

## BIDDENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

Mrs A Swannick (Clerk)

Cllr N Bell, ABC

7 parishioners attended

#### 1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Lidgett as he is attending the JTB meeting at Ashford Borough Council.

#### 2. Parishioners questions

a) Biddenden Juniors made a complaint regarding the poor state of the pitches due to the weather. It was suggested that the grounds should be drained and they presented a quotation in the sum of £107,000 including VAT. It was pointed out that the parish council's annual income is no more than £60,000. Advice had been previously sought on draining the playing field and the council had been advised that draining it would perhaps increase the playing time by a week each side of the season. If the football club wished to pursue this by applying for sports grants it may be possible for the parish council to make a contribution. There needs to be a meeting arranged with Biddenden Juniors and councillors to discuss what they want.

Biddenden Juniors also reported that the lights in the changing rooms were not working. They were referred to the Village Hall Management Committee as this was a problem relating to the squash club and were advised to attend the VHMC meetings.

b) Parking in Townland Close was raised. This item is on the agenda for discussion.

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

Cllr C Friend – personal interest re contractor quoting for tree work

Cllr D Boulding – quoting for business with one of the tree contractors

**4. Any changes to Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests**

None.

**5. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10 February 2015**

There were no additions or comments on the unapproved minutes and they were therefore deemed a true and proper record of the meeting. Proposed by: Cllr S Parks Seconded by: Cllr E Stevenson-Rouse. **Agreed.**

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

None.

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

Cllr Bell referred to development south of Woolpack Corner. The owner is relocating turkeys and geese which is in order. There are issues regarding the barn, but the land does not need any approval for change of use.

Discussion also took place regarding parking in Townland Close.

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

Nothing further has been heard regarding the two shortlisted sites nor about the two submissions for gypsy/traveller sites.

**9. Post Office**

The Chairman and Clerk attended a meeting organised by the tenant on 26 February with the Regional Manager and the Field Change Advisor of the Post Office. The aim of the meeting was to discuss matters relevant to the tenant. However, the tenant had invited the prospective tenant and the Chairman and Clerk to attend. Due to the outcome of that meeting and subsequent internal discussion, the PO notified to the Parish Council on Monday that the tenant will continue at the PO for the time being.

However, the tenant wishes to ask for the same lease terms as those offered to the prospective tenant and also for the PC to write to the PO detailing the problems experienced and the resulting effect on the post mistress.

Discussion took place regarding the current situation of the post office and the request to reduce the rental. The Clerk was asked to seek advice from KALC and the solicitor about how the matter should be approached. The Clerk was also asked to request formal reasons for a decrease and the issue should go before the Finance Committee.

## 10. Parking

The issue of a tow truck being parked at the top of Townland Close and The Weavers by parishioners was discussed. The truck was making it difficult for cars to pass and was making it difficult for pedestrians to pass when it was partially parked on the pavement. **It was agreed** that the Clerk should write to the company and also copy in its driver, a Biddenden resident.

## 11. Broadband

Cllr Boulding reported that two companies were interested in supplying broadband to Biddenden and were interested in using the church tower. Details of both enquiries are in the hands of the Rector who will have to make necessary applications for permissions to host the antenna.

It was reported that BT had done work on the boxes but that they needed to take the cables from Woolpack Corner to Tenterden, which would mean roadworks on the Tenterden Rd.

It was suggested that Cllr Boulding talk to the Chairman of Hothfield Council, who had paid BT in order to get their service more quickly.

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

***Car Park, Toilets and Post Office:*** There have been some problems with cars parking long term in the car park.

***Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow:*** The amended tree quotations have been received from 3 of the 4 contractors by the deadline. Councillor Friend left the meeting. Councillors discussed the quotations and **it was agreed** to accept quotation 3 of £1440 plus VAT for work on amber state trees only. Proposed by: Cllr E Cansdale Seconded by: Cllr T Lupton. **Unanimous.**

With regard to the RPA scheme which the Council will no longer be claiming on, the tenant has asked if it might be worth looking at whether he can claim and if it is possible, pay part of it back in rent. However, he has advised that having spoken to DEFRA it would not be worth doing.

The Clerk rang South East Water regarding the high water bill for The Chicken Farm. The issue has been raised with the High Consumption team to go and check the water meter.

***Traffic, Pedestrians and Footpaths:*** Some papers dating back to 2000 have been handed to the Clerk regarding the ownership of the land outside the church and are available for councillors to view.

The Chairman has written to Cllr Hill regarding putting in a permanent speed sign on North Street and change the permanent 30mph sign on the Sissinghurst Road to a permanent variable speed sign.

John Mayne School is updating its Travel Plan, which was last done in 2005. The Headteacher wishes to get a good grasp of the parish Council's thinking, experiences and initiatives in improving traffic through the village. In the first instance, the Headteacher was referred to the Chairman. The Chairman wrote to Highways asking for a barrier to go round the bend just past the school. A query number has been received.

The name agreed by the parish council for the new development at Sandeman Way of Witherden Way has been turned down as written permission of living relatives would be required plus further discussion at the next cabinet meeting. This would delay the development deadlines. Upon further consultation with councillors, Maydes Close was put forward and it has the support of the developer. The result is awaited.

**Gordon Jones Playing Field and Play Area:** The Clerk has advised the current grounds maintenance contractor that the council wishes them to continue for 2015/16.

*Play area:* The completed questionnaires have been handed to the Play Area Working Group for discussion at their meeting. An email has been received objecting to expenditure on this project and suggesting an alternative use for the money. However, **it was agreed** that the work on the play area should continue due to health and safety reasons.

**Planning and Local Housing:** A 65% share of a 2 bedroom house in Cheeslands is for sale for £126,750 by the Rural Housing Trust. The deadline for applications is 27 March 2015.

Southern Housing Group has advised ABC that the Biddenden Consolidated Charity has accepted their offer with regard to the Tapley Field. They are due to meet towards the end of the month to agree Heads of Terms.

**Police Liaison:** Twelve crimes have been reported in Biddenden on the [www.police .UK](http://www.police.uk) website for January 2015:

Anti-Social Behaviour	2
Burglary	2
Criminal Damage & Arson	3
Drugs	1
Other Theft	2
Violence & Sexual Offences	2

**KALC:** Nothing to Report.

The meeting was closed at 2100 for refreshments and was opened at 2115.

**Parish Forum:** Nothing to Report.

**Recycling:** A notice inviting applications has been put in the Parish Magazine. One application has been received to-date. In the Chairman's absence Cllr Lupton has agreed to hold a meeting of the Recycling Fund and the date proposed is 7 April.

**Village Hall Management Committee:** A show is being held on 28 March entitled "Those Magnificent Men". There is a new stage which has been part funded by the Recycling Fund.

**Health and Safety:** The ticker tape has been removed from around the centre pond again.

**Allotments:** Three tenants have given notice and so far, two have been allocated. A reply from a third person on the waiting list is awaited.

**John Mayne School:** The Headteacher has provided the report below.

1. We are over-subscribed for YR September 2015
2. We would like to update the school travel plan and would appreciate a conversation about what is possible.
3. Some problems with the buildings in respect of water pressure and water hygiene (awaiting action from KCC)
4. Car park- as yet unresolved issues with land registry. Working with Canterbury Diocese
5. Walk on Wednesday initiative is promoting the use of the rear car park with children walking through- we have even won a prize!
6. Very positive feedback from our parent questionnaire- lots of happy families!
7. Difficulties with placement of children who have passed the 11+ but not been given grammar school places (We would like Cranbrook School to take from Y7).

### 13. Finance

a) Approval of cheques for payment. The Payment List was presented for approval. Proposed by: Cllr T Lupton Seconded by: Cllr D Boulding. **Unanimous**

b) Note Accounts to 28 February 2015. Noted.

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

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
<a href="#">15/00117/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>West Weald, Cranbrook Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8ER</b> Conversion of detached garage & studio to ancillary accommodation	Support
<a href="#">14/01503/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>22 High Street, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8AH</b> Erection of a 1.9m close boarded fence and cast iron gate to rear of dwelling	Support
<a href="#">15/00170/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>Orchardene, Frittenden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8LF</b> Erection of part first floor and part two storey extension to east and two storey extension to south. Single storey extension to east. Insertion of rooflight to east. Creation of new vehicular access.	Support
<a href="#">15/00166/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>Agricultural buildings at New House Farm, Gribble Bridge Lane, Biddenden, Kent</b> Prior approval of proposed change of use of an agricultural building to a dwelling house	Support

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
<a href="#">15/00187/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>Fallow Acre, Smarden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, TN27 8JT</b> Certificate of lawful development - existing - occupation of dwelling in breach of agricultural occupancy condition on WE/8/63/55	<b>Object</b>
<a href="#">15/00001/OLE/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>Line replacement between Nimrod Farm and Bloomsburys Nursery, Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden, Kent</b> (1) Installation of 1 x pole and 2 x stay wires under existing line. (2) Removal of poles 734855, 734810, 734810, 734811, 734811, 734812, 734813, 734849, associated stay wires and HV overhead lines. (3) Diversion of pole 734813 and installation of 2 x stay wires diverting the existing overhead line between pole 734814 to new terminal pole.	<b>Support</b>

#### 15. Correspondence

There were no comments on the Correspondence List circulated.

#### 16. Items for future consideration

The Chairman will be absent at the April meeting.

#### 17. Staffing (closed session agreed)

The Clerk reported that the appraisal for the Cleaner had taken place and a salary increase of 3% was proposed. Proposed by: Cllr D Boulding Seconded by: Cllr P Harris. **Unanimous**

The Clerk left the meeting.

The Clerks salary was discussed and it was agreed to increase her salary by 2% effective from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015. Proposed by Cllr Lupton seconded by Cllr Tydeman. **Unanimous**

The Clerk re-joined the meeting.

#### 18. Date of next meeting: **Parish Council Meeting, Tuesday 14 April 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall**