

## BIDDENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

### **APPROVED Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 10 February 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Biddenden**

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

Mrs A Swannick (Clerk)

1 parishioner attended

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from:

Cllr P Cameron due to work commitments  
Cllr P Harris due to work commitments  
Cllr T Lupton due to personal commitments  
Cllr J Tydeman due to personal commitments

#### **2. Parishioners questions**

a) The question of the speed limit in High Halden Road was brought up. There had been a head-on collision during the previous week. The verges were in a bad state and 26 pot holes were counted, some more than 6 ins deep.

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

Cllr C Friend regarding a quotation provided for work on trees provided by a firm owned by a family member.

Cllr D Boulding as he is quoting for work with one of the tree contractors who are bidding for council business.

#### **4. Any changes to the disclosure of pecuniary interests**

None.

#### **5. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13 January 2015**

There being no comments or amendments the minutes were deemed a true and proper record of the meeting. Proposed by: Cllr S Parks Seconded by: Cllr A Lidgett. **Agreed** by those who attended the meeting.

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

The Elections will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> May. Nomination forms will be sent out in early March and need to be back by the end of that month. If you wish to stand but are going to be away at the time the nominations are due in, you will need to complete a generic form, so please let the Clerk know so that this can be organised.

## **7. Report by Cllr Bell, ABC**

*Site Submissions:* Cllr Bell informed councillors that two gypsy/traveller sites were being considered in Biddenden in addition to the sites notified and shortlisted for development. These sites have different planning requirements and are still undergoing technical review. The Clerk stated that an email had been received late this afternoon which had been circulated to councillors. A copy would be forwarded to Cllr Bell.

## **8. Ashford Borough Council Local Plan to 2030 - Site submissions for Biddenden**

Nothing further had been heard regarding the two shortlisted sites for development, but discussion took place regarding Cllr Bell's report. Nothing could be done at the moment.

## **9. Post Office**

The Chairman reported that he was going to attend a meeting at the PO with the tenant and the PO Field Adviser on Thursday 12 February regarding the tenant's personal business with the PO and the way forward. Until the investigation is complete nothing further can be done.

## **10. Parking in The Weavers**

The issue of parking at The Weavers was raised with Highways at the parish walk on 26 January. Highways stated that it was not their responsibility. An email was again sent to ABC and a reply received stating that ABC has asked the designer to look at the situation and possible solutions. Drawings will be sent to the Parish Council and Cllr Bell as they arrive.

## **11. Broadband**

Cllr Boulding reported that a company called Impossible Internet Ltd based in Ashford were installing radio broadband in areas around Ashford. He was not happy with the progress of BT's completion of optic fibre internet availability in Biddenden which kept being moved back and was no longer listed on the site "Sam Knows". It was, however, noted that BT vans had been seen around the village working on the telephone boxes.

The radio internet costs were £180 set up per household plus £20 per calendar month for approximately 40MB/s download speeds. Cllr Boulding agreed to contact the chairman of Hothfield PC, which had this system in operation. It also had to be remembered that half the parishioners lived outside the village centre and so further investigation needed to be undertaken along with clarification of minimum numbers. Cllr Boulding stated that he had been in touch with the church to see if a transmitter could be put on the church tower.

## 12. Gatwick Airport

This item relates to a survey by the Kent and Sussex Courier doing a survey of town and parish councils on the issue in Kent and Sussex. I acknowledged receipt of the survey explaining that the issue would be discussed by the council at its meeting and declining to fill in their survey. This is attached.

Kent County Council told the Airports Commission that is opposed to a second runway at Gatwick Airport due to the increase in noise from over-flight, which would result from more than a doubling of flights. ABC has not taken a view on it as it is not really within their realm of influence.

Councillors discussed the item and **it was agreed** that whilst it was an important issue and would affect some parts of Kent, Biddenden did not fall into that category and therefore the council felt that it could not make an official comment.

## 13. Road name for new development

The developers of the new site at Sandeman Way have contacted the council with the suggestion of Maiden Close as a proposed name.

Cllr Cansdale has suggested Witherden Close/Way as the Witherden family have a long connection with the village. Another suggestion has been Marshall Close. **It was agreed** to put Witherden Way forward. Proposed by: Cllr E Cansdale Seconded by: Cllr A Lidgett. **Unanimous.**

The meeting was closed for refreshments at 8.30 pm and reopened at 8.45 pm.

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

***Car Park, Toilets and Post Office:*** Nothing to report

***Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow:*** Four quotations have been received for the work on the trees in the Millennium Field and Gordon Jones Playing Field. Only one contractor had quoted for the Amber items only. **It was agreed** that the Clerk should go back and request this to be done and confirm that the price quoted by contractor no. 4 was a fixed price. Cllr Friend was out of the room for this discussion.

