

Biddenden Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held in the Old Village Hall on
September 16th 2008

Present

Cllr Mrs J Ashcroft

Cllr A Barfoot

Cllr D Boulding

Cllr Mrs E Cansdale – **Vice Chairman**

Cllr M Conway

Cllr C Daly

Cllr C Friend

Cllr H Richards

Cllr H Ruse

Cllr J Rymer-Jones - **Chairman**

Five parishioners were also present.

Apologies for absence Cllr T Lupton and Cllr Bell Ashford BC

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming Cllr Ruse to the Council following his (unopposed) election. The Council now had its full complement of members.

Cllr Ruse signed the Declaration of Acceptance book.

- 1 There were no alterations to members Register of Interests

- 2 There were no items raised by parishioners present but at the Chairman's invitation Mark Clixby, the Biddenden Team Leader of the new "Community First Responder Scheme" explained the work of this NHS initiative. Trained volunteers are alerted, by ambulance control, to urgently attend life threatening incidents on the basis that they can give initial first aid before the arrival of the ambulance team. A few minutes earlier intervention can make the difference between life and death. Mark asked for other interested volunteers to contact him.

- 3 Minutes of the meeting held on August 12th 2008
 These were approved and signed by the Chairman.
 The Chairman referred to the Clerks paper of September 12th (circulated to all Councillors) and it was agreed that in future draft minutes would only be circulated to Councillors for their approval at the following meeting. Draft minutes would no longer be posted on the village notice boards or village website or sent to the press. Henceforth only approved minutes would be available to the public. The Chairman added that the new Parish Magazine editorial team propose to report on PC meetings.

- 4 Doctors surgery proposal and Parish Poll
 The Parish Poll would be held on October 2nd in the village hall between 4pm and 9pm. It would be organised and managed by Ashford BC and the counting would be in their hands. Postal or proxy votes are not allowed. It is regretted that according to the rules for Parish Polls only those who travel to the hall will be able to vote. The result of the Poll is not necessarily binding on the Parish Council.

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The Poll would be formally advertised and any factual information could be displayed in the village hall to enable parishioners to make an informed vote. The Doctors' Jubilee Meadow scheme and the Bishop development proposals would be displayed.

On the subject of the proposed surgery Cllr Richards queried what other sites had been examined by Drs Thorpe and Winch, what their views were and what sites had been turned down by Ashford BC. They will be published when available.

5 Proposed village allotments

Cllr Richards had discussed possibilities with Mr Harris (on behalf of potential allotment holders) and it seemed Tapley Field was now a real possibility with part of the Jubilee Meadow as a second choice. The Clerk agreed to pass Cllr Richards a copy of the ABC agreement with their allotment holders as a discussion template. Cllr Richards agreed to pursue the Tapley Field option

6 Biddenden Challenge and Spectacular September 27th

Mr Churton had all arrangements in hand and the Chairman asked councillors to help if possible.

7 Reports from Group Chairmen.

Car park and toilets

Cllr Daly said the CCTV scheme was in hand. The control panel would be in a cupboard in the Post Office. It was noted that live access to the system was not necessary – only the ability to view recordings.

Cllr Daly asked that the Group budget for 2009/10 be as the current year.

Cllr Richards said he would obtain three quotes for the erection of the car park fence.

Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow

The Council agreed that Cllr Richards could deal with all aspects of the “receptor site”, for the reptiles displaced from the new Sissinghurst school site, on behalf of the Council.

Cllr Richards said he was still awaiting a reply from ABC on the planning implications of moving and refurbishing the Jubilee Meadow “duck shed” as an environmental centre.

Roads and pavements

Cllr Friend said he had applied for a potential £5,700 KCC grant towards the proposed improvements to the south side pavement. The actual KCC Highways proposal was still awaited.

Gordon Jones Field

Cllr Mrs Cansdale said the recent Fair had caused no problems with litter or damage to the grass.

It was noted the BEST Bonfire would now be on November 7th.

Police liaison Meeting due on September 17th

Local housing Nothing to report

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KALC and Parish Forum

Meetings due in October. The Chairman apologised to Cllr Barfoot for not briefing him sooner on his Flood Warden responsibilities but said Cllrs Mrs Ashcroft and Richards would help as needed.

Youth matters

Cllr Daly asked for a 2009/10 budget provision of £4000.

He also suggested youth representatives address the next Council meeting on their “wish list” of youth facilities. The Council agreed.

Cllr Richards said the Squash Club had asked that their thanks for the recent £500 donation be recorded.

8 War Memorial

At the August 12th meeting (item 7) it was agreed to offer a contract for cleaning and repairs. The letter had not been sent and subsequently a cheaper quote by Messrs Burlite Ltd, who had done excellent work on other local memorials, had been received. Council agreed that in the circumstances the work should be undertaken by Messrs Burlite Ltd.

9 Finance (see attached)

It was agreed that the generous donation from Mr McKinnon could be spent on additional shrubs and a tree for the village green. Cllr Richards would discuss with Sue Boon.

10 Planning (see attached)

The Chairman asked that Councillors consider what outstanding aspects of the 2002 Parish Plan should be updated. It was suggested that speed limits and interactive speed signs be reconsidered.

11 Correspondence (see attached)

Ref. item 8 Cllr Richards wished to make it clear he had always stated the facts surrounding the Jubilee Meadow and resented any intimation that he had been selective in his statements. The Chairman accepted the point and offered an apology to Cllr Richards for any misunderstanding.

12 Items for future consideration

Quotations for car park fence work.
Councillors views on updating Parish Plan.

13 Next meeting

October 14th 2008. The meeting closed at 9.55pm

Graham Smith, Parish Clerk 01622 890596

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