

BIDDENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

APPROVED Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 8 September 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Biddenden

Present: Cllr C Friend (Chair) Cllr S Parks
Cllr E Cansdale Cllr A Lidgett
Cllr P Harris Cllr E Stevenson-Rouse
Cllr J Tydeman

Mrs A Swannick (Clerk)
Cllr N Bell, ABC

No parishioners present

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Boulding due to illness.

2. Parishioners' questions

There were none.

3. Any Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda

There were none.

4. Any changes to Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

5. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14 July 2015

The minutes had been circulated. There being no further comments or amendments the minutes were deemed to be a true and proper record of the meeting. Proposed by: Cllr S Parks Seconded by: Cllr A Lidgett. **Unanimous.**

6. Matters for information not on the agenda

Councillors congratulated Tractorfest for an excellent event. It was very well organised and an article written in the Kentish Express. Cllr Bell added his congratulations, commenting that it was a phenomenally good event.

ABC will no longer be providing free dog waste bags to the parish. This is now the responsibility of the parish council. No further dog waste bins can be ordered as dog waste can now be placed in ordinary litter bins around the village.

7. Co-options

The deadline for applications was 1st September 2015. No applications have been received.

A revised notice will go back into the Parish Magazine but with no deadlines.

8. Report by Cllr Bell, ABC

The expectation for the Local Plan is that over the next 20 years approximately 700-800 houses will be built across the borough. He stated that ABC is currently looking at capital projects and that if there was anything the parish council may be seeking funding for then now may be the time to submit it. The Clerk was asked to draft a letter.

With regard to recycling, it had been reported that bin men had been chased off an estate in Ashford. The recycling had to be taken to landfill waste as some items should not have been in the recycling. However, ABC are not intending to "police" recycling bins but may need to take more notice of items on the top.

Councillors stated that it was sometimes unclear and a more comprehensive list of what items could and could not be placed in the recycling bins would be helpful. However, it was noted how impressed councillors were with the bin men.

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

Following the discussion at the meeting held on 14 July, a letter was received from Simon Cole at ABC on 6th August (all documents circulated) suggesting a meeting. A reply was sent to Mr Cole, copied to Millwood Homes, stating the Council's position on 13th August. A separate email was also sent to Millwood Homes stating the Council's position and giving them additional information required if they wished to organise an open meeting. On 21st August, Millwood Homes emailed stating that they had been contacted by ABC and wished to meet prior to an open meeting. A reply to Millwood Homes was sent on 31 August stating the Council's position once again. Cllr Bell has been kept updated.

It was noted that Millwood Homes had held a meeting on 3rd August with ABC to which the council had not been invited.

10. Broadband

BT Openworld have been connecting people to the new broadband around the village. However, outlying areas do not seem to have it, but that may depend upon their providers.

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

Car Park, Toilets and Post Office: The disabled toilet lock has been broken and has since been fixed. The plumber has been out to fix the urinal in the men's toilet as it was not working properly. Quotes are being sought for the car park hedge to be cut.

Councillors were updated on the Post Office and had been circulated with correspondence.

A contractor had been asked for a quotation for the pothole at the entrance to the PO car park.

Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow: A contractor had been asked to trim around the

memorial trees but has come back to say “no” so another contractor is being sought.

The mowing contractor was contacted and the area behind the bowls club has been strimmed.

The tree work will be carried out in November.

The Clerk has contacted the head teacher regarding the school area of the Jubilee Meadow. There is an on-going problem with the decked path as there is nothing below it (a membrane) to keep the weeds down and nettles grow through. The school also need another platform at a lower level nearer the water to make dipping easier. Councillors suggested that the school apply to the Recycling Fund.

Traffic, Pedestrians and Footpaths: The chairman has chased his contact up regarding the tree at Woolpack Corner. However, it is on the Highways part of the verge and they are reluctant to cut trees down unless dangerous.

The hedges identified along the Tenterden Road as requiring cutting, have been cut back.

There has been damage to a post on the verge outside the church by the cottages. This has been chased up with Highways along with the request for more post outside the Rectory.

The Chairman has met with Cllr Hill regarding the village green and the traffic flow as drivers are not indicating to take the left fork at the village green as several complaints have been received from parishioners who feel it is dangerous crossing there. Cllr Hill has agreed to go back and make enquiries.

A complaint has been made by a parishioner regarding vandalism to the repaired public footpath near Sandeman Way. The Clerk was asked to put an article into the Parish Magazine regarding this act.

Gordon Jones Playing Field and Play Area: A Play Area Working Group meeting was held on 24th July. Minutes are attached. The clerk has asked the planning department if any permissions are required and a reply is awaited. Enquiries have also been made to Cllrs Bell and Hill to see if they would be able to contribute towards the costs as detailed in the Play Area Working Group minutes. Reference was made to applications for capital projects mentioned under Cllr Bell’s report.

The Clerk has requested a new post for the Gordon Jones car park area and chased up the contractor who did the squash club embankment fencing to make the necessary repair to the fence.

The safety inspection of the play area has taken place and a copy of the report emailed round.