***Traffic, Pedestrians and Footpath:*** The parish walk with Ron Swan from Kent Highways took place on 26<sup>th</sup> January. Various issues were pointed out eg, potholes, dirty signs, ditches at the sides of High Halden Rd, parking in The Weavers. However, none of the above were the responsibility of Kent Highways or should be reported on the portal. Potholes less than 3 inches

deep will not be filled. However, it was recently noted that Highways have been out cleaning signs.

The Clerk has spoken to the tenant regarding the water usage at the Chicken Farm. It is suggested that the water company be asked to put in a meter or that BPC puts one in so that water usage can be measured. **It was agreed that** it should be queried with the water company as to how the bill has been calculated. A discussion was also held regarding additional water connections and **it was agreed** that these should be stopped off.

**Gordon Jones Playing Field and Play Area:** Two of the three quotations for mowing had been received and circulated. **It was agreed** to accept the quotation from the current contractor as their quotation was not only the lowest, but they had done a good job during the last year. It was also agreed to leave the number of cuts as last year rather than increasing the number as had happened last year. Proposed by: Cllr E Stevenson-Rouse  
Seconded by: Cllr A Lidgett. **Unanimous.**

Play Area questionnaires have been received. 23 replies have been received. These will be analysed and passed to the Play Area Working Group for discussion.

**Planning and Local Housing: Local Housing:** Negotiations are taking place between the owners of the Tapley field and a Southern Housing Group, who do have properties in the village.

**Police Liaison:** 1 x vehicle crime was reported on the police website for December 2014. However, the PCSO reported 9 crimes in January 2015.

**KALC:** Nothing to report. Papers and courses have been circulated to councillors. The next meeting is Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 pm in Committee Room 2, ABC. **It was agreed** that someone would attend from Biddenden.

**Parish Forum:** Next meeting, Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 7-9 pm, main council chamber, ABC Civic centre. Cllr Stevenson-Rouse will be attending

**Recycling:** It has been confirmed by ABC that the parish council will receive one last recycling payment. It will be the same as last year £3899.46.

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

**Health and Safety:** a) The ticker tape has come apart on the dipping platform: Reported and in hand

b) The wooden bridge coming from the top of the field through the woods seemed stable but one corner of it wasn't pushed into the bank like the others. Reported and being looked at.

**Allotments:** Three tenants have given notice. People on the waiting list are being contacted.

**John Mayne School:** The Head teacher has clarified the 11+ results. 45% of the Y6 class passed the 11+ test- that is 9 out of 20 children. (12 took it- parents choose to opt in rather than the school deciding).

There was a major traffic incident in the road by the school car park earlier during the week commencing 2 February. A car collided with a lorry on the tight bend at about 9:00am. The headteacher had a stream of parents into the office to ask if anything can be done to make the corner safer for pedestrians who use the pavements there to access the nursery eg barriers. This is a long term concern that has been discussed many times however the school would like a response from the council to the parents if possible. The Chairman is looking into this.

Other items:

- \* Successful careers day- parents came in to talk about their work. A bit of an eye-opener for some!
- \* Young Voices event at the O2- 50 children performed as part of a choir of 7000 children
- \* Rotary story writing competition- 3 prize winners (about 12 schools enter each year)
- \* Cookery lessons are going well

Things the school is working on:

- \* Storage!
- \* Outdoor environment- improving it as a learning environment
- \* Links with other local organisations
- \* Maths- improving progress/ knowing tables/ problem solving
- \* Water hygiene plumbing work during half term

## 15. Finance

a) Approval of cheques for payment. Proposed by: Cllr D Boulding Seconded by: Cllr E Cansdale. **Unanimous**

b) Note Accounts to 31 January 2015. The accounts were noted.

## 16. Planning – to note decisions and any plans tabled

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
<a href="#">15/00059/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>2 Worsenden, Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8EH</b> Erection of a single storey extension	<b>Support</b>
<a href="#">15/00067/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>Birchley House Farm, Fosten Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8DZ</b> Proposed conversion and extension of existing building to create a 1 bedroom holiday let.	<b>Support</b>
<a href="#">15/00125/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>Wheelwrights Cottage, 31B North Street, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8AG</b> Single storey end extension	<b>Support</b>

## 17. Correspondence

- 2/2 Letter from ABC re Ashford Borough Council's Land Management Plan and questionnaire. ***It was agreed*** to provide the information requested, but that the Council did not wish to join a cluster.

## 18. Items for future consideration

Broadband  
Tree in Glebelands

## 19. Staffing

This item is deferred until the March meeting. It is to discuss the salary increases for the Clerk and the Cleaner and will be taken in closed session.

20. Date of Next Meeting: **Parish Council Meeting**, Tuesday 10 March 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall