

BIDDENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

APPROVED Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 8 March 2016 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Biddenden

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

Mrs A Swannick (Clerk)
Borough Cllr N Bell, ABC
PCSO Oliver Welch

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that Police Liaison would be taken before item 7 so that PCSO Welch could make his report.

1. Apologies for absence

Councillor Stevenson-Rouse due to personal commitments

2. Parishioners' questions

None.

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 9 February 2016

There being no comments or amendments to the circulated unapproved minutes, they 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

A gentleman has been found who would be happy to maintain the village green on the same terms as Mr Cooper. The Clerk was asked to check the position regarding the parish council's insurance.

10. Police Liaison

PCSO Welch announced that due to restructuring he would be moving back to

Tenterden. PCSO Lee Sinden would be taking over from him as of 14 March. He stated that there were 12 reported crimes in February:

- 1 x dog biting
- 1 x criminal damage
- 1 x fraud
- 3 x assaults
- 1 x burglary other
- 1 x burglary dwelling
- 4 x theft from a motor vehicle

There is someone/group of people out looking for opportunities. Some thefts are taking place during daylight hours. He urged people to be more vigilant and to report anything suspicious by telephoning 101. If the crime is in progress the number to ring is 999.

A question was asked regarding the spate of incidents and whether Biddenden was being targeted. PCSO Welch said that it could have been someone being dropped off and then being picked up again, having tried car handles etc. The police are looking into these matters but PCSO Welch urged parishioners to report anything suspicious.

There had originally been 23 PCSOs but this number has reduced as PCSOs have left to join the regular police force. This means that the system will return to one line manager and back to wards.

PCSO Welch stated that Biddenden's Neighbourhood Watch group was the best in the area.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Welch for the work that he had done in Biddenden and for coming to the meeting to tell the council of the structural changes in person.

The Police UK website showed that nine crimes were reported on Police UK for December 2015:

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

PCSO Welch held a surgery on 3 March at the Church.

7. Report by Cllr Bell, ABC

Cllr Bell stated that last Easter there had been the incident in Mockbeggar Lane regarding gypsy/travellers. However, this year Planning Officers will be on call over the Easter weekend.

Junction 10A of the M20 is now fully funded. It is needed in terms of development.

There were no questions.

8. Ashford Borough Council Local Plan to 2030 - Site submissions for Biddenden
- Note Planning Committee Meeting of 1 March 2016
- Update

It was noted that the Clerk did contact ABC as requested regarding their meeting with the doctors but they felt that they couldn't pass on what was discussed.

A Planning Committee meeting was held on Tuesday 1 March 2016 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall (unapproved minutes attached). Discussion took place regarding the two shortlisted sites in Biddenden, BD4 (Townland Close) and BD8 (North Street). A recommendation was made as follows:

Neither sites BD4 nor BD8 is acceptable to the Parish Council as neither proposal has taken the Community Led Plan into account. The Council refers Ashford Borough Council back to the Community Led Plan and the Parish Council's letter dated 17 April 2014, restating the last paragraph:

"Whilst the Parish Council understands that much may change between 2014 and 2030 in terms of village needs, it does not believe that there is a need for any significant housing development in the village outside the approximate 25 homes already mentioned during the next 5-7 years."

A number of these 25 homes have already been built.

Councillors considered the recommendation and a vote was taken by a show of hands to agree the recommendation and to formalise it as the council's view. Proposed by: Cllr D Boulding Seconded by: Cllr P Harris

For: 6 Against: 2 **Agreed by majority**

The Clerk was asked to inform ABC of the council's view.

9. Car Parking

There have been complaints regarding cars exceeding the four hour limit. Some of these have related to local residents parking their vehicles in the car park due to lack of other available parking space near their homes. Others have related to people leaving cars there all day or parking across a space.

Councillors **agreed** that a letter on council headed paper pointing out the 4 hour limit and asking them not to exceed, pointing out that there is ample car parking at the Gordon Jones Playing Field/Millennium Field will be placed on their windscreens. It was also agreed that additional signs stating the 4 hour limit would be put up in the car park.

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

Car Park, Toilets and Post Office: The car park barrier has been repaired and returned.

The plumber has fixed the urinal in the men's toilet.

Arrangements are being made to have the CCTV unit serviced.

The postmistress asked about the possibility of CCTV being put in the post office. The possibility of an additional camera being put up outside the post office would be looked at in terms of being an extension to the car park one. However, any camera inside should be put there by the post office.

Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow: Work on the remainder of the trees has been chased. The nest of bees/hornets has now gone so the work can now take place.

It is suggested that a meeting with MF & JM Working Group be arranged to discuss issues, in particular the dipping ponds.

Traffic, Pedestrians and Footpaths: A reply has been received regarding the possibility of an interactive speed sign and also the traffic flow around the village green. However, a consultation would need to take place and the community would need to raise the funds.

With regards to 30mph repeaters this will not be possible due to inconsistency of signage. However, the Highways Operations Team will look at the site in relation to the possibility of red tarmac.

With regard to the repair of the church footpath, it will remain on KCC list of works to be completed but will not be done imminently unless the council wishes to contribute financially.

The issue of parents parking on the zig zag and double yellow lines outside the school since the Lollipop Man has been ill, was raised as there have been some near misses involving children. The Clerk was asked to contact the police to see if there was anything that they could do. It was noted that there was ample car parking for parents in the Millennium Field car park where there was a footpath into the school leading from it.

The meeting was closed at 20.55 for refreshments and reopened at 21.20.

Gordon Jones Playing Field and Play Area: Shayler funfair has asked to use the field at the end of May and this has been agreed. Confirmation from them is now awaited.

Play Area: Letters have been sent to unsuccessful tenderers. Discussions have taken place with Lars Laj and it was **agreed** that a letter of intent was sent to them. Cllr Bell agreed to chase up the S106 money due to the council which could be used for this project.

Fundraising letters have been sent to local businesses but no replies have been received.

Planning and Local Housing: A Planning Committee meeting was held on 1 March 2016. Unapproved minutes are attached. Please see also under agenda item 8.

Police Liaison and Neighbourhood Watch:

Please see the police report after item 6.

Neighbourhood Watch: A report was circulated.

KALC: Nothing to report.

Parish Forum: Nothing to report.

Community Project Fund: The deadline for applications is 31 March 2016.

Village Hall Management Committee: Next meeting is on Wednesday 9 March 2016.

Health and Safety: The Dipping Ponds need to be looked at.

Allotments: A tenant has given notice and the first person on the waiting list has been contacted.

John Mayne School: The newsletter was attached.

11. Finance

a) Approval of cheques for payment: Proposed by: Cllr J Tydeman Seconded by: Cllr A Lidgett. **Unanimous.**

b) Accounts to 29 February 2016 were noted.

12. Planning – to note decisions and any plans tabled

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
16/00164/AS	Biddenden	Orchardene, Frittenden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8LF New entrance gates/piers together with new timber close boarded fence	Support
16/00167/AS	Biddenden	Great Omenden Farm, Smarden, Ashford, TN27 8QP Extension to existing slurry store	Support
16/00221/AS	Biddenden	Swallows House, Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8EH Alterations and erection of detached car port	Support
16/00248/AS	Biddenden	Birchley House West, Fosten Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8DZ Removal of existing window, break out existing brickwork to create door opening and provide Timber double glazed doors and provision of new patio area.	Support

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
16/00239/AS	Biddenden	Agricultural buildings at New House Farm, Gribble Bridge Lane, Biddenden, Kent Prior approval for change of use from agricultural barn to one dwelling house and associated operational development	Support
16/00278/AS	Biddenden	20 High Street, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8AH Erection of single storey rear extension; erection of wall, blocking up of internal doorway and installation of external door to create utility; ground floor WC; creation of en-suite to first and second floor bedrooms	Support
16/00314/AS	Biddenden	20 High Street, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8AH Erection of single storey rear extension	Support

13. Correspondence

There were no comments on the Correspondence List.

16/2 - Tom Swain has asked permission to use the GJ Playing field for Biddenden Sports Weeks from 25/7 – 5/8. **Agreed**

14. Items for future consideration

Complaints had been received regarding the ivy in the brickwork on the wall by the entrance to Cloth Hall Gardens. It was **agreed** that the Clerk write to English Heritage in case the wall is listed.

15. **Date of Next Meeting:** **Parish Council Meeting, Tuesday 12 April 2016**
at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

All Welcome

The meeting closed at 21.30.

Alison Swannick
Parish Clerk