

## BIDDENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

### APPROVED Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14 July 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Biddenden

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

No parishioners attended

#### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr P Harris due to work commitments, and Cllr N Bell, ABC, due to another meeting.

#### 2. Parishioners' questions

None.

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

Cllr Stevenson-Rouse declared a personal interest in planning application AS/00852/AS.

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

None.

#### 5. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9 June 2015

There being no comments or amendments to the unapproved minutes circulated, the minutes were deemed a true and proper record of the meeting. Proposed by: Cllr S Parks  
Seconded by: Cllr E Stevenson-Rouse. **Unanimous.**

#### 6. To note the unapproved minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 26 May 2015

The minutes were noted. They will be put forward for approval at the 2016 Annual Parish Meeting.

#### 7. Matters for information not on the agenda

An increase in dog poo had been noticed in the Gordon Jones Playing Field and Millennium Field. It was **agreed** that a note should be put in the Parish Magazine stating that "poo bags" can be got from the post office free of charge. The dog wardens would also be notified.

Cllr Stevenson-Rouse updated the council on the attempted illegal Gypsy/Traveller encampment in Mockbeggar Lane and nearby areas and the need to remain vigilant.

Nothing further has been heard from ABC about their protocol for unlawful encampments and the clerk was asked to chase this up.

## 8. Report by Cllr Bell, ABC

Cllr Bell has given his apologies due to attending an ABC meeting, and therefore no report was given.

## 9. Ashford Borough Council Plan to 2030 –Site Submissions for Biddenden

A reply has been received from ABC stating that ABC is now in the process of finalising its preferential list of site allocations across the Borough and expects to present a list of proposal allocations to Members at ABC in September/October. Two submissions were shortlisted in Biddenden (BD4 land at Townland Close and BD8 land west of North Street) and these have been looked at in more detail and compared with other shortlisted sites across the rest of the borough. No decisions have yet been taken but it is likely that ABC would not be recommending that both sites are allocated in the draft Plan, but is still considering whether one should be.

A developer has sent copies of plans for a development at BD8 and asked if they could attend this meeting. The developer was not permitted to attend the meeting. However, the clerk was asked to write to the developer thanking them for sending copies of the plans but stating that if they wish to canvass local opinion then they should arrange a meeting in the village themselves as it would be more representative than just asking councillors.

## 10. Broadband

It was noted that the completion of the network has been delayed due to outstanding “civils”, delays in fibre provision and traffic management agreements. Expectation for completion is currently the end of July 2015.

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

- a. **Car Park, Toilets and Post Office:** Graffiti needs to be painted out in the men’s toilet. A request has been received from the Valuation Office on the Post Office relating to the business rates. This has been passed to the Post Mistress to complete as many of the questions relate directly to her business.

A letter has been sent to the Post Office regarding the handling of matter (already circulated separately).

The post office hedge needs cutting and the Clerk is seeking quotations for the work.

A deep pothole is at the entrance of the car park which needs to be filled. It is in the unregistered land section and the clerk will get a contractor to fill it as it will cause damage to cars using the car park. The Clerk was asked to contact a local contractor to do the work.

**b. Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow:** The MF & JM Working Group met on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June. The following recommendations were considered:

Bench Repair: This work will be carried out shortly, together with repairing the gate furniture on the car park gate. JW and FS to purchase materials and to co-ordinate with the Clerk.

Removal of Upper Dipping Platform and weir: JW and FS will remove once the field has been mown. Material will be removed or burnt.

Ragwort Pulling: Not many plants seen this year – pulling will take place after flowering.

Maintenance around Memorial Trees: Stimming needs to be done around the trees, as in previous years (2m radius around each tree). Clerk to arrange contractor. Ideally strimming should be carried out in June and September each year.

It was noted the “bowls club bank” and car park island needed strimming. Clerk to follow up with Gordon Jones Field contractor.

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#### Update on tree work

The meeting reviewed trees to be worked on in the woodland strip. It is recommended that two additional trees are felled, and added to the work to be carried out by the contractor.

The tree work is expected to be carried out in July.

#### Docks and Nettles in Jubilee Meadow

A request had been received from the tenant for permission to spray off a small area of docks and nettles in the Jubilee Meadow in order to stop further invasion. The field is no longer in a country side stewardship scheme, or Entry Level Stewardship Scheme as the rules for these have now changed. It was recommended that this request be approved.

It has been noted that the school area of the Jubilee Meadow is overgrown and the children will not be able to make use of it. The Clerk was asked to contact the Head Teacher regarding tidying it up.

Approval for the above points and recommendation was requested en bloc.

Proposed by: Cllr E Cansdale    Seconded by: Cllr E Stevenson-Rouse    **Unanimous.**

- c. **Traffic, Pedestrians and Footpaths:** An email has been sent to Cllr Hill thanking him for agreeing to fund the lighting in the footpath and informing him that the parish council would come back to him once they had looked at the positioning of the light. A meeting will be held by the working group to look at the positioning once the British Summer time ends.

