

## BIDDENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

### APPROVED Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 13 March 2012 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr C Friend (Vice Chairman - chairing) Cllr A Lidgett  
Cllr D Boulding Cllr H Ruse  
Cllr P Harris  
Cllr N Hunt  
  
Mrs A Swannick (Clerk)

4 Parishioners attended

#### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

Cllr Hewitt	Due to work commitments
Cllr Lupton	Due to personal commitments
Cllr Tydeman	Due to personal commitments
Cllr Cansdale	Due to personal commitments

Cllr Ruse sent apologies for lateness due to attendance at a school governors meeting.

Borough Cllr Bell sent his apologies.

#### 2. Parishioners' Questions

There were no questions from parishioners.

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

There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

#### 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 14 February 2012

The Clerk read out the amendments made to the minutes (previously circulated to all councillors). There being no further amendments to the minutes, they were considered a true and proper record of the meeting. Proposed by: Cllr D Boulding  
Seconded by: Cllr A Lidgett. **Unanimous**

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

There were no matters for information.

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

Cllr Bell had given his apologies, and no report was submitted. It was noted that Cllr Bell had mentioned the Appeal against the Enforcement order regarding the stationing of a caravan under EN/11/00059. This matter had been considered under Planning and it had been agreed to take no further action.

**8. High Street Southside Pavement**

The Chairman read out an email received from KCC Highways (circulated to councillors). Work is due to start on the project on 19<sup>th</sup> March.

KCC Highways has decided that there is not enough justification regarding expenditure to extend the footway from the Post Office around the corner onto the Tenterden Road to the south, but the plan will be revisited should funds become available. The issue regarding the bus turning by the village green has been solved by re-routing.

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

*Car Park, Toilets and Post Office:* The CCTV has been installed and the downloading of software and demonstrations are now awaited. Signs have been ordered. It was noted that the contractor needed to check protection of the cabling by the camera pole.

No Smoking stickers have been put in the toilets due to people smoking in the men's toilet.

Bus Shelter: see Health and Safety.

*Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow:* Work on the dipping platforms has been completed and bench tops replaced.

Duck House: ABC have now confirmed that a Demolition Notice is required. The contractor has given the relevant information required by the form and this has been completed and submitted. It is planned to hold a Jubilee Meadow and Millennium Field group meeting.

The roadside hedging has been done.

**Traffic, Pedestrians and Footpaths:** The letter to Kent Highways regarding the trial closure of Oak Grove Lane was sent. A reply is awaited.

Salt Bins: These have arrived and arrangements for siting and filling have been made.

It was reported that the salt bin at Dashmonden had been stolen again and would be reported to Kent Highways for replacement.

The Clerk was asked to write to a parishioner in The Meadows to ask them to replace the road sign they had taken down.

Kent Highways had asked if there was any work that was required should any funding be available. It was noted that the potholes in the High Halden Road needed doing. This was to be reported.

**Gordon Jones Playing Field:** A wooden stake has been pulled out of the ground by the car park and will need to be put back in.

Work on the play area has started.

Kent Highways are being chased regarding the "Recreation Ground" sign.

**Squash Court Embankment:** Signs have been ordered and quotes are being sought for the fencing.

A date for the meeting with Biddenden Juniors is awaited from the football club.

**Police Liaison:** Cllr Lidgett had attended a rural policing meeting. A 20% cut in the budget is envisaged equating to a cut of 1000 civilians and 500 policemen. In November there will be a new elected Commissioner and it is hoped he will further the interests of the rural communities. In this area there has been an increase in real crime due to Lamping and Poaching. Concern was expressed at the current spate of crimes on post offices and anti-social behaviour. The Clerk was asked to check if the monthly surgery was taking place.

A Parishioner has complained about the litter and dog mess. Dog bins are available and should be used. Dog bags are available free of charge at the post office. The parishioner has kindly removed the bags of dog mess from the bushes and generally tidied up. The Clerk was asked to put an article in the Parish Magazine and the parishioner has been thanked for his efforts. The clerk is to look at the possibility of putting stickers on the dog bins.

**Planning and Local Housing:** A housing association house is for sale in Cheeslands and the posters have been put up on the notice boards, in the shop and Post Office.

New tenants have now moved into the bungalows in Cheeslands.

**KALC:** Nothing to report.

**Parish Forum:** Nothing to report.

**Recycling:** Nothing to report.

**Jubilee celebrations:** Everything is going to plan.

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

**Community Led Plan.** A Steering group meeting was held last Thursday and a Working Group meeting is to be held on 29 March. A flyer has been “mocked up”. A Mission Statement and Constitution have been drawn up.

**Health and Safety:** The Clerk carried out an inspection on Thursday 1 March and was accompanied by Cllr Friend. A safety issue identified was the damaged bus shelter. The insurers have given the go ahead for the repairs to be carried out and the contractor has been instructed.

The Lengthsman’s lock-up is to be updated as previously agreed.

A letter has been received relating to an accident near the recycling bins. The letter has been passed to the Council’s insurers

## 10. Finance

- a) Approval of cheques for payment.

The payment schedule was presented (previously circulated) for approval. There being no alterations it was proposed that the list be approved.  
Proposed by: Cllr A Lidgett Seconded by: Cllr N Hunt. **Unanimous**

- b) Monthly accounts

The accounts (previously circulated) were presented. There being no comments they were accepted. Proposed by: Cllr P Harris Seconded by: Cllr A Lidgett. **Unanimous**

c) Post Office Lease

It was noted that the Finance Committee would meet to discuss the Post Office lease on Tuesday 27 March at 7.30 pm in the village hall.

Cllr Ruse arrived a 20:40

## 11. Planning

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
<a href="#">12/00219/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>Birchley House East, Fosten Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8DZ (as amended)</b> Internal alterations including forming new bathrooms, forming new kitchen; demolition of load bearing wall to ground floor & removal of partition walls to 1st & 2nd floor	<b>Support</b>
<a href="#">12/00277/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>Tanner House, Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8EX</b> <b>Replacement conservatory on the rear elevation</b>	<b>Support</b>
<a href="#">12/00278/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>Tanner House, Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8EX</b> <b>Single storey ground floor timber conservatory on the rear elevation of the property</b>	<b>Support</b>

Case No.	Parish	Description
<a href="#">11/00290/AS</a> Appeal Received <b>Discussed at previous meeting and response had previously been sent. No further action required.</b>	Biddenden	<b>Three Chimneys Stud, Hareplain Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8LW</b> Change of use of land to a mixed use of horse grazing and a residential caravan site for one gypsy family with 1 No. static caravan and 1 No. touring caravan

It was noted that the Clerk and Cllr Hunt had attended a seminar on Neighbourhood Planning and the Localism Act and Cllr Hunt gave a brief overview.

## 12. Correspondence

The correspondence list (previously circulated) was presented and Action items considered:

- 6/3 Email from KALC re KCC Consultation: Development and Infrastructure – Creating Quality Places – Consultation deadline by 12/4/12. Does Council wish to contribute? **No contribution**

- 5/3 Email from ABC re the proposal to review Kent County Council's Gypsy and Traveller Allocation Policy. Deadline: 25 May. Does the Council wish to contribute to the consultation? **No contribution**
- 1/3 Email re Consultation for Common Assessment Framework in Kent – Changes to Lettings Policy. Does the Council wish to contribute? **No contribution**
- 28/2 Email from KALC re Learning and Development. Does anyone wish to attend? **No attendees**
- 23/2 Email from ABC re Land to the South of Park Farm East – Invitation to join consultation. Does the Council wish to contribute? **No contribution**
- 23/2 Invitation from the Mayor of Ashford to join his charity pub quiz on 16/3. Does anyone want to go? **No attendees**

Councillors were asked if they wished to comment upon any other item of correspondence. There were no further comments.

### **13. Items for future consideration**

Councillors were asked to consider the following issues for inclusion on the agenda at the meeting on 10 April:

- a) Committee Structure
- b) Draft Minutes

The Chairman proposed that the next item, Staffing, be considered in closed session. This was **agreed** and members of the public were asked to leave. The meeting was closed to the public.

### **14. Staffing**

The Clerk left the room. The Clerk's salary annual review was discussed and agreed in line with Contract of Employment.

The Clerk was asked to return.

- 15. Date of Next Meeting:** Parish Council Meeting, Tuesday 10 April 2012, 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. All Welcome
- Annual Parish Meeting, Tuesday 24 April 2012  
7.00 pm in the Village Hall. All Welcome