

## BIDDENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

### APPROVED minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 4 September 2012 at 7.30 pm in the New Hall, Biddenden

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

Mrs A Swannick (Clerk)  
PCSO Moorey

2 parishioners attended.

#### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Cansdale due to personal commitments.

#### 2. Parishioners' Questions

There were no questions.

#### 3. Any Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda

Cllr D Boulding - Personal interest in planning application 12/00944/AS as his property borders it.

Cllr B Hewitt – Personal interest in planning application 12/00850/AS as the property is next door to her parent's business

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

The last remaining new form was returned at the meeting. These will now be copied and sent to the Monitoring Officer

#### 5. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10 July 2012

There were no amendments received the unapproved minutes. The Chairman asked if there were any comments or amendments. There were none. It was proposed to accept the minutes as being a true and proper record of the meeting. Proposed by: Cllr B Hewitt  
Seconded by: Cllr A Lidgett. **Unanimous.**

#### 6. Matters for information on the agenda

There were no matters for information on the agenda.

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

No report had been received from Cllr Bell, but his email dated 4 September 2012 regarding Oak Grove Lane was read out to the meeting.

## 8. Police Report

It was reported that crime in Biddenden had risen by 10 from 26 to 36 crimes at the same point in the year. Other rural villages have been targeted. Properties were being targeted due to having outbuildings. There had also been an increase in the theft of pedal cycles; two had been stolen in North Street. Another area of concern is the area around Cheeslands and particularly around the flats and the central part of Cheeslands mainly due to the school holidays and the speed at which bicycles were being ridden in the area. One resident has asked if the number of signs could be increased. PCSO Moorey reported that he would be visiting the school.

Concern was also expressed about the problem with the garages in The Meadows and individuals climbing across the garages and jumping on the hedges. It was suggested that anti-climb paint might prevent this.

Tenterden Police Station will be closing on 29 September 2012 and those officers working from Tenterden will then work from Ashford. There are police stations at Cranbrook and Ashford. It reduces the amount of time spent in Biddenden in terms of travelling. Rural areas have suffered but there is an on-going operation to reduce crime level. It has probably increased due to the state of the economy. Urban crime has also increased

The police elections will take place in November. PCSO Moorey was asked to make a report at the December meeting.

**It was agreed** the Council should write to Kent Police Authority expressing concern at the increase in crime levels over last year.

## 9. High Street Southside Pavement

A breakdown of costs had been received (circulated) and, excluding the grant of £5700 from Cllr Hill, the Biddenden contribution amounted to 1/6 of the total cost of the project.

IT WAS RESOLVED to pay the invoices from Kent County Council totalling £15,700 and to send a letter, copied to Cllr Hill and KCC Highways, asking to discuss phase two of the project with them. Proposed by: Cllr C Friend      Seconded by: Cllr H Ruse. **Unanimous.**

## 10. Local Housing Needs Survey

The report was circulated. It was suggested that the author of the Local Needs Housing Survey report be invited to a specific meeting to discuss the report and that a representative from ABC be invited to discuss planning issues. **Agreed.**

## 11. Standing Orders

The Monitoring Officer had produced a paper detailing amendments which need to be made to the Council's Standing Order (circulated). It would mean the replacement of Section 7 of the current Standing Orders with the new section as circulated.

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the new Section 7 and incorporate it into the Council's Standing Orders. Proposed by: Cllr D Boulding      Seconded by: Cllr B Hewitt. **Unanimous**

## 12. Reports by the Clerk, Group Chairmen and Parish Council representatives

**Car Park, Toilets and Post Office:** A complaint regarding the report on cars overstaying the 4 hour parking limit in the Draft July minutes had been received. The Clerk has replied and a further email has been received from the parishioner (circulated). **It was agreed** that no further action was required.

A new sign regarding the opening times of the toilets is now up.

**Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow:** A parishioner has reported that a tree in the hedge just inside the entrance from Tenterden Rd into the Jubilee Meadow needs to be removed as it is restricting access. This is being looked into.

