of Ireland account at 29.6.07	<u>70,011.56</u>
	115,326.94

Less uncleared cheques nos. 1394, 95,1400-1410	6,565.10
	108,761.84
Plus uncleared deposits	45.40
<b>Balance at 19.7.07</b>	<b>108,807.24</b>
Add expenditure 1.4.07 – 19.7.07	32,306.79
	<u>141,114.03</u>
Balance brought forward from 2006-2007	106,938.21
Add income 1.4.07 – 19.7.07	34,175.82
	<u>141,114.03</u>

It was proposed by SB, seconded by NS and agreed that the above accounts be accepted.

Forthcoming commitments

Mr. G. Blackmer, July salary	318.27
Mr. P. Cleave, salary from 30.6.-27.7.	359.11
HSBC Invoicing (Swift Security), July patrols	247.46
P.W. Judges & Son, pre-season lining of pitch (VAT £23.63)	158.63
Ashford Borough Council, two lockable dog waste bins (VAT £79.80)	535.80
Kingsnorth PCC, grant for felling tree in churchyard	580.00
Culligan, pavilion water softener service & new motor	191.40
Audit Commission, annual audit for 2006/7 (VAT £61.25)	411.25

Income expected

Bank of Ireland interest for June	c300.00
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- (b) To report the conclusion of the annual audit by Audit Commission The District Audit had sent back the annual return with their certificate and opinion which states that “on the basis of our review, in our opinion the information contained in the annual return is in accordance with the Audit Commission’s requirements and no matters have come to our attention giving cause of concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.” In the section on other matters not affecting our opinion which we wish to draw to the attention of the council: “We have noted that the Council is progressing the review of the effectiveness of internal audit and will follow it up as part of the 2007/08 audit.” This will be put on the agenda for discussion in the autumn. The Clerk had put the required Notice of Conclusion of Audit on the notice boards with a copy of the relevant parts of the annual return.
- (c) To note cash receipt donation from fete stall holders and approve donation of this to the Pilgrims Hospice AH had received £45.40 in cash from stall holders at the Tour de France event for use of the pavilion. Since the PC did not intend to make any profit from this event, it was proposed by JH, seconded by NS and agreed that this sum should be donated to The Pilgrims Hospice.
- (d) To approve provision of safety barriers for ends of path across new open space While organising the installation of the village sign, NS had noted that there was a risk that children might run out from either end of the new path onto the pavement and road. He thought it would be prudent to install a safety barrier at either end. He obtained quotes and TH contacted as many Cllrs as possible and approval to delegate this decision between meetings was agreed. Three barriers would be necessary at an approximate cost of £74.09 + VAT each. Subsequently, NS found that these were not actually in stock

and would take time to supply. Since the top layer of the path was to be laid in the near future, he had arranged for holes to be left at the appropriate places in the tarmac so that the newly-laid surface will not have to be disturbed.

- (e) To discuss date and ceremony for official 'unveiling' of Village Sign TH reported that the Village Hall Committee had suggested that a joint celebration should take place for the Village Sign unveiling and the Village Hall's centenary. It was thought a good idea to raise the profile of the parish and that a celebration should be arranged in which residents could participate, possibly to include family entertainment in the Village Hall. It was agreed that a working group of LR, JH, AH, TH and SB would meet on 30.7. to discuss this.

NS had asked the Clerk to report to Mr. Fender that some of the white lettering on the sign was starting to roll back. He had said when this type of lettering was chosen that he would guarantee it and replace if necessary. Mr. Fender had told the Clerk that they had inspected the sign and had now pressed the lettering down firmly. NS said that he and Mr. Jarvis had looked at the lettering more recently through binoculars and it was still curling. He would speak direct to Mr. Fender about this.

- (f) To discuss purchase of seat for the new open space near Myrtle Court There is a budget of £1,000 for seats and picnic tables in 2007/8. At the last meeting, a type of seat was agreed from the Streetmaster catalogue. However, it was realized later on in the meeting that there are two versions of the seat; the one chosen and a heavy duty one, which is more suitable for places where vandalism is a problem. Since the cost was significantly greater, it was agreed to discuss the matter again before ordering. It was proposed by LR, seconded by MC and agreed that the heavy duty version of the Georgian seat should be ordered at a cost of £475 + delivery and VAT. The wording of the dedication was agreed and that it should be carved into the wood. It was also agreed that Mr. Thompson should be asked to install the seat into a substantial concrete base.
- (g) To discuss improvements to seating and landscaping in front of Village Hall TH reported on the Village Hall Committee's discussion. Grass was now growing on the area in question, but it was thought that this would not be suitable in the long term. It was agreed that some form of paving would be preferable. The Clerk would check with Planning to see whether a planning application would be necessary because it was in the Conservation Area.
- (h) To discuss whether to purchase a dog waste bin for Dove Close/Blackthorn Way area JW had not yet spoken to the Dog Warden. This item was deferred.
- (i) To discuss whether to donate notice board to Willesborough Dykes Wetland Park AH had reported at the last meeting that the Willesborough Dykes Group were to going to ask for donations towards the Wetland Park. She suggested that the PC might like to provide an information/notice board. It was agreed that it was too early to make a commitment on this.
- (j) To discuss whether to distribute a Parish Information newsletter This arose from discussions at the Planning Meeting on whether the PC had been keeping parishioners adequately informed of the LDF process through the website. It was agreed that there was no need to distribute a newsletter at present. The question of whether there should be a moderated 'correspondence' page on the website also arose. This was not thought to be necessary and would be difficult to

manage, however, it was agreed that the website should be given more publicity through the KE, Church Magazine and noticeboards. Because of pressure of work, the Clerk had not been able to send new items to Mr. Allen as promptly as was necessary. It was thought that in future, it might be necessary for someone else to take this on.

