

Brook Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held on Thursday 16th January 2025 at 5.15pm at the Village Hall

Present: Cllr S Betty (Chairman) Cllr A Betty
Cllr F Penberthy Cllr P Penberthy
Cllr Redfern Cllr Wood

The Clerk

To be actioned by

1.	To receive any Apologies for absence	
	There were no apologies to receive.	
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	
	No declarations of interest were made.	
3.	To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 21st November 2024	
	Resolved: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 21st November 2024 be approved and confirmed as a true record. The minutes were duly signed.	
4.	To discuss any Matters Arising	
	There was a discussion regarding the watercourse issue raised at the last meeting for the benefit of the absent Councillors who were concerned about the discharge of a watercourse. The Environment Agency have to approve this.	
5.	To receive the Borough Councillor's Report	
	Cllr S Betty had provided a report that had been circulated. The main point in the report was devolution and the creation of Unitary Authorities. It was queried as to whether the Local Plan 2041 would still be pursued, at this time, this is to continue to be created. It was noted that the NPPF has been updated.	
6.	Public session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item.	
	There were no public present.	
7.	Co-option of a new Councillor	
	Cllr Redfern completed the necessary documentation and was officially co-opted as a Councillor to the Parish Council.	
8.	To receive an update regarding the Recreation Ground to include: a) an update on the Play Area and b) to receive an update on discussions about the use of the Recreation ground	
	a)Cllr Wood reported that she had been invited to and had attended the Brook and Hinxhill Village Hall meeting where they heard about the plans for the Recreation Ground. The Hall Committee are keen to help where possible. Cllr Wood has written a grant proposal but has yet to circulate this to the committee. She has divided the play ground installation down into phases and considers the installation of the zip wire to be phase 2. It was proposed that a Working party should be considered and that Cllr Wood would Chair this group. Cllr Redfern is happy to also sit on this group. The rationale behind the new plans was queried and it was explained that the current playground is nearing the end of its usable life and replacements are necessary. There was a discussion surrounding the Village Hall fundraising and the playground. It was noted that the purpose of Village Hall fund raising events is to continue to maintain the building and to ensure there are sufficient reserves for any emergency repairs. b)Following receipt of the Village Hall Committee minutes, it was noted that the booking of the	

	<p>recreation ground was not resolved and, therefore, it was agreed that the Clerk and Chairman would return to the Village Hall Committee to seek to resolve the outstanding issues. If these outstanding issues cannot be resolved, the Parish Council unanimously agreed that use of the recreation ground will not be permitted by those booking the Hall.</p> <p>The Clerk and Chairman had received a request for parking on the recreation ground to enable a half-marathon run from the Museum. The Parish Council resolved that the surface is not suitable for use as a car park and that the request would not be approved. The Museum administrator will be informed that an alternative location will have to be sought.</p>	
8.	To receive a KALC report	
	The KALC report was circulated.	
9.	Financial Matters	
	<p>To note the Financial Position of the Parish Council There is currently £11,721.81 in the bank.</p> <p>To agree payments in accordance with the Budget Payments were agreed against the budget over expenditure and the payment schedule. The payments schedule was initialled.</p>	
10.	To consider any changes to the Risk Assessment	
	There were no changes to be made.	
11.	To receive the Planning Report	
	A planning note had been circulated by Cllr P Penberthy. The application for a barn has been approved.	
12.	To receive any updates on Highways/Environment	
	The salt bin at the top of Spelder's Hill was reported to Kent Highways.	
13.	Update on the Highways Improvement Plan	
	The Highways Improvement Plan discussion with Kent Highways has been scheduled.	
14.	To receive a Caretaker report	
	<p>The Caretaker blower has been repaired. A response is required to the Aspire quotation, the committee will meet to discuss this.</p> <p>Approval was provided for the purchase of 2 bags of black top.</p>	
15.	Any Other Business	
	There was a discussion about the pumping station works.	
16.	Determining the time and place of ordinary meetings of the Council up to and including the next annual meeting of the Council	
	<p>20th March 2025</p> <p>22nd May 2025</p>	