**Traffic, Pedestrians and Footpaths:** Community Speedwatch is to be discussed by the group and an update given.

It is the time of year when KCC are planning salt bag deliveries. This has been ordered and will be delivered to Cllr Lidgett.

The Recreation Ground sign for the Gordon Jones Playing Field is still being chased.

KCC has sent out The Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way. This has been forwarded to the working group and a reply received from Peter Whitestone who has checked the draft maps and queried a couple of items and received satisfactory answers. Paper circulated. **It was agreed** that this map was correct.

Quotations have been requested for the engraving of the Memorial Stone and replies are awaited.

Quotations for the refurbishment of the village sign are being requested.

**Gordon Jones Playing Field and Play Area:** The Squash Club Embankment fence has now been put up. There is a gate to allow access and a padlock needs to be put on it.

The RoSPA inspection of the play area has taken place. The present overall rating for the play area is Medium. No items were identified as being high risk and requiring urgent

action. A copy of the report is available upon request. **It was agreed** that the other issues are dealt with by the Clerk as part of routine maintenance.

Since the report was done damage has been sustained to one of the rockers in the toddler playground which has rendered it dangerous to use. It is currently partially covered over with a bin bag. A toddler swing just outside the play area is also broken. A contractor has removed the swing as it is dangerous and the rocker needs to be repaired/replaced. A quotation for the work has been requested. **It was agreed** that he Clerk should arrange repairs/replacement as a matter of urgency.

It was noted that there had been problems with the landscaping contractors relating to the mowing of the field. This had now been resolved but it was suggested that the contract for next year be put out for tender.

It was noted that the work on the squash club embankment had been completed and that the work was of a high standard. Concern was expressed that whilst the work had been carried out to the specifications given, the end of the fence needed to be strengthened and extended round into the hedging at the rear of the squash club. There were three options available: a) The contractor had offered to finish off the end of the fencing free of charge by hand digging an additional post; b) as (a) with additional sheep netting tying in the fence to the existing car park hedge, estimated cost £ 100 c) a couple of extra panels of stock fencing could be put in at an additional estimated cost of £300. **It was agreed** that councillors should go and look at the fencing before the October meeting and make a recommendation for action at that meeting.

**Police Liaison:** A report was given by PCSO Moorey under agenda item 8.

**Planning and Local Housing:** The house previously advertised for sale by the housing association has now been taken off the market due to a change in the resident's plans.

**KALC:** Nothing to report. A number of consultations and courses have been circulated.

**Parish Forum:** Nothing to report.

**Recycling:** Notices are on the noticeboards; website and one went into the Parish Magazine inviting applications. The deadline is 21<sup>st</sup> September.

**Village Hall Management Committee:** Nothing to report.

**Community Led Plan:** An open meeting was held on 19<sup>th</sup> July which reviewed the responses to the green leaflet survey. The next Steering Group meeting will be held on Tuesday 11th September at which preparation of the questionnaire to go out to all parishioners will be discussed.

**Health and Safety:** The Lengthsman's hut has been tidied and the cleaning fluids for the toilets put in a cupboard on the wall and padlocked.

The Play Area swing and the rocker have both been identified and action initiated.

**Allotments:** All allotment rents have been received for the coming year and all plots are taken. There is still a waiting list.

**Staffing:** No progress has been made with appraisals.

The meeting was closed and a refreshment break taken.

The meeting was reopened.

### 13. Finance

- a) **Approval of cheques for payment.** The payment schedule was presented for approval (previously circulated). All items were approved for payment. Proposed by: Cllr H Ruse      Seconded by: Cllr D Boulding. **Unanimous.**
- b) **Monthly accounts:** The accounts were presented and duly noted.
- c) **Post Office Lease:** The Clerk reported that the renewal process for the post office lease had now been completed and the new lease was in place.
- d) **Audit Commission:** The Clerk reported that the Audit Commission report was still awaited regarding the Objection to the Parish Council accounts 2010/11.

