

BIDDENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

**APPROVED minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on
Tuesday 10 November 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall**

Present: Cllr C Friend (Chair) Cllr P Harris
 Cllr D Boulding Cllr A Lidgett
 Cllr E Cansdale Cllr J Tydeman

Mrs A Swannick (Clerk)
Cllr N Bell, ABC

2 parishioners attended

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr S Parks due to home emergency
Cllr E Stevenson-Rouse due to personal commitments

2. Parishioners' questions

A question was asked regarding the replacement of the posts at the top of the drive area outside the church. The chairman stated that he had chased the matter and been told that the order to replace the posts was with the engineers. The chairman has chased the matter again with Kent Highways and with Cllr Hill at KCC.

3. Any Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda

None .

4. Any changes to Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

None.

5. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13 October 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2015 were deemed to be a true and proper record of the meeting. Proposed by: Cllr D Boulding Seconded by: Cllr J Tydeman.
Unanimous.

6. Matters for information not on the agenda

A letter has received from Uganda asking for information on Biddenden and Biddenden History. A reply and information will be sent.
The Clerk stated that the Nationwide 6 month Business Saver 6 month account was nearly

at an end. Information on the alternative savings accounts were given to councillors and **it was agreed** to change to a Business 1 Year Saver account with 1.40% interest. Proposed by: Cllr A Lidgett Seconded by: Cllr P Harris **Unanimous.**

7. Report by Cllr Bell, ABC

The first draft of ABC's financial plans suggest the council tax is likely to increase by 2% next year.

ABC has set up a limited company as it has received a New Homes Bonus. As central government is reducing its grant to the Council ABC has put some of the bonus into a property company whereby it can buy in private sector property and rent it out at market rates and in this way try to replace lost money from the government by creating an income stream. This will have no effect on council housing.

Cllr Bell stated that he had seen the letter forwarded to him about Woodlands and that he will be getting involved.

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

An email was received from Simon Cole (attached). The date for an Open Exhibition has been set for 21 November in the Village Hall from 10 am until 1 pm. ABC provided a notice (circulated and attached). Notices have gone on the notice boards and in the Post Office. An email has been sent to all clubs and societies for which emails are available, for circulation, including the Biddenden correspondent for the Kentish Express.

9. Defibrillators

A form has been completed for the defibrillator kit and case, including one set of spare pads. The Clerk has checked with KALC regarding orders and has been informed that details will be circulated shortly, at which point the completed form will be submitted along with payment. It is not on this payment schedule as I haven't yet been sent the details regarding payment details. Total amount due on the current forms is £1445. There will, of course, be costs associated with the installation and provision of electricity etc.

Councillors **agreed** payment for the defibrillator and allow the Clerk to arrange for cheque signature and order placement when KALC get in touch. It was noted that the final amount may differ if prices have increased since the form completed was sent out. Proposed by: Cllr J Tydeman Seconded by: Cllr A Lidgett **Unanimous.**

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

Car Park, Toilets and Post Office: The hedges in the PO car have been trimmed.

The Clerk chased up the toilet grant as it was being reviewed by ABC. An email was received stating that from 16/17 the payments would stop and that the last payment would be paid during 2015/16. This was mainly down to the cash reserves held by the council. Wider factors including the funding offered to other Parish Councils following the transfer of public conveniences were also considered. The Clerk was asked to see if the council could re-apply for the grant.

Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow: The tree work has been completed for all except the two additional trees which were specified to be felled and one of the original trees, which has a live hornets nest. These will be done in December because of the angle and they will need a vehicle to help pull them to ensure they fall correctly.

The strimming around the memorial trees has taken place.

The surface in the top half of the Millennium Field car park is badly potholed and needs refilling/resurfacing. Councillors **agreed** that quotations should be sought for top half of the car park only.

Traffic, Pedestrians and Footpaths: A meeting with Cllr Hill and Highways to discuss the traffic flow around the village green will take place on 14th January at 10.00 am

Cllr Bell and the Clerk have emailed ABC regarding the drainage and fly tipping to the rear of Mansion House Close. KCC have also been approached and they are looking a possible stile.

The refurbishment of the council's noticeboards is being looked into. Prices are being sought for a new main noticeboard but perhaps incorporating some of the existing carving.

A complaint has been made regarding workers from PK Produce parking in The Meadows too close to the junction with the main road. It is causing problems with children crossing and with cars being unable to straighten up when trying to get around them. The PCSO has been informed.

Complaints have been received about the amount of dog mess on the Gordon Jones Playing Field and in the Churchyard. Bags can be purchased for approx. £1 per hundred and so these will be purchased from Petty Cash and put in the Post Office. A notice has gone to the Parish Magazine.

Gordon Jones Playing Field and Play Area: An inspection of the field took place on 4 November by Ashford PPS on the instruction of ABC as part of a survey of local amenities. This was attended by Biddenden Jnrs, the Chairman and Clerk. Information was being collated about use of pitches, problems with drainage, facilities etc. This information would be reported to sporting bodies.

Two more quotations have been sought by the Play Area Working Group and these are now due in. Once received, the quotations can be analysed.

VHMC has been asked for an update on the work regarding the water leak and they are pleased to report that their insurers are covering their claim. They are putting in a quotation for this work and for work for filling the pothole near the road humps just inside the entrance.

VHMC has been invoiced for a £350 contribution towards the cost of the carpark. This is an increase of £50 per year. They will consider this at their December meeting. The Clerk was asked to check the leases to see if an original figure was mentioned.

Planning and Local Housing: Nothing to report.

Police Liaison and Neighbourhood Watch:

Police.UK/Kent reports 7 crimes in Biddenden during September 2015:

Burglary	1
Criminal damage & Arson	1
Other Theft	1
Vehicle Crime	1
Violence and Sexual Offences	2

Neighbourhood Watch has reported an arrest related to suspicious individuals knocking on doors and requesting lifts.

KALC: AGM is being held on 21 November

Parish & Urban Forum: Nothing to report.

Recycling: A Recycling Working Group meeting took place on 3 November 2015 and their minutes and recommendations will be circulated. However it was discussed that with the cessation of the recycling credits there should instead be an amount of money, £3000, put aside by the PC each year for Community Projects. Therefore, in the 2016/17 budget the Recycling fund heading will cease and be renamed Community Projects. Proposed by: Cllr J Tydeman Seconded by: Cllr D Boulding **Unanimous**

The following donations were put forward for consideration:

John Mayne School – requested a donation towards new decking around pond. **It was agreed to recommend to the PC that the request be denied as all requests for the school should come through the Friends of John Mayne.**

Friends of John Mayne – requested a donation towards the new sound system and big screen for the new studio. **It was agreed to recommend to the PC that the request be accepted and they should receive a token donation of £200 towards the big screen.**

Biddenden Horticultural Society – requested a donation of £250 to cover the cost of planting the display box on the village green for Winter & Spring. **It was agreed to recommend to the PC that this request be accepted in full upon production of receipts.**

Biddenden Bowls Club – requested donation towards the cost of £1000 to repair the veranda roof on the clubhouse. **It was agreed to recommend to the PC that this request be accepted with a donation of £300 from the Recycling Fund.**

Biddenden Juniors Football Club – requested funds towards a cost of £600 to drain the pitches on the Gordon Jones Playing Field to improve conditions for matches. **It was agreed to recommend to the PC that this request be accepted in full, and that the full £600 should be paid to the Club as the pitches are for the whole village.**

The above recommendations were considered and approved. Proposed by: Cllr J Tydeman
 Seconded by: Cllr P Harris **Unanimous**

Village Hall Management Committee: The VHMC have been invoiced for the increased contribution of £350. This will be discussed at their December meeting but payment of the £300 usually given has been requested with the remaining £50 to be forwarded once discussed. It was stressed that this increase is not an annual increase but would remain the same for the foreseeable future.

Future meeting dates are: Thursday 10th December 2015, Wednesday 9th March,
 Thursday 19th May (to include the AGM)

Health and Safety: Nothing to report.

Allotments: Nothing to report.

John Mayne School: See the attached November Newsletter.

The meeting closed at 21.00 for refreshments and was reopened at 21.25. Cllr Harris left the meeting.

11. Finance

- a) Approval of cheques for payment. Proposed by: Cllr D Boulding Seconded by: Cllr A Lidgett. **Unanimous**
- b) Note accounts to 31 October 2015. Noted
- c) Budget 2016/17. This is currently being completed. No further figures have been received from councillors.

12. Planning – to note decisions and any plans tabled

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
15/01343/AS	Biddenden	Dullens Farmhouse, High Halden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8BF Replacement of window on rear elevation with double doors	Support
15/01348/AS	High Halden, Biddenden	Woodlands Park, Tenterden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8BT Variation of conditions 2,3 & 4 of permission 12/00898/AS to allow a reorganisation of part of the approved static holiday caravan site to allow for an increase in static holiday caravans to provide up to a maximum of 120 static caravans in place of the approved total of 155 touring and static units for holiday use on an all year round basis.	Object

13. Correspondence

26/10 Conference: Policing and Austerity to be held on 9th December 2015 from 10:00hrs to 12:00hrs at the Kent Police College, Coverdale Avenue (entry via St Saviours Road, by Morrisons), Maidstone, ME15 9DW. Do any councillors wish to attend? *No*

14. Items for future consideration

The appraisals for the Clerk and Cleaner will be arranged.

- 15. Date of Next Meeting: Finance Committee Meeting:** Tuesday 1 December 2015
at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall
Parish Council Meeting, Tuesday 8 December 2015
at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

All Welcome