

Biddenden Parish Council
Minutes of the Statutory Annual meeting held on May 27th 2008

Present

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

Cllr C Friend
Cllr T Lupton
Cllr H Richards
Cllr J Rymer Jones – **Chairman**
Cllr P Whapham – **Vice Chairman**

Seven parishioners were present. Apology for absence from Cllr N Bell, Ashford BC

- 1 Cllr J Rymer Jones took the chair for the first business of the meeting which was the election of the Chairman for 2008/9. Cllr C Friend proposed and Cllr Mrs E Cansdale seconded that Cllr J Rymer Jones continue as Chairman. There were no other nominations. All agreed to Cllr J Rymer Jones appointment.
- 2 Cllr T Lupton proposed and Cllr C Daly seconded the election of Cllr Mrs E Cansdale as Vice Chairman. There were no other nominations. All agreed to the appointment.
- 3 Cllr P Whapham advised the meeting that he wished to resign from the Council with effect from May 29th 2008. The Chairman said he was very sorry to hear this and thanked Cllr Whapham for his valuable contributions over the past years. Councillors also expressed their regret at Cllr Whaphams decision.
- 4 Parishioners questions
Mr Linnett queried whether the Doctors Surgery Group had agreed Terms of Reference. The Chairman said their main objective was to establish whether there were any legal hurdles. (See minute 9 below)
Mr Churton questioned whether the proposed height restriction barrier to the MF car park was really necessary. (See minute 11 below)
- 5 Minutes of the meeting held on April 8th 2008
These were agreed and signed by the Chairman with the following additions,
Minute 4. To note that Jubilee Meadow papers submitted by Cllr Richards had been passed to the Council's solicitor for consideration.
Minute 5. Millennium Field. Cllr Richards considered the proposed height barrier to be a Gordon Jones matter but in any case he was progressing it.
- 6 Group members for 2008/9
NB Any parishioners who would like to join a Council Group would be most welcome and should make contact via the Clerk on 01622 890596

Finance is a Committee of the Council and Cllrs Barfoot, Mrs Cansdale and Lupton (Chairman) agreed to continue. Cllr Rymer Jones is an ex officio member.

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Car park, toilets and Post Office. Cllr Daly and ex Councillor Whapham
Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow. Cllrs Conway and Richards
Traffic, Pedestrians and Footpaths. Cllr Mrs Ashcroft, Friend (Chairman) and ex Councillor Whapham
Gordon Jones Field. Cllrs Mrs Ashcroft and Mrs Cansdale
Police liaison. Cllrs Mrs Cansdale, Conway and Daly
Local Development Framework. Cllrs Conway and Rymer Jones (leads)
KALC and Parish Forum. Cllrs Conway (leads) and Rymer Jones
Monthly Planning. Cllr Mrs Cansdale (leads) and various councillors as available
Local housing. Cllrs Barfoot and Mrs Cansdale
Youth matters. Cllrs Mrs Ashcroft, Mrs Cansdale and Daly (leads)
Village Hall Trustee. Cllr Lupton
John Mayne School governor. Cllr Mrs Ashcroft
Recycling. Cllrs Lupton, Richards, Rymer Jones
Website. Cllr Lupton

7 Planning (See attached)

Allotments

It was noted some 15 requests had been signed on a questionnaire in the Post Office. The Council's obligations would be checked and the issue raised at the next Council meeting. It was suggested that "Tapley Field" by the Old Workhouse may be a good location. Cllr Lupton agreed to check its availability.

8 Finance (See attached)

It was agreed to increase the Lengthsman's wages to £450 per month.

Following the tendering process it was agreed to award the mowing contract to KCC Landscape Services.

It was noted that Mr Les Cooper wished to continue maintaining the Village Green and it was agreed to make a grant towards his expenses.

Cllr Lupton mentioned that the Post Office rent review was due and would be considered by the Finance Committee on June 24th. He also requested that it be noted that the Post Office financial income and expenditure "backcheck" by Mr Collins had been discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting on April 22nd.

9 Doctors surgery

Cllr Mrs Cansdale declared an interest (as an employee) and did not vote.

Cllr Friend tabled a paper outlining the discussions of the Group that had been considering the matter. He asked the Council to support the following proposal.

"The Council agrees, in principle, to lease or sell a small area of the Jubilee Meadow to Drs Thorpe and Winch in order to provide the village with a purpose built surgery facility.

Before any lease or sale the Council must be satisfied on the following points,

- 1 There is no legal objection
- 2 An appropriate price is agreed following the District Valuers advice
- 3 The Primary Care Trust endorses the scheme

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- 4 The Council approves the design and location
- 5 Parishioners support the scheme as indicated by a public meeting or questionnaire.”

Cllr Lupton suggested that the proposal be amended to delete any reference to “sale”. This was agreed by, 7 for, 2 abstain, 1 against.

Following further discussion the proposal was amended to be,

“The Council agrees, in principle, to lease a small area of the Jubilee Meadow to Drs Thorpe and Winch in order to provide the village with a purpose built surgery facility.

Before any lease the Council must be satisfied on the following points,

- 1 There is no legal objection**
- 2 An appropriate price is agreed following the District Valuers advice**
- 3 The Primary Care Trust endorses the scheme**
- 4 The Council approves the design and location**
- 5 A Parish Poll is organised to measure parishioners support***
- 6 KCC Highways be asked to comment on access**
- 7 The Doctor confirms he will meet all reasonable costs in developing the scheme”**

On voting Councillors were 6 for, 2 abstain, 2 against.

* The Clerk will seek the Council’s solicitors advice for the appropriate wording.

Cllr Richards asked that it be noted he was not against the proposed surgery but was against this site and was doubtful that the initial proposal was large enough to allow for expansion. He also thought the idea was contrary to the Parish Plan. Cllr Mrs Ashcroft shared the doubts about the initially proposed size.

On the point of a Parish Poll Cllr Daly said the village petition in favour of a surgery had already attracted over 300 signatures.

Cllr Lupton considered, subject to our solicitors advice, that any lease should be relatively short term, say 99 years.

10 Correspondence (see attached)

11 Items for future consideration

Removal of bus shelter graffiti; removal of ash trees by Cloth Hall wall; pavement weed killing; maintenance of the war memorial.

Also progress on provision of the MF car park height barrier. Cllr Richards considered this barrier to be necessary to restrict unauthorised access and the Council agreed. Expenditure had already been allocated.

12 Next meeting July 8th

Graham Smith, Parish Clerk 01622 890596

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