

## BIDDENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

### APPROVED Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 11 October at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Biddenden

Present: Cllr T Lupton (Chair) Cllr B Hewitt  
Cllr D Boulding Cllr A Lidgett  
Cllr C Friend Cllr H Ruse  
Cllr P Harris Cllr J Tydeman

Mrs A Swannick (Clerk)

6 parishioners were present.

#### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Cansdale as she was going on holiday.

#### 2. Parishioners' questions

Questions were asked on the following issues:

The highway works at Woolpack corner and Fosten Lane – was it council policy to support wastage of money on that type of repair?

#### 3. Any declarations of interest in items on the agenda

Cllr Lupton The recycling fund donation to the church. His wife is the Church Warden

#### 4. Any changes to the Register of Members Interests

There were no changes to the Register of Members' Interests.

#### 5. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13 September 2011

The Clerk read out the amendments made to the minutes. There was one additional amendment made at the meeting under item 7, Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow: to alter the spelling of "Consway" to "Conway".

There being no further alterations to the minutes it was RESOLVED to accept the minutes as a true and proper record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr J Tydeman Seconded by Cllr D Boulding. **It was agreed unanimously.**

**6. Matters for information not on the agenda**

An application had been put in for Village of the Year. Biddenden was short listed and the awards ceremony would be held on 13<sup>th</sup> October.

**7. Report by Cllr Bell, Ashford Borough Council**

**Councillor Bell reported:**

- a. A Housing Survey is to be carried out.
- b. The development at Cheeslands is close to being completed and councillors were invited to visit.
- c. ABC will be extending a new recycling system in 2012/13. Cllr Bell is to arrange for a talk by Environmental Services, possibly prior to the next council meeting.
- d. The impact of parking restrictions outside Turners stores and the problems they were causing to trade.
- e. The butchers shop has been put up for sale. Was there anything that could be done to help businesses in the Village to remain viable?
- f. The access to the Gordon Jones Playing fields was an issue for the recycling lorries.

With regard to the parking outside Turners Stores it was RESOLVED to write to Kent Highways to ask for the double yellow lines to be shortened to allow for parking for an additional 2-3 cars. Proposed by Cllr C Friend      Seconded by Cllr H Ruse. **It was unanimously agreed.**

It was RESOLVED that Cllr Bell be asked to investigate ways to help the butchers shop such as a reduction in business rates, to reduce the risk of closure. **It was unanimously agreed.**

**8. CCTV**

It was RESOLVED to discuss the quotations received and look at the differences in the offering at the November council meeting. It was noted that PCSO Peel had confirmed that CCTV footage was admissible as evidence provided that there was a clear audit trail.

**8. Parish Plan**

a) Arrangements for Review Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> October (paper circulated). Cllr Hill has pledged £3,000 towards the cost of the Parish Plan and ABC had said they may be able to make a contribution to the cost. The minutes of a meeting held with Action with Communities in Rural Kent had been circulated for noting. A further meeting with the Chairman and Clerk would be taking place tomorrow to finalise arrangements. The minutes were proposed by Cllr C Friend      Seconded by Cllr A Lidgett. **Unanimously agreed.**

b) Social Housing Needs Survey (paper circulated). It is intended that this takes place at the same time as the Parish Plan, but it will not take place until approximately April 2012. **It was agreed** that the Chairman should write to ABC to make them aware of the new parish plan and as far as possible ensure that that the two items are done together .

#### **10. High Street Southside Pavement**

The new contact at Kent Highways had been met. Nothing had happened since May 2011. There is funding available for the project from the Parish Council and also from Cllr Hill. However, this is a KCC project and not a Parish Council project.

A meeting had taken place with Cllr Hill and he is doing his best to push the project forward. The existence of a New Homes Bonus was discussed.

#### **11. Doctors Surgery**

A letter was written to Cllr Bell and copied to the Headcorn Practice (copy circulated) in response to his request to hold a meeting to discuss how the surgery project might be progressed. The Council's letter stated its preference to meet with the Headcorn Practice rather than Cllr Bell and a parishioner. It also reiterated that it would be very happy to meet the Headcorn Practice to discuss issues and looked forward to organising a meeting. The Council had not received a response from Cllr Bell to its request that he provide details of ideas of how the surgery might be progressed. All emails relating to this have been copied to councillors by the authors.

It was RESOLVED that the Doctors Surgery agenda item be dropped until there is further action. Any correspondence will be dealt with under Correspondence. **It was unanimously agreed.**

#### **12. Review of Complaints Procedure**

The review "has almost been completed and will be reported upon at the November meeting.

#### **13. Review of the Data Protection Policy**

The review has been completed and will be reported upon at the November meeting.

#### **14. Reports by Clerk, Group Chairmen and Parish Council Representatives**

***Car Park Toilets and Post Office:*** The Cleaner is currently on holiday and so contractors are cleaning the toilets.

The rental on the Post Office is now due for the period October – December and an invoice has been sent together with an invoice for the Post Office contribution to electricity. The Postmistress has organised the 5 year electrics check for which BPC will pay half as it also affects the toilets. The quotation that she has obtained locally is £200.00.

**Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow:** Quotations are being sought for work to be carried out as noted in the working group minutes previously circulated.

**Traffic, Pedestrians and Footpaths:** The work carried out at Woolpack Corner is to be redone as it was done incorrectly. Biddenden has not been allocated an additional salt bin. Discussion took place and it was noted that its intended destination had been at the bottom of Cheeslands. The cost of a saltbin is approximately £108.

A one tonne grit bag is to be delivered to the parish.

It was agreed Cllr Friend would present a proposal on salt bins at the next meeting.

The meeting closed for refreshments. Cllr Ruse left the meeting. The meeting was then reopened.

An issue had been raised regarding the removal of concrete blocks on a verge in Fosten Lane. Kent Highways had been written to asking if it was permissible to put blocks on the verge.

It was noted that the 12RL bus service had been saved.

It was RESOLVED to approach Kent Highways about putting a sign up for the Gordon Jones Playing Field. Cllr Friend is to complete the form.

Obscene graffiti had been put on the main road near the Church. Kent Highways had been contacted.

**Gordon Jones Playing Field and Play Area:** Tenterden Tigers now wish to hire the field for 9-10 June and an answer is awaited from Biddenden Juniors.

Play Area: The Clerk is currently sending the inspection report out to get quotations for the work required.

Squash Club Embankment: A proposal is being prepared regarding the work.

**Police Liaison:** From 1 November PCSO Christine Peel will moving on to work in the Charing and Chilham areas. PCSO Paul Moorey will be taking over in Biddenden.

**Planning and Local Housing:** The estimated completion date for the building in Cheeslands was 4 October.

**Recycling:** A meeting was held on 5<sup>th</sup> October and the minutes were noted. The Recycling Group recommendations were as follows:

- a) **Biddenden Bowls Club** – application for donation towards new mats and jacks. It was agreed to recommend to the PC that a donation of £200 be made for this purpose.
- b) **Biddenden Jollies** It was agreed to recommend to the PC that a donation of £250 be made for this purpose.
- c) **Biddenden Junior Football Club.** A donation towards further training of coaches to achieve Charter Status, which would then enable the club to apply for F.A. funding. It was agreed to recommend to the PC that a donation of £200 be made for this purpose.
- d) **Biddenden Toddler Group.** A donation of £100 had been agreed but subject to further information being provided of the gates required.

Cllr Lupton left the room.

- e) **All Saints' Church** – application for donation towards renovation of the clock face on the church tower. Cllr Lupton declared an interest at the recycling group meeting. It was agreed by the other members of the Group to recommend to the PC that the sum of £500 be made for this purpose.

**The recommendations were unanimously agreed.**

Cllr Lupton resumed the chair.

**Jubilee Celebrations.** A meeting is to be held on 25th October.

**Village Hall Management Committee:** The Clerk is corresponding with VHMC re replacing the signs on the side of the squash club.

**Staffing Committee:** The meeting noted the unapproved minutes of a meeting to update the Lengthsman's contract. This process has now been completed and the contract signed.

## **15. Finance**

The schedule of payments was presented to the council. Proposed by: Cllr P Harris Seconded by Cllr C Friend. **It was unanimously agreed.**

**Audit Commission:** The information requested by the Audit Commission relating to a parishioner's objection to the Councils 2010/11 Accounts was sent off on 15th September. A reply is now awaited.

## 16. Planning

An email has been circulated regarding the marketing of the site Corums Wood Light Industrial Estate. A parishioner has asked that the Council note the response of the Planning Department.

| Case No                     | Parish    | Location and Description  | Decision       |
|-----------------------------|-----------|---|----------------|
| <a href="#">11/00936/AS</a> | Biddenden | <b>Roberts Farm, Smarden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, TN27 8QJ</b><br>Construction of first floor bathroom   | <b>Support</b> |
| <a href="#">11/00159/TC</a> | Biddenden | <b>25 High Street, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8AL</b><br>To reduce height of two x conifers (T1 & T2); one x Wisteria (T3) and one x hawthorn (T4) by 2m (approx) | <b>Support</b> |

## 17. Correspondence

- 4 October Email from a Parishioner regarding the access to Coram's Wood Light Ind. Estate at Woolpack Corner
- 4 October ICO letter requesting further information regarding a parishioner's complaint.
- 4 October Email from Headcorn Practice (circulated to councillors by author)
- 4 October Email from Cllr Bell re Drs Surgery (circulated to councillors by author)
- 3 October Reply from Cllr Bell to the Parish Council's letter of 30 September (circulated to councillors by author)
- 3 October Issues raised by Cllr Bell (dealt with under his report, item 7).  
a) Parking restrictions  
b) The butcher's shop being for sale and ramifications

There was no further discussion on any other correspondence.

## 18. Items for future consideration

- a) Meeting dates for 2012
- b) Budget 2011/12

Date of next meeting: 18 October 2011 – Parish Meeting at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall – *All Welcome*

The meeting closed at 2142

Alison Swannick 01580 890750  
Parish Clerk