

BIDDENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

APPROVED Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 11 March 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Biddenden

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

Cllr N Bell
Mrs A Swannick (Clerk)

1 Parishioner attended

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr P Harris due to work commitments.

2. Parishioners' Questions

There were no questions from parishioners.

3. Any Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda

Cllr Lidgett declared an interest in agenda item 11, Recycling, due to a personal connection with an applicant.

Cllr Lupton declared an interest in item 11, Planning and Local Housing, as he is Treasurer of the Biddenden Consolidated Charity which owns the Tapley Field.

4. Any Changes to the Register of Members' Interests

There were no changes.

5. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11 February 2014

The Clerk detailed a minor amendment made to the minutes where the Council had agreed under item 10 to that the Parish Council should agree its response to the Local site submissions at the April meeting. This was originally omitted. There being no further amendments or comments the minutes were declared a true and proper record of the meeting. Proposed by: Cllr E Cansdale Seconded by: Cllr D Boulding. **Agreed** by those who attended the meeting.

6. To note the minutes of the Open Meeting held on 25 February 2014

The minutes of the Open Meeting held on 25 February 2014 were noted and will be made available on the website.

7. Matters for Information not on the Agenda

The Annual Parish Meeting is to be held on 22 April and Mr Michael Bax, Chair of the Crime Rural Advisory Committee will be speaking.

8. Report by Cllr Bell, ABC

Cllr Bell stated that he had nothing to report but was happy to answer questions.

Local Council Tax bill have been sent out and ABC had frozen their portion but that the KCC component had increased by 1.99%.

It was noted that the planning application for Little Acres had been refused.

9. Ashford Borough Council Local Plan to 2013 - Site submissions for Biddenden

A meeting is being held on 18th March 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. However, parishioners will be able to go and see the site submissions and talk to ABC officers from 4 pm in the Village Hall. Cllrs Chalk and Friend agreed to be present from 5 – 6 pm.

10. Implementation: Community Led Plan

Business Association: An Open Meeting was held to discuss the possible setting up of a Business Association in Biddenden (See agenda item 6). A meeting was held on Monday 10th March by interested parties to discuss next steps. It was reported that there was interest but results would not be immediate.

Seating: Ashford Access has now been in touch and a meeting will be arranged with Cllrs Cansdale, Lupton and the Clerk.

Doctors Surgery: Written confirmation has been received from both the Ivy Court practice in Tenterden and the Headcorn Practice (the two major practices serving Biddenden) that they do not wish to develop a doctor's surgery in Biddenden. **It was agreed** to leave this issue until such time as the Council is directly approached again.

Youth: The issue of setting up a youth club has been discussed at the VHMC meeting and the Friends of John Mayne meeting. A reply is currently awaited.

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

Car Park, Toilets and Post Office: Two quotations were considered for the fencing in the PO car park. It was **agreed** to accept the quotation submitted by SJ Brown and S Boon.

The work on the height restriction barrier is now complete.

The external decoration of the post office and toilets is in progress.

Quotations for Metal door surrounds for the toilet doors are still in progress.

Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow: A reply has been received from Kent Highways re whose responsibility the maintenance of the Sissinghurst Rd culvert is. They believe that the

culvert is not their responsibility but it is being checked.

The Bethersden marble stones outside the church lych-gate have been secured.

A meeting of the Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow working group will be held before the April meeting.

Traffic, Pedestrians and Footpaths: Cllrs Lupton and Friend have cleaned the dirty signs from Browns corner to Dashmonden.

It has been noticed that the speed limit just past Old Mill Court goes from 30 mph to 60 mph and then down to 50 mph by Woolpack Corner. This was not what was understood to be the case following the consultation and the issue is being followed up.

Work on the village sign will be completed on Wednesday 12 March.

Gordon Jones Playing Field and Play Area: Nothing further has been done regarding the new play area.

The tender period for the contract for the mowing of the GJ playing field and verges in the village has now ended. Three contractors were approached. Two quotations have been received and councillors were asked to consider the quotations. **It was** agreed to accept the quotation from the incumbent, Landscape Services subject to a letter being sent regarding the standard of their work.

Police Liaison: Crime figures were presented and **it was agreed** that a letter should be sent to Inspector Judd and copied to the Chief Constable. Cllr Tydeman undertook to write the letter with the Clerk.

Road accident by Old Mill Court: Police investigations are continuing.

Cllr Lupton left the room due to his declared personal interest in the next item.

Planning and Local Housing: An email has been received from Tessa O'Sullivan giving an update on the preferred site, Tapley Field (copy with council papers). Councillors were asked to confirm in principle whether they support this site. Alison Thompson from English Rural Housing has been asked to talk to the council at the April meeting regarding their processes etc.

After discussion **it was agreed** to support the preferred site in principle. Proposed by: Cllr A Lidgett Seconded by: Cllr F Chalk. **Agreed.**

Cllr Lupton returned to the meeting.

KALC: Cllr Parks will be attending the KALC Planning Conference on 22nd March.

Parish Forum: Nothing to report.

Cllr Lidgett left the meeting due to his declared personal interest in the next item.

Recycling: The minutes of the Recycling Working Group meeting were noted by the meeting and their recommendations **agreed**. Proposed by: Cllr D Boulding Seconded by: Cllr E Stevenson-Rouse. **Unanimous**.

The following donations were agreed:

Biddenden Village Halls & Sports Committee	£250.00
Friends of John Mayne School	£500.00
Biddenden Horticultural Society	£300.00
Biddenden Bowls Club	£300.00
Biddenden Squash Club	£250.00
BEST re Biddenden Tractorfest	£900.00

After the above donations are made from the Recycling Fund, a balance of £1,183.82 is carried forward.

A date for applications to the fund will be published shortly.

It is expected that ABC will make a further distribution in May 2014, however this is likely to be the last.

Cllr Lidgett rejoined the meeting.

Village Hall Management Committee: A meeting was held last week and the issue of a youth club discussed.

Health and Safety: Nothing to report.

Allotments: Plot rental notices for 2014/15 have been sent out.

John Mayne School: The Ofsted Inspection has taken place.

12. Finance

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

Proposed by: Cllr C Friend Seconded by: Cllr J Tydeman. **Unanimous**.

b) Accounts to 28 February: The accounts were noted as presented. There were no queries.

c) Savings Account: The forms are with councillors for completion.

The council's financial year ends on 31st March 2014.

13. Planning – to note decisions and any plans tabled

The minutes of the Planning Committee held on Thursday 20 February 2014 were noted.

It was formally noted that the planning application at Little Acres had been refused.

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
14/00148/AS	Biddenden	The Delph, Tenterden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8DW Erection of first floor front and side extensions, changes to fenestration	Support

		and erection of a metal flue to side elevation	
14/00171/AS	Biddenden	22 High Street, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8AH Erection of an Oak Frame 2 bay detached garage	Support
14/00226/AS	Biddenden	23 Mansion House Close, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8DE Application for Lawful Development Certificate - Proposed - Loft conversion with pitched roof link-dormer to rear elevation	Support

The application for a Premises Licence for PK's Pantry to sell alcohol was discussed and noted. **It was agreed** that no further action was required.

It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the planning officer to ask why application 14/00226/AS required a Certificate for Lawful Development when Planning Permission has already been applied for relating to the same project.

14. Correspondence

The Correspondence List was presented and the following items for action considered:

- 24/2 Email from Tessa O'Sullivan re preferred site. To be discussed under Local Housing Needs. Copy of email circulated with papers. **Agreed support in principle**
- 25/2 Email requesting use of the playing fields for 21-23 July from 9.30 – 3pm for pupils of Swadelands School. **Agreed.**
- 4/3 Email from ABC re Rural Housing Protocol Survey. Who would Cllrs like to complete it? **The Clerk to complete.**

15. Items for future consideration

Parish Council's response to ABC Local Plan to 2030

16. Date and time of next meeting:

- 18 March: Open Meeting to discuss the Site Submissions relating to future developments
- 8 April: Parish Council Meeting, 7.30 pm in the Village Hall
- 22 April: Annual Parish Meeting, 7.00 pm in the Village Hall

The meeting closed at 21.55.

Alison Swannick
Parish Clerk

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