

BIDDENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr E Stevenson-Rouse – personal commitments

2. Parishioners' questions

a) Would it be possible to put a Christmas tree on the village green? One has been offered and solar lights are being looked at. Costs would be covered by public donation. *The council **agreed** to a tree and the proposed funding of the project being by public donation.*

b) Biddenden Juniors asked for an update on the proposed container to be put on the hard standing on the GJ playing field. It would be a 20ft container ie half standard size to go where the recycling bins were. It was stated that the football club would pay for that but would need help with the transportation which would be £350 plus VAT. *Subject to there being no planning issues it was **agreed** that the container could be sited there. With regard to funding an application would need to be made to the Community Project Fund.*

c) Concern was expressed that any development at the Old Station site might affect future plans for a cycle track.

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 11 October 2016

There being no comments or alterations to the document, the minutes 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

Phone box. ABC have been told of BPC's decision to adopt the Worsenden phone box. The issue is still being chased with BT.

A sum of £30 has been paid to the British Royal Legion Poppy Appeal for a wreath to be laid at the Remembrance Service. It was **agreed** that Cllr Boulding would lay the wreath.

The Clerk was asked to contact ABC regarding Parsons Estate Agents and its possible residential use.

7. Report by Cllr Bell, ABC

Cllr Bell reported that the school boiler was not working properly. He had contacted Cllr Hill and the matter is being looked into as a matter of urgency.

Concern had been expressed regarding the number of projected school places. KCC were projecting a small surplus. There was some disagreement between the school's chair of governors and Cllr Bell over the projected number of school places and they agreed to try and resolve this. The council would be notified of the result at the next meeting.

Cllr Bell had spoken to KCC and Sustrans about the cycle path following the feasibility study in 2009 and the utilisation of the railway line. This option is not now worth pursuing as there are so many issues with this option. The question is whether there is an existing low cost route and was something that Sustrans could perhaps be asked to look at. One option was to use existing lanes as part of the route.

Cllr Bell took questions regarding:

- a) S106 money
- b) KCC Educational contributions re S106 money
- c) Progress of Tapley Meadow
- d) Business rates

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

Nothing further had been heard although it is understood that the deadlines had been pushed back by 2-3 months.

It had been noted that Millwood Homes had posted a letter on the consultation website requesting up to 75 homes be built on the proposed North Street Site. The original number proposed for the site had been 40-45 and the parish council had formally stated that no more than 20-25 houses should be built. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should write a letter reiterating the parish council's view and addressing some of the issues in the Millwood Homes letter.

9. Result of Questionnaire

The results of the Development Questionnaire distributed by the Parish Council was announced as follows:

Number of parishioners eligible to vote	1997	
Number of questionnaires returned	324	
Spoilt papers	1	
Responses as a %age of eligible votes	16%	
		<u>%age of eligible votes</u>
Number of votes for a new village hall	71	4%
Number of votes cast against a village Hall	237	12%
Number of votes cast as not sure	15	1%
	Total	17%

The Chairman stated that the above figures mean that 83% of the parishioners either could not vote, or did not vote or have no opinion as to whether the village would like a New village hall or any other alternative Community benefits.

Whilst it is accepted that the majority of the questionnaires returned voted against the possibility of a new village hall, or other community benefit, part of the funding would have come from a donation from the landowner, and it is doubtful whether this will still be available . The village may lose a substantial offer of funding by rejecting the proposal.

If this is the case, the PC will still pursue some additional funding for some form of additional community project but it may have to be accepted that any sums come solely from the S106 payments.

10. Meeting dates for 2017

The list of dates was presented. The Clerk was asked to look into changing the dates of the meetings to the first Tuesday in the month in order that minutes could make the deadline of the parish magazine so that the minutes printed were not out of date. If the dates could not be moved then the list presented was agreed but the following year should be the first Tuesday in the month.

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

Car Park, Toilets and Post Office: The plumber has once again been out to unblock the men's toilet.

The service on the PO fire alarm system will take place in the next couple of weeks.

Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow: Nothing to report.

Traffic, Pedestrians and Footpath: Work on the large notice board on the High Street will start shortly.

The new bin to go outside the village shop has now arrived and will be fixed into place shortly.

Gordon Jones Playing Field and Play Area: It has been suggested that the bin at the top of the field in the football pitch be moved to block off the gap by the mound allowing dogs in.

An issue with the clip on the pirate's nest climbing rope has been reported and is being dealt with.

A wasps nest located behind the squash club fence has been sprayed as some of the junior footballers had been stung.

A meeting will take place on Thursday 10th November at 11 am with Shared Access regarding a possible telephone mast. The meeting will be attended by the Clerk, Cllr Friend and Tom Lupton.

The tender process for grounds maintenance will commence shortly. Biddenden Juniors have been contacted regarding the tender process and whether they wish to take on the mowing of the Gordon Jones Playing field now that they have a mower. Steve Reeves-Vane stated that they couldn't take this on due to time and work commitments and the size of the mower they have. Therefore the specifications will be finalised and sent out to possible contractors for quotations.

It is currently too dry to do the mole ploughing on the playing field. The contractor will advise when the ground is in a suitable condition to carry out the work.

Planning and Local Housing: Nothing to report.

S27 and S43 Working Group: A meeting took place between the working group and Headcorn village hall on 11th October. The purpose of the meeting was to establish how their hall was conceived and funded, facilities, management and funding (report and documents attached).

The Working Group was asked to meet upon Cllr Stevenson-Rouse's return and to look at the questionnaire results and look into any other options and any actions required.

Police Liaison and Neighbourhood Watch: There have been changes to the rural policing team and PCSO Lee Sinden has been replaced by two new PCSOs: PCSO Angie Burden and PCSO Paul Moorey. They will be responsible for a number of villages as part of a new rural team. The Clerk has emailed them to ask how the system will work and to ask if they intend to continue the surgeries.

Police UK details 10 crimes reported during August 2016:

Anti-Social Behaviour	1
Burglary	2
Criminal Damage & Arson	3
Vehicle Crime	3
Violence & Sexual Offences	1

Neighbourhood Watch: Nothing to report.

KALC: Nothing to report.

Parish & Urban Forum: Nothing to report. Minutes of the meeting held on 27th October will be circulated when received.

Community Project Fund: The deadline was 31 October and a meeting will be held before the December parish council meeting.

Village Hall Management Committee: Cllr Lidgett reported that he had been asked not to attend future meetings as he was not a Trustee and that he had not received any papers relating to this.

As he wished to step down it was **agreed** that Cllr Tydeman would now represent the parish council on VHMC. The Clerk was asked to write a letter to VHMC confirming this.

Health and Safety: The damaged net clip is being dealt with. There was nothing further to report.

Allotments: The hedge has been cut.

John Mayne School: There is no current newsletter available but the headteacher has been contacted to see if she would be prepared to write a short monthly report for circulation to councillors in the absence of the newsletters. It was suggested that a report once a quarter may be more realistic, although if there are newsletters available online a report would not be needed.

12. Finance

a) Approval of cheques for payment: The list was presented. Proposed by: Cllr D Boulding Seconded by: Cllr S Parks. **Unanimous.**

b) Note accounts to 31 October 2016: Noted. There were no questions or comments.

c) Budget 2016/17. The Clerk stated that the budget process would now take place and councillors were asked to let the Clerk know of any amounts for proposed projects.

There is a Finance Committee Scheduled for 6 December at 7.30 pm to discuss the 2017/18 budget. .

13. Planning – to note decisions and any plans tabled

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
16/01517/AS	Biddenden	Frogshole Farm, Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8EY Re-submission of prior approval for the associated operational development in accordance with prior approval 16/00016/ASv - Alteration in external appearance of barn A.	Support
16/01562/AS No consultees for this application	Biddenden	39 North Street, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8BA Application for a Certificate of Lawfulness of Proposed Works to a Listed Building to install 150mm 904 grade stainless steel flexible chimney liner to the flue, install Chimwrap insulation around the flexible liner to the flue, install a bespoke register plate to the base of the flue, install a 150mm top plate and clamp to support the flexible liner and install mesh to the top of the chimney stack	N/A
16/01532/AS	Biddenden	The Castletons Oak, Benenden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8DN Change of use from a public house to a house.	Support
16/01613/AS	Biddenden	4 Worsenden, Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8EH Provision of dropped kerb and new access	Support
16/01637/AS	Biddenden	White House Farm, Hareplain road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8LN Prior approval for change of use of one agricultural building into one dwelling	Support

14. Correspondence

There were no comments upon the list.

It was proposed that the next items be taken in closed session. Proposed by: Cllr A Lidgett
Seconded by: Cllr S Parks. **Unanimous.** Members of the public and press were asked to leave the meeting.

15. Staffing

An update on the pension arrangements was given and it was **agreed** that the payments should be taken by direct debit. Proposed by: Cllr D Boulding Seconded by: Cllr J Tydeman. **Unanimous.**

16. Information items

It was **agreed** that the Clerk should write to the PCC.

It was **agreed** that meetings should not be electronically recorded at the present time. It was noted that Standing Orders prevent members of the public recording meetings without prior permission.

The Clerk stated that the council's mobile was costing them more than it needed to by being a PAYG phone. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should look into and make arrangements for a SIM Free package. Proposed by: Cllr T Bizley Seconded by: Cllr D Boulding. **Unanimous.**

17. Items for future consideration

2017/18 budget

18. Date of Next Meeting: Finance Committee Meeting, Tuesday 6 December at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Parish Council Meeting, Tuesday 13 December 2016 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.