

BIDDENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

APPROVED Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 9th October 2012 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Biddenden

Present: Cllr C Friend (Vice Chair, Acting Chairman) Cllr A Lidgett
Cllr D Boulding Cllr H Ruse
Cllr E Cansdale Cllr J Tydeman
Cllr P Harris

Mrs A Swannick (Clerk)
Cllr N Bell

10 Parishioners attended including the Chairman and Clerk from High Halden Parish Council.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that item 9. Oak Grove Lane would be taken after item 6.

The Chairman suggested that item 14. Audit Commission be taken in closed session. Proposed by: Cllr E Cansdale Seconded by: Cllr H Ruse. **Unanimous**

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from:

Cllr T Lupton due to holiday commitments
Cllr N Hunt due to business commitments
Cllr B Hewitt due to business commitments

2. Parishioners' questions

Questions were asked about the following:

- a) The Council was asked if it could do anything about attitude of some of the children/youths in Cheeslands who are riding bicycles around and are intimidating elderly residents both with their actions and attitude. The PCSO is involved.
- b) There are not enough dog bins and they are overflowing.
- c) Letters have been received in Cheeslands regarding an application for a disabled parking bay. There are always parking problems in Cheeslands and if parking bays are put in there will be nowhere for other residents to park.
- d) The litter bin on the Millennium Field has been removed when it is very useful. **It was agreed** to order another bin.

3. Any declarations of interest in items on the agenda

Cllr D Boulding – his home overlooks the property relating to planning application 12/01033/AS.

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 4 September 2012

The Clerk read out the list of amendments to the minutes (circulated). There being no further amendments or comments the minutes were declared a true and proper record of the meeting. Proposed by: Cllr D Boulding Seconded by: Cllr P Harris. **Unanimous.**

6. Matters for information not on the agenda

The bank account belonging to the former Youth Club has been closed down and a cheque in the sum of £511.68, being the remaining balance, was made payable to the Parish Council to be paid into its account.

9. Oak Grove Lane

The meeting was closed to allow the Chairman of High Halden Parish Council to speak.

A number of years ago a resident complained that people were racing from Biddenden to the A28 via Oak Grove Lane and asked for traffic calming measures. KCC came up with a new plan for closure of Oak Grove Lane and traffic lights at the A262/A28 junction. High Halden is against this proposal but would be happy for traffic calming measures in Oak Grove Lane. An e-petition is on line via the High Halden PC website for people to sign together with details of how to make comments to Jacobs, the contractor.

Cllr Bell also spoke against the proposed plans.

The Chairman re-opened the meeting.

IT WAS RESOLVED that Biddenden Parish Council is opposed to the current scheme as proposed by KCC but would support traffic calming measures in Oak Grove Lane. Proposed by: Cllr H Ruse Seconded by: Cllr A Lidgett. **Unanimous**

7. Report by Cllr Bell, Ashford Borough Council

Cllr Bell explained the most recent planning application at Woodlands Caravan Park to allow for caravan use all year round. The Parish Council had objected. However, having spoken to the planning officer it appears that there is no planning reason known for turning this application down. If BPC would like him to do so, he would ask for the application to go to the planning committee.

The new waste contract should be signed shortly and there will be a new recycling system in Biddenden with food waste being collected weekly.

With regard to recycling credits, these have up to now been paid but it is unlikely to continue. Parish Forums are addressing this issue.

There were no questions for Cllr Bell.

8. High Street Southside Pavement

A letter was written to KCC regarding BPC's wish to move to phase 2 of this project. The Chairman wrote to Cllr Hill and he has said that he will look into the matter. KCC Highways has emailed to say that they are aware that BPC would like to complete the "missing link footway" and that Cllr Hill has enquired about the cost. KCC Highways will work the costs out, but the work will not take place in this financial year. Additionally, the blue block paviours were ordered prior to the reduction in the scheme and it was not possible to reduce the order. KCC Highways are asking BPC if they could find storage for these blocks otherwise they may be forced to dispose of them as there is not enough room at the Ashford Depot. Therefore, BPC has been asked if they have any storage available in anticipation of the scheme. Enquiries are being made. (Copies of emails circulated with papers). Information is awaited regarding the number of pallets etc before suitable storage can be investigated further.