## 7. Recreational matters

- (a) To report on progress with proposed new playing field/football pitch Mr. Mills had apologised for the further delay. TH, AH, NS and the Clerk had since met him to discuss a few minor points on the Design and Access statement. KCC would not require extra parking to be provided. After minor changes to the D & A statement, the Clerk could now submit the planning application.
- (b) Sitting-out area near Park Farm entrance wall Mr. Mills had agreed that this could be dealt with as an amendment to the landscaping scheme. He had asked for a finalised plan and covering letter to be sent to him in due course. The Clerk had informed Lucy Stone of Barton Willmore and Chris Heney of Persimmon of Mr. Mills' comments and asked if Mr. Pyke could draw up another plan using hard surfacing. This was awaited.
- (c) Court Lodge goal end Mrs. Davies had been unable to get approval to use the funding she had in mind for the hard surfacing and had told the Clerk that she would apply to the KCC Youth Development Fund. JH said that the cost of surfacing would be very high as the ground would have to be raised. Mrs. Davis had notified the Clerk that the goal ends would be installed without the surfacing sometime in August if the weather was dry.

## 8. Planning matters

- (a) To consider new applications received since 13.7.  
*Stumble Place, Finn Farm Rd (KV)* Change of garage building to home office facilities & store; provision of new entrance gates and wing walls. (S)  
*40 Hedgers Way (BF)* Porch & 2-storey rear extension. (O, the area is already very densely built up and it was felt that the proposed two-storey extension may exacerbate this and appear over-bearing)  
*23 Hedgers Way (BF)* Ground floor rear extension & first floor extension over existing garage. (Concern that the extension over the existing garage, which is one of a block of three, will lead to a loss of symmetry which will look out of character. Building Regs. query whether the party wall in the garage would have to be rebuilt to make it load-bearing).
- (b) To report decisions on applications by ABC received since 13.7.  
*Land to west of Falcon Way (Courtesy)* Residential development comprising 21 dwellings.(NC)  
*Millbank Lodge, Millbank Rd (Courtesy)* Outline app. – erection of 3 residential properties. (S)
- Notice of consent  
*19 Newlands* Two-storey side extension. Parking facilities for 2 spaces approved.
- (c) LDF: to report on submissions in response to Inspector's Note 2 Two submissions had been made. Mr. Doe has acknowledged these and said that the July date proposed for additional hearing sessions was not found acceptable and a round-table hearing session on soundness issues will probably take place at Ashford Civic Centre on 4.9. and further sessions on employment and on options open to the Inspector for a way forward on 5.9. ABC's response is expected on 27.7. Mr. Doe will send this to interested parties and ask

for responses by 23.8. The Inspector will then decide whether to hold the further sessions and if so, agendas for these will be sent out on 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> August. The Clerk would ask for these to be sent direct to TH as she will be away.

- (d) Submission on behalf of Hallam Land Management Ltd. on Reg. 32 consultation - Court Lodge Sustainability Appraisal dated 18.6 Any comments on this had to be sent to the Programme Officer before 9.8. It was agreed that AH, as B.Cllr, had made all the relevant points in her e-mail to Mr. Doe of 12.7 and that the Clerk should write to Mr. Doe saying that the PC supported her comments.

## 9. Highway and footpath matters

- (a) Traffic calming The Clerk had sent a letter which was approved by TH and SH, based on RG's submission and also including comments about Church Hill to Mr. Corcoran with copies to Cllr. Ferrin, Cllr. Angell and Cllr. Bartlett. JW and Barton Willmore on 5.6. On 27.6. she had sent an e-mail to Adrian Holland whose Project Delivery Team is dealing with the implementation of the traffic calming on behalf of the developers. A letter was received dated 9.7. from Cllr. Roger Manning, Lead Member to KCC Cllr. Keith Ferrin for Environment Highways and Waste (Cllr. Ferrin was on leave when the letter was written.): "As you aware, the traffic calming scheme is part of a Section 106 agreement which is currently being completed by Capita Symonds on behalf of the Developers. The next stage will be for the design to be formally audited from a road safety point of view and once this has been concluded the scheme will be handed over to Kent Highway Services for implementation. Provided there are no significant issues to resolve from the safety audit I would anticipate construction taking place during October/November of this year. Our own procedures for notifying residents and the Parish Council of impending works will be followed and thus notifications will be sent out a few weeks prior to the works starting. We will of course notify the Parish Council of a confirmed start date as soon as this is known. I trust the above answers your queries but do let me know if you require anything further."
- It was agreed that if nothing further had been heard by mid-Sept. the Clerk would write to Barton Willmore asking for an update so that any subsequent action needed could be discussed at the Sept. meeting.

- (b) Lack of maintenance of cycle paths on Park Farm RG reported on the poor condition of the markings on the walk way/cycle paths on Forestall Meadow and Moatfield Meadow. which were built about 12 years ago. RG had taken photographs to show that the markings are almost eroded. It was agreed that it was important that these markings should be renewed for safety reasons, especially where a regular footpath joins a combined footpath/cycle path as at Field View. The landscaping adjacent to these paths was not being maintained and one section of path was completely unusable because of overgrowing shrubs. The Clerk would write to Highways, sending a copy of the photographs, asking for the markings to be repainted as soon as possible and the shrubs to be cut back.

## 10. Adoption of new Code of Conduct

It was proposed by AH, seconded by MC and agreed that Kingsnorth Parish Council should adopt the new Model Code of Conduct 2007 including the optional paragraphs 7(1)(b) and 12. The Clerk would notify Mr. Mortimer of this. Councillors were given copies of the new Register of Members' Personal Interests forms to fill in and return to the Clerk.

11. **County Councillor's report** Cllr. Angel could not attend for medical reasons.
12. **Borough Councillors' reports**
- (a) Weald East Cllr. Bartlett reported on the ABC's response to the Inspector's Note on the soundness of the Core Strategy. ABC would continue to support the proposals for the selection of the two major growth areas at Chilmington Green and Cheeseman's Green during the period of the LDF rather than including a growth area in Kingsnorth before 2021. ABC hoped that the trial scheme for sending all household waste to the new incinerator could be continued permanently. This produced power for the national grid. It was hoped that the Stour Centre would be opened in Sept.
- (b) Weald South Cllr. Hicks had nothing to report.
- (c) Park Farm North Borough Cllr. not present.
- (d) Park Farm South Cllr. Wedgbury reported that the new Overview and Scrutiny Committees (Resources, Policy & Performance/Services & Partnerships) now had the power to require members of other bodies, such as the Police, to attend. JW had visited the new Debenhams/County Square development which was progressing well and should be open in March.
- (e) Washford JH mentioned the area on Brisley Farm that had been left available for a School. If not required by KCC within 7 years, the site reverted to the developer. KCC no longer need another school in the area. At JH's recent ward meeting, the vote was for more housing. The developer supported consulting residents about future uses of the land. There had been no response from KAPC/NALC on the legal opinion requested on behalf of JH who was concerned about residents of an unadopted road on Brisley Farm being required to pay a maintenance fee to a private company for work which was not being carried out.
13. **Reports**
- (a) Kingsnorth Recreation Centre There had been no recent meeting and MC had nothing to report.
- (b) Kingsnorth Village Hall Committee TH reported that the Committee had met on 25.7. and had discussed celebrations for the Hall's centenary. They had asked if the PC would kindly consider replacing the unsightly metal pole with the footpath and car park sign with a wooden one. NS said that the sign pointing to the Church on the new open space at the Queens Head crossroads was also unattractive. He suggested that such signs should be standardised to a better design to raise the tone of the area. The Clerk would investigate whether this was possible for discussion at the Sept. meeting.
- (c) Kingsnorth Primary School Governors' meeting AH reported that another travel plan had been prepared; 50% of the children walk to school with the other 50% travelling by car. Although tarmac was not an option for the path across the playing field, it did need to have the top surface of hoggin renewed in some places. OFSTED had reported on its findings which the School will address. They considered that the pastoral care and general ethos of the School was good.
- (d) Furley Park Primary School Governors' meeting TH reported that there had been a very good play and ceremony for pupils leaving the School.

- (e) Village Sign Working Group Nothing further to discuss.
- (f) Information Book Working Group A meeting was arranged for 21.9.
- (g) Tour de France Event 8.7. This had been very successful; there was nothing further to report.
- (h) PACT meeting This had been re-arranged by the Police for 4.8.

14. **Village responsibilities**

- (a) Hedge and tree pruning alongside path on playing field The path was getting overgrown. It was agreed that Mr. Hollands should be asked to prune back the overhanging branches and to cut the 'transplanted' hedge. This was part of the annual maintenance of the playing field and there was provision in the budget for this.
- (b) Pot holes on Church Hill NS reported that the pothole that had been reported to Highways had been repaired but that the 'grip' outside the Vicarage had not.
- (c) Ragwort RG reported that there was ragwort in flower on the field adjacent to the playing field and pointed out that this should have been dealt with by ABC. The Clerk will query this with Mrs. Davis.
- (d) Pillbox on playing field Mr. Bacon had reported that the blocks cemented in to the doorway had been pushed out the previous evening. He was hoping that the Gurkhas would be able to remedy this and to block off the pillbox at Britannia Lane.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.30 p.m.

Chairman