### 14. Planning – to note decisions and any plans tabled

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
<a href="#">12/00810/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>Holden Farm Cottage, Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8EZ</b> Partial demolition and rebuild of chimney.	Support

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
<a href="#">12/00898/AS</a>	High Halden, Biddenden	<b>Woodlands Park, Tenterden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8BT</b> Use of land as a holiday caravan and camping park on a year round basis	A site visit was carried out. Object: The objection is on the basis that it is considered the site is not suitable for year round tourism, and that the current restrictions are appropriate for the site. Full permission as requested might result in it being impossible to monitor whether the site is in reality being used for full residential occupation.
<a href="#">12/00924/AS</a> Full Planning Permission	Biddenden	<b>Low Poles Farm, Fosten Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8ER</b> Replacement of milking parlour with single storey pool house and outdoor pool	Support
<a href="#">12/00850/AS (DEL)</a> <a href="#">(Amended)</a> Listed Building Consent  Please note the Amendment to the proposed description only	Biddenden	<b>8 and 10 High Street, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8AH</b> Removal of internal wall between no.8 and no.10 and removal of fireplace and lowering of modern floor level.	Support on condition that application 12/ 00853/AS was permitted by ABC and that the property remains a commercial retail unit.
<a href="#">12/00944/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>Annexe to, The Old Rose, 9 North Street, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8AG</b> Removal of condition 3 on planning permission 96/01145/AS for the use of the annexe as an independent dwelling	Support

The decisions made by the Planning Committee held on 30 July 2012 were noted as follows:

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
<a href="#">12/00798/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>Summer Hill, Cranbrook Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8ER</b> Extension of Time for implementation application Erection of 2 x two storey extensions and alterations to the existing structure to include the erection of an orangery, two bay windows and two new dormer windows to the east elevation, 3 new dormer windows to the west elevation and construction of games room to basement.	Supported
<a href="#">12/00786/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>Annexe at, Barclay Farmhouse, Benenden Road, Biddenden, Kent</b>  Installation of one dormer window	Supported
<a href="#">12/00850/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>8 and 10 High Street, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8AH</b> Removal of internal wall between no.8 and no.10 and removal of fireplace.	Supported subject to application 12/00853 being approved
<a href="#">12/00853/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>10 High Street, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8AH</b> Change of use of front room of dwelling to A1 retail unit	Supported

#### APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE

Type of Licence	Location	Decision
Premises Licence to sell alcohol  Circulated	<b>Whitfield Farm B&amp;B, TN27 8BZ.</b> Reason: To be able to serve guests alcohol both with and without a meal.	Supported

The Minutes of the planning committee were noted. These will be signed at the committee's next meeting.

## 15. Correspondence

1/8 ABC Local Plan to 2030: Jobs growth and New Homes Consultation. Email attached to correspondence list. It is suggested at this stage that ABC are seeking individual replies rather than one Council reply and that the literature relating to this is posted on the Council website as well as being given to Councillors. **It was agreed to put this on the Council website as it is a survey for individuals not for the council.**

3/8 Letter from ABC re *Plan-it Ashford: Planning our Future together* (Covering email attached). *In line with the suggestion in the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph from the end of Mr Cole's letter it was agreed that the Council notifies ABC that a Community Led Plan is in progress and that Richard Alderton, Director of Planning at ABC attended the open meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2012. The Council will keep them informed of the outputs of the CLP process.*

8/8 Invitation from Action with Communities in Rural Kent inviting attendance at its 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on Thursday 13 Sept at 5.30 pm at Lenham Village Hall. *The chairman expressed an interest in attending and requested the details.*

*to attend.*

10/8 KALC Finance Conference 20/10 at Lenham. *No-one wanted to attend*

12/8 Email from the Horticultural Society asking permission to continue with the decoration of the Jubilee Box for the coming winter and summer 2013. **Agreed**

The Correspondence list was presented and the Chairman asked if councillors wished to discuss or bring forward any other items of correspondence. There were none.

It was noted that an email had been received from a parishioner regarding promoting local businesses and this had been passed on to the chair of the Community Led Plan.

## 16. Items for future consideration

- a. Planning and Social Housing Needs Survey meeting

**17. Date of next meeting: Parish Council meeting:** Tuesday 9 October 2012  
7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Biddenden.  
*All Welcome*

The meeting closed at 2130

Alison Swannick      07783 223450  
Parish Clerk