Further damage has been sustained to the kerb and this has been reported.

10. Reports by Clerk, Group Chairmen and Parish Council Representatives

Car Park, Toilets and Post Office: Nothing to report.

Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow: Minutes of the group meeting held on Friday 7th September were circulated and noted. A number of recommendations were made for the Council to consider:

- a) **Hedging:** The following hedging is done in winter 2012/13- all roadside hedges; internal and external hedges in Jubilee Meadow including hedges laid in 2011/12.
- b) **Hedging:** Hedges in the Gordon Jones Field are cut at the same time as the above.
- c) **2013/14 Budget and Maintenance Programme:** It is recommended that the budget for 2013/14 includes expenditure for all hedges in the Millennium Field to be cut in winter 2013/14.
- d) **Ragwort:** It is recommended that the Parish Council contact the tenant to explain the situation as set out in the group minutes, and suggest that the council is contacted well before the field is harvested to ensure that there is time to organise a ragwort pulling team. If this is not acceptable another tenant will need to be found.
- e) **Help with the Millennium Field:** It is recommended the Council contact the parishioner and invite him to join the working group.

- f) **Tree at Gate to Jubilee Meadow:** It is recommended that the Clerk arrange a site meeting with the Tree Preservation Officer from Ashford Borough Council to agree the way forward. Ideally the neighbour with the common hedge should also be at the meeting.

IT WAS RESOLVED to agree the recommendations detailed in points a)-f) above for the works/actions to be carried out. Proposed by: Cllr D Boulding Seconded by: Cllr H Ruse. **Unanimous**

Traffic, Pedestrians and Footpaths: The grass on the island at Woolpack Corner has been cut.

A query from ABC has been received regarding road known the High Halden Road connecting the A262 Tenterden Road. A request for a new road sign has been made by a parishioner and there appeared to be some confusion as to whether the road was called Dashmonden Road or High Halden Road so BPC was approached for advice. It would appear historically that the name may have been changed to High Halden Road, and that is the name of the road where the electoral register notes the housing down the road is addressed, so this has corroborated what ABC believed to be the case. The Clerk had informed ABC.

The path from Glebelands to Cheeselands is very overgrown and needs clearing. The Clerk to follow up.

There is a holly bush that sticks out in front of the Post Office which needs cutting back. The Clerk to follow up.

There is also an issue with a manhole near The Meadows being blocked and flooding. The Clerk to follow up.

Gordon Jones Playing Field:

Play Area: Instructions for the repair of the swing and the rocker have been given as agreed at the BPC meeting on 4 September.

Squash Court Embankment Fence: Councillors were asked to take a look at the fencing in advance of the meeting and consider if one of the following options were necessary

- 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 RESOLVED that Cllr Ruse would request the Contractor to hand dig an additional

post as per Option a) above. **Unanimous.**

Police Liaison: It was reported that a new Neighbourhood Watch committee had been formed to cover the Weald and Ashford and that Cllr Lidgett was a member of the committee in a personal capacity.

Planning and Local Housing: The author of the Special Needs Housing report has been contacted to arrange a meeting. As she is unavailable for 1 week in the middle of October, a meeting will be arranged for November to allow enough time to find a suitable date. The planning department have also been contacted as agreed.

KALC and Parish Forum: Nothing to report.

Reycling: A meeting of the group is to be held upon the Chairman's return.

Village Hall Management Committee: The fees for the hire of the halls have increased by approximately 5%.

Community Led Plan: A Steering Group meeting will take place on Thursday 18th October at 8pm in the New Hall. This meeting will refine the questions to be put in the questionnaire. An Open meeting will then take place on 8th November at 8pm in the New Hall.