Notification was received from the mowing contractor that the contracted 14 cuts had been reached. Upon examination of the mowing schedule the contractor had been mowing, with a few exceptions, almost weekly. A complaint was lodged and several cuts free of charge

were given by way of compensation. Once these additional cuts have been completed the contractor has been told to cut no more frequently than once every two weeks until the end of the contract, as originally agreed.

Discussion took place regarding an email from Biddenden Juniors relating to the mowing of the playing field and their wish to purchase a slitter. It was **agreed** that the cutting of the playing field every two weeks should be sufficient. However, should the club wish to get the field cut for matches outside of this schedule then they should either contact the council's contractors directly or ensure anyone mowing the playing field is both personally insured and has public liability insurance. Copies of documents must be sent to the Clerk before mowing can take place.

It was **agreed** that Biddenden Juniors should apply to the Recycling Fund for help with purchasing the slitter. However, whoever uses the machine must be appropriately insured either personally or by the football club and a copy of the insurance sent to the Clerk.

Planning and Local Housing: Southern Housing have secured the option on the land at Tapley Field and will be producing layouts of the proposed housing to discuss with planners and the parish council. The houses in Sandeman Way are now up for sale and a show home is open.

Police Liaison and Neighbourhood Watch: There are now 100 people in Biddenden involved in Neighbourhood Watch.

Police UK lists 10 reported crimes for July 2015

Anti-Social Behaviour	1
Burglary	2
Criminal Damage & Arson	4
Other Theft	2
Violence & Sexual Offences	1

The new PCSO has been asked for crime stats for July and August for comparison. It was noted that the new PCSO was now responsible for three large areas. Councillors wished to know why the PCSO changes had been made.

KALC: The next meeting of the Ashford Area Committee will be held on Wednesday 16th September 2015 at 7.30 pm in Committee Room 2 at the Civic Centre, Ashford.

Parish & Urban Forum: Dates for Parish and Urban Forum meetings for 2016 are as follows:

Wednesday 27th January
Wednesday 27th April
Wednesday 27th July
Wednesday 26th October

The date of the next meeting is 28 October 2015.

Recycling; Village Hall Management Committee: The deadline for applications is 30 September 2015. No applications have been received. There are two to bring forward: the Bowls Club and Friends of John Mayne.

Health and Safety: A copy of the inspection report was circulated. One of the rockers in the play area had been broken and the clerk had arranged repair. It was **agreed** that should another be damaged that it should be removed. It was reported that brambles were growing out of the tennis court hedge and the Clerk was asked to contact the tennis club in the first instance.

Allotments: Nothing to report.

John Mayne School: The new term started on 3 September. The August newsletter is available at http://www.john-mayne.kent.sch.uk/docs/newsletters/August_newsletter_2015.pdf

12. Finance

a) Approval of cheques for payment. Proposed by: Cllr J Tydeman Seconded by: Cllr E Stevenson-Rouse. **Unanimous.**

b) Note accounts to 30 August 2015. Noted.

c) Budget 2016/17. Councillors were asked to submit any costings for projects to the clerk.

13. Planning – to note decisions and any plans tabled

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
15/00971/AS Full Planning Permission	Biddenden	Folk Meadow, Tenterden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8DW Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey extension	Support
15/01039/AS	Biddenden	Standen Oast, Weeks Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8JX Erection of three bay garage with room above	Support
15/01065/AS	Biddenden	The Lodge Building and the Parlour Building, Castweazle Farm, Fosten Lane, Biddenden, Kent Prior approval for associated operational development and design and external appearance in association with 14/00890/AS	Support
15/01092/AS	Biddenden	Medhurst Farm, Fosten Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8DZ Replacement of existing tin clad shed with two bay oak frame garage/store building	Support

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	
15/01081/AS	Biddenden	Stede Quarter Farm, High Halden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8JG Extensions to, and conversion of, two outbuildings for holiday-let accommodation, insertion of flues to both buildings and fenestration details; re-creation of second access onto High Halden Road and associated hard and soft landscaping	Object Parking an issue and building not in keeping with existing buildings
15/01111/AS	Biddenden	Priory Farm, Smarden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, TN27 8QJ Proposed stable building with hardstanding	Support
15/01113/AS	Biddenden	Randolph Lodge Barn, Fosten Lane, Biddenden, Kent Change of use of land from agricultural to garden and erection of a two bay garage and log store	Support
15/01073/AS	Biddenden	Garage blocks between 16 and 17, The Weavers, Biddenden, Kent Demolition of garages and construction of two chalet bungalows with landscaping and associated parking	Object Parking an issue
15/01158/AS	Biddenden	Agricultural buildings at New House Farm, Gribble Bridge Lane, Biddenden, Kent Prior approval for change of use of an agricultural building to a dwelling house	Support

14. Correspondence

No action to be taken

15. Items for future consideration

Cllr Harris gave notice of absence from the October meeting due to holiday commitments.

16. Date of Next Meeting: **Parish Council Meeting, Tuesday 13 October 2015**
at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall