

BIDDENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

**UNAPPROVED Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
Tuesday 11 November 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Biddenden**

Present: Cllr J Tydeman (Chair) Cllr A Lidgett
Cllr D Boulding Cllr S Parks
Cllr E Cansdale

Mrs A Swannick (Clerk)

3 parishioners attended

In the absence of Cllr Friend (Chairman) it was proposed that Cllr J Tydeman (Vice Chairman) should chair the meeting. Proposed by: Cllr E Cansdale Seconded by: Cllr S Parks. **Unanimous**

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr C Friend due to personal commitments
Cllr P Harris due to work commitments
Cllr T Lupton due to work commitments
Cllr E Stevenson-Rouse due to personal commitments
Cllr N Bell due to attendance at a meeting

2. Parishioners questions

None.

3. Any Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda

Cllr Lidgett declared an interest in agenda item 14, Recycling as his wife is Treasurer of the Horticultural Society.

4. Any changes to the Register of Members Interest

None.

5. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14 October 2014

There being no further comments or amendments the minutes were deemed a true and proper record of the meeting. Proposed by: Cllr D Boulding Seconded by: Cllr A Lidgett
Unanimous

6. Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on 22 October 2014

There being no further comments or amendments the minutes were deemed a true and proper record of the meeting. Proposed by: Cllr E Cansdale Seconded by: Cllr S Parks
Unanimous

7. Matters for information not on the agenda

Mr King, who has maintained and planted the War Memorial for the last nine years, is no longer able to continue. It was suggested that the Horticultural Society be asked if they would like to take on the ongoing planting. The Council wished to thank Mr King for all his hard work and the Clerk was asked to write to him

8. Report by Cllr Bell, ABC

No report.

9. Co-option

Mr Paul Cameron had applied for a co-opted position. He was asked to say a few words about himself and questions were then asked by councillors. Mr Cameron was asked to leave the room whilst councillors discussed his application. A vote was taken by show of hands and Mr Cameron was unanimously selected as a co-opted councillor.

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

A letter has been received) from Ashford Borough Council detailing the two shortlisted sites in Biddenden: BD4 (Land adjoining Gate House) and BD8 (North Street). These sites are **not** proposed to be a definitive list of local plan site allocations at this stage. The final list of proposed site allocations to be included in the new Local Plan will not be decided until next year as Ashford Borough Council still has a number of assessments to apply to the remaining sites. It was **agreed** that no further action could be taken at the present but that details of the sites should be put on the notice board and website.

A map showing where these sites are can be found on the large Parish Council notice board on the High Street and on the Parish Council website at www.biddenden.gov.uk

11. Review and Implementation: Community Led Plan

Nothing further to report.

12. New Play Area

A meeting is to be arranged before the December meeting.

13. Post Office

The Post Office has found a prospective tenant. A draft lease has been sent to the prospective tenant as requested at the Extraordinary meeting held on 22 October and it is hoped that the new arrangements will be in place in the New Year.

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

Car Park, Toilets and Post Office: Petty theft is still taking place of black bin bags, toilet cleaner, toilet paper etc from the disabled toilet. The clerk is seeking to purchase a padlockable garden storage trunk which can be fixed to the floor. The men's toilet has been blocked again, but fortunately this was cleared without the aid of a plumber.

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The plumber has been called as the flush in the men's toilet is not working properly and continues to drip water.

The toilets have now been decorated.

A parishioner complained about rubbish being left in the car park. It was takeaway packaging and was cleared. It was **agreed** to put a notice in the parish magazine raising the issue of people blocking the toilets and the associated costs of rectifying it and asking them to be aware of the issue.

Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow: The tree survey has been received and was discussed. It was **agreed** to get quotations for the work and factor costs into the budget. The dipping platform on the middle pond is damaged. The area has been taped off. This will be discussed by the Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow Working Group who will decide whether it should be repaired or removed.

A letter has been received from a parishioner wishing to plant a Red Oak (*quercus rubra*) in memory of her mother. Councillors **agreed** this request and asked that it be passed to the Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow Working Group for action.

Traffic, Pedestrians and Footpaths: The pavement outside Claris's has been damaged again and the streetlight outside Avery Cottage is not working and that the bulb in the School light outside the PO requires replacing – all have been reported.

High Halden Parish Council has been in touch to ask if Biddenden wishes to join in a KCC/ABC scheme which pays for someone to collect litter, clear drains, remove graffiti etc. Details are awaited. Councillors are asked if they wished to pursue this further. We would also be partnered with Bethersden and Woodchurch. Councillors **agreed** to pursue this.

A draft of a letter to Damian Green MP regarding the speed limit from the Old Mill Court to Woolpack Corner was **agreed**.

Gordon Jones Playing Field and Play Area: The fence in the toddler play area has been fixed. Weeding will take place shortly.

Police Liaison: Between end of August 2014 – end September 2014 8 crimes were reported in Biddenden:

Burglary	1
Criminal Damage and Arson	2
Other Theft	1
Vehicle Crime	1
Violence and Sexual Offences	3

Planning and Local Housing: An enforcement notice has been issued regarding Dove Cottage.

Local Needs Housing: The valuation on Tapley Field has come back higher than English Rural can afford and therefore negotiations are ongoing.

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KALC: Nothing to report.

Parish Forum: Nothing to report

Recycling: The Recycling Working Group minutes and the following recommendations from its meeting held on 24th October considered:

Biddenden Village Halls Committee – requested a donation towards a cost of £3,500 for new stackable staging. It was **agreed** to recommend to the PC that the request be accepted and to send a donation of £1,000.

Friends of John Mayne – requested a donation towards new computers for teachers in the classrooms. It was **agreed** to recommend to the PC that further information on costs should be requested prior to sending funds.

Biddenden Horticultural Society – requested £200 contribution towards flowers for village green box. It was **agreed** to recommend to the PC that the request be accepted.

Biddenden Bowls Club – requested a donation towards a £1500 cost for machinery and clubhouse equipment. It was **agreed** to recommend to the PC that the request be accepted, and a donation of £300 be made *on receipt of their accounts, which have been requested*.

Biddenden Squash Club – requested funds towards a cost of £2475 for refitting the men's toilets. It was **agreed** to recommend to the PC that the request be **denied** because they have previously received funds towards this, and that the Parish Clerk should contact them inviting them to request funds for something new.

Smarden Road Neighbourhood Watch – requested a donation towards a cost of £72 for new signs to be displayed in the area. It was **agreed** to recommend to the PC that this request be accepted in full.

Biddenden Historical Society – requested a donation towards costs to set up World War 1 Exhibitions and costs of obtaining records. It was **agreed** to recommend to the PC that the Clerk contact them to request more specific details on costs so that a donation can be made.

The above recommendations were proposed by: Cllr D Boulding Seconded by: Cllr S Parks.
Unanimous.

Village Hall Management Committee: Nothing to report.

Health and Safety: The ditch on the Gordon Jones Playing Field has been flailed and the squash club embankment has been cleared and tidied to allow access.

Allotments: Paperwork has been sent out to the prospective new tenants for the two vacant plots.

John Mayne School: Christmas Bazaar, 5th December.

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The meeting closed for refreshments at 20.30 and was re-opened at 20.55.

15. Finance

a) To consider the payment schedule circulated. Proposed by: Cllr A Lidgett Seconded by: Cllr S Parks. **Unanimous**

b) The monthly accounts to 1 November 2014 were noted.

c) Budget: figures from Working Group Chairman for projects to be given to the Clerk before the next PC meeting

The next Finance Committee meeting is being held on 2nd December at 7.30 pm.

16. Planning

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
14/01310/AS	Biddenden	28 High Street, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8AH Proposed 1.5 storey building to provide guest accommodation ancillary to the existing restaurant (revised scheme to 14/00351/AS)	Support
14/01330/AS	Biddenden	1 Standen Cottage, Smarden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, TN27 8JT 2 storey extension and alterations	Support
14/01353/AS	Biddenden	Lake Cottage, Frittenden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8LG Erection of a two storey side extension with open porch and single storey rear extension	Support
14/01391/AS	Biddenden	Holden Farm Barn, Hareplain Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8EZ New double garage & log store with room over	Support

KCC PLANNING APPLICATION

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
KCC/AS/0358/2014 Website: www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications	Biddenden	Biddenden Playschool, John Mayne C of E Primary School, High Street, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8AL Erection of an open sided canopy adjacent to existing playschool building	Support

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NEW TREE APPLICATIONS

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
14/00224/TC	Biddenden	Wykeham House, High Street, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8AH 1 x Horse Chestnut (T1) - fell, 3 x Leylandii (G1) - fell, 3 x Limes (G2) - pollard and a row of Sycamores (G3) - 6 x trees to fell and the remaining trees forming collective crown to be reduced by 30%	Support

17. Correspondence

The schedule was circulated – no comments made.

3/11 Request for donation from Ashford Counselling Service (a charity for people unable to afford counselling) of £100. Does the Council wish for this to be referred to the Recycling Working Group for consideration? *No, prefer to support local causes.*

5/11 Invitation to Action with Communities in Rural Kent AGM – 20/11/14 @ 5.45 pm, Lenham Community Centre. Do any Councillors wish to attend or put themselves forward for election as an officer of the Management Committee? *No*

18. Items for future consideration: Budget

19. Date of Next Meeting: Parish Council Meeting: Tuesday 9th December at 7.30 pm, Village Hall