Complaints have been received regarding the overgrown hedge at Woolpack Corner. This has now been cut back. Also work may need to be carried out to a tree which is restricting visibility. The Chairman agreed to contact the owner in the first instance.

Some of the hedges between the PO and Old Mill Court need to be cut back away from the pavement. It is suggested that a letter be sent to the householders asking them to cut their hedges back. **Agreed.**

A parishioner has sent in pictures showing cars parked on the grass verge by the church as bollards have not been replaced. This issue has been chased up with Kent Highways.

- d. **Gordon Jones Playing Field and Play Area:** A Play Area Working Group meeting is due to be held in order to move the project forward. Cllr Parks has agreed to chair the Working Group.

The Play Area has been weeded and the hedge at the side of the toddler playground cut back. The fence around the older children's play area has been fixed and the obscenities written in the tower painted out.

The play bark floor is getting thin in places and consideration should be given to putting more down. Play Bark was last put down in July 2013 at a cost of £1632 including VAT. It was **agreed** to monitor this issue as work is planned on the play area.

A post is missing by the car park to the playing field. The Clerk will organise a replacement.

- e. **Planning and Local Housing:** A letter of objection from a parishioner relating to the planning application coming up under item 13, Bowland Farm, has been received. This issue was discussed under item 13.

**f. Police Liaison:**

The following figures were provided by the www.Police.UK website for all crime reported in May 2015:

Anti-Social Behaviour	3
Burglary	2
Vehicle Crime	1
Violent & Sexual Offences	3

= 9                      April = 10

**g. KALC:** Nothing to report.

**h. Parish Forum:** Next meeting is on 22 July.

**i. Recycling:** Notices for the next round of applications have been submitted to the parish magazine for August and September issues.

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

**k. Allotments:** Nothing to report.

**l. John Mayne School:**

- School is over-subscribed for YR in September and has a waiting list
- Platinum green travel award for long term commitment to sustainable travel (walking, scooting, cycling)
- Y6 visited the Houses of Parliament - with support from Damian Green
- Recent participation in community events such as WW1 exhibition, Flower Festival, Christian Aid week
- We are promoting all of our classes early this year so everyone will move up in July. (Minimises loss of learning due to winding down!)
- We are beginning to rewrite the school travel plan- would appreciate a chat with someone who knows what has been tried before.
- School budget is tight, even with higher pupil numbers!
- School boiler due to be replaced in the summer holiday as it died completely! (KCC paying)
- Family Fun event was held on Friday 26th June (3:30 - 6:00) instead of a fete this year.

The July newsletter can be viewed at: <http://www.john-mayne.kent.sch.uk/News/Newsletters/>

The meeting was closed at 20.55 for refreshments and was opened again at 21.15.

**12. Finance**

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

b) Note accounts to 30 June 2015. The accounts were noted and were signed off as being correct by Cllr J Tydeman for the quarter.

### 13. Planning

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
<a href="#">15/00805/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>7 Cheeselands, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8HJ</b> Erection of front porch	Support
<a href="#">15/00814/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>Bowland Farm, Tenterden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8BH</b> Replacement poultry shed	Object
<a href="#">15/00834/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>Pine Hurst, Tenterden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8BJ</b> Single storey rear extension	Support
<a href="#">15/00852/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>Little Pedlars, Pedlars Farm, Mockbeggar Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8ES</b> Variation of condition 3 attached to permission ref:06/01112/AS to remove reference to ancillary residential and to allow use of annexe as a holiday let	Support
<a href="#">15/00895/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>Hare Plain Farm, Hareplain Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8LJ</b> Repairs to the front elevation of the timber frame. Repairs to Jetty plates and studs at jetty level. Repair of existing daub and reuse of damaged daub where possible. Lath and lime plaster to match existing where panels are missing. Lime wash top coat to all plaster and daub panels	Support
<a href="#">15/00916/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>Duesden, Tenterden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8BJ</b> Changes to fenestration to existing outbuilding with internal changes to allow for formation of ancillary accommodation	Support
<a href="#">15/00931/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>East Ongley Farm, Ongley Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8HF</b> Prior approval for the change of use of 2 agricultural buildings and any land within their curtilage to 2 dwelling units and for associated operational development	Site visit carried out. Object
<a href="#">15/00909/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>Weald View, Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8EH</b> Conversion of garage into habitable room	Support

#### **14. Correspondence**

The Correspondence List had been circulated. There were no questions or requests regarding the correspondence.

Councillors did not wish to attend a Rural Affordable Housing as Community Land Trust to be held on 18 September.

It was noted that a Request for Information – Non-domestic Rating questionnaire had been received from the Valuation Office Agency. It had been passed to the Postmistress for completion.

#### **15. Items for Future Consideration**

None were put forward.

#### **16. Date of next meeting: Parish Council Meeting, Tuesday 8 September 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall**

*All Welcome*

**No meeting in August**

Alison Swannick  
Parish Clerk

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