

*These minutes are subject to approval at the meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup> 2008*

## Biddenden Parish Council

### Minutes of the meeting held in the Old Village Hall on February 12<sup>th</sup> 2008

Present

Cllr Mrs J Ashcroft  
Cllr Mrs E Cansdale  
Cllr M Conway  
Cllr C Daly

Cllr C Friend  
Cllr T Lupton  
Cllr H Richards  
Cllr P Whapham—**Chairman  
for this meeting.**

Five parishioners were present.

Apologies for absence from Cllr Barfoot (work), Cllr Rymer Jones (holiday) and Cllr N Bell, Ashford BC

Although Councillors had already been told, the Chairman advised the meeting that Cllr Mo Charlton had resigned with effect from January 31<sup>st</sup> 2008. The Chairman recorded his thanks for Cllr Charlton's work over the last eight months.

- 1 There were no alterations to members Register of Interests
- 2 Parishioners questions/comments  
Mr Keeler (senior) reported how successful Biddenden FC is, but playing is sometimes hampered by the very wet state of the pitches. He had obtained one drainage quote and would seek two more. He was examining what grants are available and hoped the Council would support his efforts. It was agreed the Council would offer its help where possible.  
Mr Parker asked that the Council support his Planning Application (07/01979) in going to ABC's Planning Committee for adjudication. Council agreed this was an appropriate case for Committee decision.  
Mrs Marshall queried whether it was appropriate for the public to pass notes to Councillors during a meeting. (*Not illegal but bad practice*)
- 3 Minutes of the meeting held on January 8<sup>th</sup> 2008  
After Cllr Conway received clarification on two points the minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 4 Ashford Borough Council report  
The Clerk read the main points of Cllr Bell's report and a copy is attached to these minutes.
- 5 Reports from Group Chairmen  
Car park and toilets (and Post Office)  
Cllr Daly reported the PO ramp had been completed but the handrail is awaited. The toilet doors have been trimmed and now shut correctly. Some vandalised tiles have been replaced by the builder at no cost to the Council.

Cllr Richards is in touch with Mr Lloyd at ABC re planning permission for the proposed new fence around the car park. Advertisement consent will probably be required for the repositioned notice boards.

Cllrs Conway and Richards will consider the best location for the Millennium Field notice board as it was now felt it would be too large for the car park fence. Cllr Lupton had studied the final Post Office/toilets financial outturn and asked to meet the accountant, with Cllr Conway, to clarify some points. The Clerk would arrange the meeting.

The additional offer of £1000 from BT for the incorrect positioning of the PO telecoms cable was noted but the Council felt “one more letter” was worthwhile to see if any further recompense was possible. *(Of the £4466 expenditure £2090 has been repaid)*

#### Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow

Cllr Richards said it had been too wet recently to undertake any work.

On the point of the gate to the school footpath the school had made it clear they would not lock/unlock it and so Cllr Richards would arrange for it to “swing closed”

#### Traffic and Pedestrians

Cllr Friend reported that a meeting would take place in March with English Heritage to see just what improvements to the south side pavement would be agreeable from a conservation aspect. Money was available in KCC’s pavement budget for 2008/9.

He noted that improvements to the Weavers car parking problems and verge reinstatement in Fosten Lane was “on KCC’s list of works”.

#### Gordon Jones Field

Cllr Mrs Cansdale said she would “pick up” from where ex Cllr Charlton had left his programme. The Chairman said he hoped another councillor would assist Cllr Mrs Cansdale as the works needed to the children’s play equipment were urgent.

#### Police

It was noted that the village would receive 2 hours per week cover from a PCSO with effect from February 18<sup>th</sup>. This cover would be free until the village’s own PCSO was available later in the year.

Cllrs Cansdale and Daly said there would be a (public) “PACT” police meeting in the Village Hall on April 5<sup>th</sup> – it would be advertised.

#### Housing

No report

#### KALC (previously KAPC)

Cllr Whapham had attended a recent meeting but the only item of note was the good progress made with the ABC “Community Workshop” planning forums.

#### Youth matters

Cllr Daly reported that the Youth FC had thanked the Council for its donation towards kit etc. He had attended Youth meeting and drew attention to “Try Angle Awards” for 11-18 year olds. He felt it should be noted that Biddenden Junior Squash Club is one of the best in Kent.

This years “Sports Week” would be extended to two weeks.

### Recycling

A general rubbish bin would be added to the site.

### Proposal for CCTV in the village car park

Cllr Daly explained his case for a CCTV installation in the car park especially in view of vandalism problems. Of the three quotes the one by Kent & Sussex Security was the cheapest at £3200 and experience at the Sports Clubs showed it was a good quality product. The Council agreed to the scheme subject to a night time demonstration of its effectiveness. Cllr Daly to arrange.

### 6 Finance (see attached)

#### Gordon Jones Field signpost

The Clerk explained the background to this request from the Village Hall Management Committee. Councillors agreed to examine the site and come forward with suggestions at the March meeting.

#### Risk Assessment

A copy of the current one is attached for review at the March meeting.

#### Internal audit

Cllr Lupton asked for a "Statement of Assurance" from the auditor.

### 7 Planning (See attached)

### 8 Correspondence (See attached)

Cllr Richards felt Mrs Clark's letter of January 15<sup>th</sup> was to the Council rather than the Clerk and should have been treated accordingly. The Chairman would be asked to consider this point.

Although not a correspondence item the council asked that a letter of appreciation be sent to Mr & Mrs Peter Brown for the new seat in North Street.

### 9 Council files

Cllr Richards referred to his file scrutiny on December 17<sup>th</sup> last and was disappointed that the paper trail was often not complete. Cllr Conway was also concerned that not all financial aspects had been properly documented. In any future major scheme they felt great care should be taken to keep accurate records.

### 10 Reply to Audit Commission

**This item was considered in closed session.**

Councillors agreed on the reply to the Commission and asked the Clerk to write. (*Sent on February 13<sup>th</sup>*)

### 11 Next meetings

March 11<sup>th</sup> 2008, April 8<sup>th</sup> and Annual Parish Meeting April 22<sup>nd</sup>.  
The meeting closed at 10.05pm

