

These draft minutes are subject to approval at the meeting on September 16th 2008

Biddenden Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held in the Old Village Hall on
August 12th 2008

Present

Cllr Mrs J Ashcroft

Cllr D Boulding

Cllr Mrs E Cansdale – **Vice Chairman**

Cllr M Conway

Cllr C Daly

Apology for absence from Cllr A Barfoot

12 parishioners were also present

Cllr C Friend

Cllr T Lupton

Cllr H Richards

Cllr J Rymer Jones - **Chairman**

Cllr N Bell (Ashford BC)

Prior to the Council meeting a separate meeting was held to consider possibilities for repairs to the south side High Street pavement. This was chaired by Cllr M Hill (KCC) (See 8.3 below for action decided)

The Chairman opened the Council meeting by welcoming Cllr David Boulding to his first meeting of the Council following his (unopposed) election. Cllr Boulding signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

- 1 There were no alterations to members Register of Interests

- 2 Items raised by parishioners present
 Mrs Graham voiced her concern at the proposed location of a doctors' surgery on a portion of the Jubilee Meadow.
 Mr Churton requested that the Millennium Field, Jubilee Meadow and Gordon Jones Field be "closed" (apart from public footpaths) from 09.00 to 16.30 on September 27th for safety and control reasons at the "Spectacular" event.
 Councillors agreed to this.

- 3 Minutes of the meeting held on July 8th 2008
 These were agreed and signed by the Chairman with an amendment to min.8.5 that the mobile police station "may be" not "had been" discontinued.

- 4 Ashford Borough Council report – Cllr N Bell
 Cllr Bell reported that the Local Development Framework Core Strategy had now been approved, with amendments by the Government's Inspector. As far as Biddenden is concerned this could mean housing growth of 20/25 dwellings over the next 14 years. There would be greater growth in some villages and also in Tenterden.
 The proposed doctor's surgery on the Jubilee Meadow was awaiting a planning application from the doctors.

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- 5 Proposed doctors' surgery
(Cllrs Mrs Cansdale and Conway declared an interest)
The doctor's had informally contacted Ashford BC for guidance on the proposals and the next step (for them) was a full planning application. Following further consideration of either a Parish Poll or a door to door questionnaire it was decided a Parish Poll (funded by the doctor's) to gauge village support was more appropriate. The clerk was asked to make arrangements with ABC.
The Surgery Group was asked to prepare the "Terms of a Lease" to the doctors assuming the project goes ahead. This would be agreed with the Council's solicitor
- 6 Allotments
Cllr Richards said he had held useful discussions with Mr Harris, the spokesman for potential allotment holders, and he hoped to report more fully at the September meeting. A site of about one acre was being sought.
- 7 War Memorial
The Chairman explained that this was Parish Council property but cleaning and/or repairs must be carried out to standards approved by the Diocese. Three estimates from qualified contractors were put to the Council and Cllr Conway proposed the quotation (£904.75) from Cleverley and Spencer be accepted. All agreed.
- 8 Reports from Group Chairmen
Car Park and toilets
Cllr Daly said repairs to the toilet water supply had been undertaken to avoid the excessive water used. The car park CCTV scheme was progressing and the car park hedge had been tidied.
Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow
The reptile survey on the Jubilee Meadow (to relocate reptiles from the new Sissinghurst school site) was in hand. The Council agreed Cllr Richards could make any necessary decisions on this subject.
Cllr Richards reported that English Nature may have "spare" funds to allow the rebuilding/relocation of the "Duck Shed" as an educational information centre. The Council agreed Cllr Richards could progress this.
It was agreed BEST could hold their Bonfire on October 31st and that the Council would take a full page advert in their programme.
- Traffic and Pedestrians
Cllr Friend reported that following the earlier meeting KCC Highways would prepare a scheme for repairs and improvement to the south side pavement. This would then come to the Parish Council for comment prior to any further necessary planning consents. It was still hoped to carry out the work in the current financial year. The Clerk was asked to write to Cllr Hill (KCC) to confirm the agreed action.

KALC

The Chairman said KALC had drawn attention to a national speed restriction review. It was suggested that Mr Whitestone be our representative at any discussions.

Gordon Jones Field

Cllr Mrs Cansdale said the Wicksteed play equipment repairs had been completed and the rough tarmac edge around the swings had been repaired. She said she and Cllr Richards had been discussing with Sue Boon a long term improvement to the play area. Cllr Boulding commented on improvements he had seen at a playground in Tunbridge Wells which had made it “a real attraction” and he readily agreed to join the GJ Field Group. It was agreed the Shayler Fun Fair could come to the Field in September.

Police

The Chairman said he understood the PCSO for Biddenden was now in training.

Parish Forum

With the effects of climate change the Chairman said there was a need for a parish Flood Warden to carry out a Risk Assessment to identify areas of risk from floods and flash floods. He suggested Cllr Barfoot could undertake this. Cllrs Mrs Ashcroft and Richards agreed to help.

KALC

They had raised the issues of ditching, hedging and verge cutting as something that should be emphasised to KCC Highways in the interests of good road maintenance and safety.

It was of interest that of 4,300 “conduct” issues raised with the Standards Board for England only about 2% warranted action.

Youth matters

Cllr Daly said he had attended a judging evening at Homewood School of pupils community work and was very impressed. It was agreed he could invite some pupils to make a presentation at a future Council meeting.

The Sports Week arranged by Tom Swain had been very successful and the Chairman said he would write a letter of appreciation.

9 Finance (See attached)

The following distribution of Recycling Funds was agreed subject to receipt of confirmation of expenditures.

Biddenden Football Club	£300
Biddenden Youth Football	£150
Kool Kidz	£100
Jollies Club outings	£110
John Mayne PTA	£200
Junior Squash Club (Tour to France)	£500

Also if required £250 towards policing costs for the Bonfire event on 31 October.

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- 10 Planning (See attached)
It was noted the “Bishop” proposals for development to the west of North Street were with Ashford BC and no response was expected before the end of the year. Copies of the plans would be passed to all Councillors. The Chairman commented on progress the Council had made on various Parish plan aspirations and said he would like to consider pages 4 to 6 in detail at the next meeting.
- 11 Correspondence (See attached)
- 12 Items for future consideration
Cllr Lupton asked Councillors to give early consideration to items they may like included in the 2009/10 budget bids.
- 13 Audit Commission report dated July 10th 2008
This was considered in private session (public excluded) and it was agreed the Council would accept the findings and recommendations of the District Auditor.
- 14 Next meeting
NOTE REVISED DATE. September 16th

Graham Smith, Parish Clerk 01622 890596

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