Health and Safety: The inspection had taken place and there was nothing to report

Allotments: A quotation is being sought for cutting the hedge.

John Mayne School: It was noted that Cllr Ruse had been a governor for the last few years and he wondered if John Mayne might be added to the list of reports. **This request was agreed.**

It was reported that the school hall had been refurbished. The pupil roll is currently 119, which is slightly down, and there are 15 pupils in Reception this year.

The school is a member of the Tenterden Rural Alliance of Schools in the area and they work together to pool resources and ideas. There are regular meetings.

The meeting was closed for refreshments.

11. Finance

- a) **Approval of cheques for payment:** The payment scheduled had previously been circulated. There were no comments. It was proposed to accept the list of cheques for approval. Proposed by: Cllr H Ruse Seconded by: Cllr J Tydeman. **Unanimous**
- b) **Monthly accounts:** There were no comments on the accounts circulated.

12. Planning – to note decisions and any plans tabled

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
12/00988/AS	Biddenden	Browns Yard, Smarden Road, Biddenden Change of use to MOT testing in addition to the uses permitted under 08/01794/AS and 10/00009/AS	Support
12/00924/AS	Biddenden	Low Poles Farm, Fosten Lane, Biddenden Replacement of milking parlour with single storey pool house and outdoor pool.	Support
12/01033/AS	Biddenden	Land rear of 6-8 High Street, Biddenden Conversion of redundant buildings to create one two-bedroom domestic dwelling. **Includes application for Listed Building Consent 12/01034/AS for Conversion of redundant buildings to create one two-bedroom domestic dwelling including partial demolition and alterations***	Support

13. Correspondence

Councillors were asked if there were any items of correspondence they wished to discuss. There were none. The Action list was discussed:

- 2/9 Received 5/9. Letter from BEST asking permission to hold the Biddenden Blaze on the playing field on Friday 2/11/12. **Agreed**
- 7/9 Letter from the Monitoring Officer re the Adoption of the Kent Code of Conduct. Some changes have been made to the final version sent to the parish councils for adoption mentioning some of the changes. A further copy has been sent out for consideration. It is recommended that this item be put on the Agenda for the November meeting. The full document will be sent out separately due to its size.**Agreed**
- 17/9 Anonymous letter from a resident of Glebelands enclosing the ABC leaflet re a code of practice for Bonfires. **It was agreed** to send a copy to the Parish Magazine and put a copy on the website.
- 26/9 Email from a local business re closure. **It was agreed** that Cllr Tydeman would assist the Clerk in drafting a letter to ABC. The Clerk undertook to contact the parishioner to confirm that they were happy for their letter be sent on to ABC.
- 28/9 Email from KALC forwarding the KCC Highways & Transportation Tracker Survey. 2012. Deadline for completion is Wednesday 12 December.**It was agreed** that Cllr Friend would complete it and discuss it with the Traffic, Pedestrians and Footpaths group
- 1/10 Email from ABC re Local Needs Housing Questionnaire to be completed. **It was agreed** that Cllr Cansdale would look at this.

It was noted that the Kent County Playing Fields Association AGM was to be held on 26 October. **It was agreed** that Cllrs Boulding and Friend would attend on behalf of the Council.

The meeting was moved to closed session and members of the public and press asked to leave.

14. Audit Commission

The Council has now received the provisional views from the Audit Commission regarding the objection to the Council's annual accounts 2010/11 by a parishioner (circulated). There was no further comment to be made, but the Clerk was asked to obtain a copy the letter of 27th June written to the parishioner which contained the provisional views to the first section of objection.

15. Items for future consideration

- Code of Conduct

16. Date of Next Meeting: Parish Council meeting

Tuesday 13 November 2012

7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Biddenden.

All Welcome

The meeting closed at 21.45.

Alison Swannick
Parish Clerk

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