

BIDDENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

APPROVED Minutes of the meeting of Biddenden Parish Council held on Tuesday 9 September 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Biddenden

Present: Cllr C Friend (Chair) Cllr T Lupton
Cllr D Boulding Cllr S Parks
Cllr A Lidgett Cllr E Stevenson-Rouse
Cllr J Tydeman

Mrs A Swannick (Clerk)
Cllr N Bell, Ashford Borough Council
Sgt T Brathwaite, Kent Police
PCSO A Burden, Kent Police

4 Parishioners attended

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Police Liaison would be taken after item 6.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Harris due to work commitments and Cllr Cansdale due to holiday commitments.

2. Parishioners' questions

Questions were raised regarding the drainage ditch running across the back of numbers 21 and 23 Mansion House Close. It is filling up with water and a vehicle fly tipping into the drain. *The council agreed to contact Southern Water regarding the problem.*

A question was also asked about the missing stile.

3. Any declarations of interest in items on the agenda

None.

4. Any changes to the Register of Members' Interests

None.

5. Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on 12 August 2014

There were no comments/amendments to the minutes circulated and the minutes were therefore declared a true and proper record of the meeting. Proposed by: Cllr S Parks
Seconded by : Cllr T Lupton. **Unanimous.**

6. Matters for information not on the agenda

The Chairman congratulated BEST on the organising of Tractorfest which was a most enjoyable and successful event.

Police Liaison

The compilation of figures was discussed and the difference between those provided by the PCSO and those on the Kent Police website. Sgt Brathwaite stated that Ashford police had no control over what is input at a national level.

Councillors wished to know why the figures provided by the police website showed more crimes than were reported by PCSO Burden eg domestic violence etc were not included. Councillors did not wish to know the addresses or details of crimes just how many crimes in each category had occurred. Sgt Brathwaite said that no details of this type of crime could be given, but that numbers could be provided.

It was reported that that some residents in Glebelands are being troubled by noisy cars etc. Discussion took place regarding cameras. There has been a rise in anti-social behaviour. This has been an issue since last November. Some of the people concerned are not necessarily local. However, home visits have been carried out to the people concerned. Three people have been given Section 59 warnings. It was confirmed that should the offence continue to be committed then the vehicle could be seized and they could be prosecuted whilst the Section 59 warning is in force. Once the Section 59 has run out then the whole process would need to be started again.

If the behaviour continues, parishioners need to contact the PCSO with specific times that it is occurring and she will speak to Sgt Brathwaite.

Surgeries will be held at the Post Office on 12th and 26th September at 2.00 pm
Twelve crimes took place in Biddenden in July 2014: Anti-social behaviour (4); burglary (1); criminal damage and arson (1); other theft (4); vehicle crime (2).

7. Report by Cllr Bell, ABC

Cllr Bell reported that Ashford Borough Council had won funds for affordable homes and was looking at an infill site at The Weavers garages. It is likely that they will be bungalows and people will be around that area taking measurements etc, although they are not at the stage of submitting an application yet. Cllr Bell has suggested that the houses should be for local needs housing.

Cllr Bell was asked if ABC had a timetable regarding the site submissions under the local plan. Cllr Bell thought there was not a timetable yet. He felt that a possible change of government could make it more of a "wild west" in the countryside as all legislation to-date has been to encourage developers to build.

8. Co-option

The deadline for applications 19th September. To-date, no applications have been received.

9. Ashford Borough Council Local Plan to 2030 - Site submissions for Biddenden

An email has been received from ABC stating: *"We are currently in the process of assessing the various sites put forward to us across the borough with a view to sieving down the*

potential options for allocation in the final draft plan but no decisions have yet been taken in respect to sites in Biddenden as yet. Given the presence of your parish plan, we may well want to come back to you to discuss how that might be best represented through the approach in the new Local Plan in the fairly near future but we're not quite at that stage yet."

10. Review and Implementation: Community Led Plan

Cllrs Friend and Lupton had a meeting with Cllr Hill on 21st July to discuss a number of issues raised in the community led plan. Notes of the meeting had been circulated and were noted and the Chairman detailed what had been discussed. Cllr Hill had been positive regarding plans for the play area and the lighting issue on the footpath between Glebelands and Chulkhurst.

11. ABC Recycling

Two letters have now been received from ABC relating to recycling arrangements in the borough. Copies of the letters have been circulated. At the end of the first letter the following request was made: *"Should any Parish work directly with voluntary organisations, clubs or societies and provide any grant via the recycling payments they receive from Ashford currently then please advise us and provide details."*

The Clerk emailed to say that Biddenden PC did indeed use the recycling payments to support local organisations. An update has been requested.

Discussion took place regarding the recycling credit scheme. The Clerk was asked to find out whether payments are made retrospectively as it had been understood that payments would be made until 2015.

12. Post Office

It was noted that there are rumours circulating regarding the future of the post office. **It was agreed** to put out a notice stating the position. Once all the documentation has been received the PO Working Group will meet to discuss the matter and make their recommendations to the full council. Proposed by: Cllr E Stevenson-Rouse Seconded by: Cllr A Lidgett. **Agreed.**

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

Car Park, Toilets and Post Office: The Men's toilet has been blocked twice in the last few weeks and the plumber has had to clear the blockage on both occasions. The CCTV footage has not come up with anything.

The new soap dispenser has been fitted in the ladies toilet.

ABC has been in touch to say that they will be reviewing the toilet grant shortly

A parishioner has telephoned to ask if it would be possible to put a banner on the car park fence advertising a trampolining event at Homewood School and trampolining classes. The council is asked to consider this request. A poster has also been requested for the church flower show. **It was agreed** that the flower show poster could go up, but the Chairman needed to find out further details regarding the trampoline classes as it was not possible to permanently advertise.

Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow: An RPA cross-compliance inspection has been carried out in relation to the Single Payment Scheme. The annual payment has been deducted by 5% as the council had not kept appropriate records. This has been rectified for the current year. This is because it had not been realised that these records had to be kept by the council as opposed to the licensee. There is a question as to whether the council conforms to the RPA definition of "farmer" and advice is being sought before a further application is being made. **It was agreed** that the Clerk was authorised to contact a land specialist company (BTF) for independent advice if required.

Two companies have been contacted to provide a quotation for the health and safety inspection of the trees in the Millennium Field and Gordon Jones Playing Field. One has come back giving the details of a insured consultant who could do the inspection and they could then tender for the work as they felt it would be a conflict of interest to do both. The clerk is therefore contacting the consultant.

A quote has been received for filling the potholes in the Millennium Field car park. Two contractors were asked for quotes but only one provided a quote. The Clerk was asked to obtain one further quote.

The strimming around the memorial trees has been completed.

Traffic, Pedestrians and Footpaths: A report has been made to Kent Highways regarding an overgrown verge at Woolpack corner as it was making it difficult to see traffic turning into Benenden Road from the Tenterden Rd.

A parishioner has reported that the hedge opposite Cot Lane needs cutting and is also overhanging the path. The hedge is making it difficult to see as you turn into Cot Lane.

Gordon Jones Playing field and Play Area: Some of the work on the play area has been completed and the contractor is being chased regarding the remainder.

A draft questionnaire relating to a new play area has been drawn up to go out to parents at the school, toddler group, etc in the village. It will be considered by the Play Area Working Group.

There has been an issue with horses and carriages using the Gordon Jones Playing field. This was reported to the police and has been dealt with.

A contractor has been contacted to clear the squash club embankment area but no reply

regarding the quotation has been received. This is being chased.

A meeting was held with the grounds maintenance company on 4 September. The council was advised that the contractor had completed the 14 cuts requested and quoted for the year as the grass had grown more than in the comparative period last year. Nineteen cuts have actually been done but the council is not being charged for the additional 5. It was agreed that the contractor would cease cutting the grass each week and instead cut it every two weeks until the end of October and every three weeks until the end of the current contract. The contractor was also asked to quote to cut down the grass by the ditch running down the side of the playing field as the ditch wasn't visible to the public.

Police Liaison: See above after agenda item 6.

Planning and Local Housing: There is nothing further to report on the Local Needs Housing.

The Clerk had been requested at the last meeting to find out why the council had not been consulted on some of the plans. This was due to a change in planning law and the consultation process.

A parishioner has been in touch regarding alleged possible development on/near the designated traveller land at Little Acres. Land has been levelled and a road/track made finishing just behind the hedge going onto Benenden Road. The planning officer has been contacted and asked if she is aware of any development in that area.

KALC: The Chairman will attend the Chairmanship and Leadership workshop on 22 September.

Parish Forum: Nothing to report.

Recycling: The deadline for the September applications is Friday 19th September. A Recycling working group meeting will then be held to consider them.

Village Hall Management Committee: Next meeting is on 11 September 2014.

Health and Safety: A bench is broken on the Millennium Field.

Allotments: Nothing to report.

John Mayne School: Nothing to report.

The meeting closed for refreshments at 8.50 pm

The meeting resumed at 9.10 pm. Cllr Boulding left the meeting due to personal commitments.

14. Finance

a) Approval of cheques for payment: The payment schedule was presented for payment.

Agreed.

b) Accounts to 31 August 2014. Noted.

15. Planning

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
14/00920/AS	Biddenden	The Yard at, Newcastle Farm, Headcorn Road, Biddenden, Kent Installation of external flue for spray booth	Support
14/00950/AS	Biddenden	Rosedene, Headcorn Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8JW Erection of detached garage/store and change of use of existing paddock to residential private garden area	Support
14/01001/AS	Biddenden	Rose Cottage, 8 Worsenden, Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8EH Creation new dropped kerb access	To follow advice of Kent Highways
14/00896/AS	Biddenden	Bowland Farm, Tenterden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8BH Replacement Poultry Sheds	Object
14/01014/AS	Biddenden	Nimrod Farm, Ongley Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8HF Erection of a replacement building for use as a holiday let (retrospective)	Support
14/01124/AS	Biddenden	Braceby, 62a North Street, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8AS Erection of a first floor side extension over garage and single storey rear extension	Support

16. Correspondence

The Correspondence list had been circulated. There were no comments upon the list.

17. Items for future consideration

Budget: Cllrs were asked to let the Clerk know of any projects/amounts of money needed by the October meeting.

18. Date of next meeting: Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 14th October 2014, Village Hall

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm

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Parish Clerk

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