

BIDDENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

APPROVED Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 9 February 2016 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

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

2 parishioners attended.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr E Stevenson-Rouse due to personal commitments.

2. Parishioners' questions

A grey van has been parking for long periods of time in the car park behind the post office. *The Clerk will put a letter on its windscreen asking the owner to move it.*

3. Any Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda

Cllr Lidgett regarding planning application no 16/00050/AS as the property is situated up the road from him.

4. Any changes to Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

None.

5. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12 January 2016

There being no comments or amendments the minutes were deemed to be a true and proper record of the meeting. Proposed by: Cllr S Parks Seconded by: Cllr J Tydeman.
Unanimous

6. Matters for information not on the agenda

It was noted with sadness that Les Cooper, who had looked after the village green for many years, had recently passed away.

The Horticultural Society would be approached in the first instance to see if they would take over the care of the village green. If this was not successful then a notice would go in the parish magazine and the PO.

7. Report by Cllr Bell, ABC

Cllr Bell stated that ABC were looking to increase its part of the council tax by 1.99%. This increase would equate to an increase to local residents by approximately £5 or less. ABC. Ashford Borough Council still remains the lowest charging council in Kent. Discussion took place regarding the breakdown of the council tax and increases being applied by KCC, Police etc.

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

The email from Simon Cole dated 2 February 2016 informing the council that a meeting had been arranged with the doctors and asking if the council was going to give a view on the developments was discussed. **It was agreed** that a Planning Committee meeting should be arranged to discuss the council's view on the developments and its recommendations be reported to the meeting on 8 March. The Clerk will write to Mr Cole outlining this and asking whether the meeting with the doctors is an ABC meeting or whether the developers are involved. The Clerk will also check that this will not be too late in terms of the printing of the draft report.

9. Play Area

The closing dates for tenders was 4th February. The process was by sealed bid. The Chairman and Clerk opened the tenders on 5th February. The Play Area Working Group met on Monday 8 February to discuss the submitted tenders and produced an analysis of all tenders. After discussion, **it was agreed** to enter into an agreement with Lars Laj UK Ltd. Details of the contract award would be posted on Contracts Finder. Proposed by: Cllr E Cansdale Seconded by: Cllr P Harris. **Unanimous.**

The Clerk was asked to inform other tenderers that they had been unsuccessful.

The capital grant of £6000 from ABC has been confirmed and ABC are looking into the S106 funding due.

It was agreed to send out fundraising letters to local companies. An application to the National Lottery will be made once the S106 figures have been received

10. Street Litter Collection

A report has been received from a parishioner about the build-up of litter outside of the village along the main road from Headcorn to Tenterden. The matter was reported to ABC and the litter has been cleared.

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

Car Park, Toilets and Post Office: A new plumber has been asked to look at repairing the men's urinal.

The barrier drop bar has been chased with the contractor.

Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow: The remainder of the tree work is being chased.

Cutting of the hedge in the jubilee meadow bordering the Millennium Field where the ditch is, has been completed.

Enquiries to VHMC regarding the flooding that was noted by the clubhouse came back that the work to the water pipes has been finished and that it was likely to be due to the sudden volume of water rather than any problems.

The work on the potholes in the Millennium Field Car Park has been completed.

Arrangements would be made to get the CCTV unit serviced.

Traffic, Pedestrians and Footpaths: Following an email by Peter Whapham to KCC regarding evidence of a blocked ditch and drain behind Mansion House Close/The Meadows, an email has been sent to KCC in support of his email.

An email has been sent to KCC re the Churchyard public footpath being uneven and requiring repair.

A meeting was held with Cllr Hill and Highways on 14th January. Highways saw evidence of the traffic problems with the village green first hand and have gone back to look at a possible solution. A reply has been received and the Chairman was clarifying a few points with them.

Gordon Jones Playing Field and Play Area: The mowing contract has now been signed with Countrywide and notice given to Landscape Services. Mowing will start in March.

Planning and Local Housing: Nothing to report

Police Liaison and Neighbourhood Watch: Five crimes were reported in November 2015:

Anti-Social Behaviour	3
Criminal Damage & Arson	1
Vehicle Crime	1

Neighbourhood Watch: A man in a white "lab type" coat had been seen in North Street behaving strangely.

KALC: 26/2 – Chairmanship Conference

Parish & Urban Forum: Dates of meetings

- 27th April 2016
- 27th July 2016
- 26th October 2016

Community Project Fund: A date for the new round of applications will be set for the end of March 2016 and notices sent out.

Village Hall Management Committee: A production of “Stones in His Pockets” will take place at the Village Hall, Biddenden on 26 March. Posters are on the noticeboards.

Health and Safety: A report was circulated.

Allotments: Nothing to report.

John Mayne School: The January newsletter was noted.

12. Finance

a) Approval of cheques for payment. Proposed by: Cllr D Boulding Seconded by: Cllr E Cansdale. **Unanimous.**

b) The accounts to 31 January 2016 were noted.

It was agreed to look into the possibility of a BPC debit card for the Clerk so that invoices for emergency work such as plumbing and computer maintenance which had to be paid immediately.

13. Planning – to note decisions and any plans tabled

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
16/00030/AS	Biddenden	25 Glebelands, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8EA Proposed loft conversion to existing bungalow including 6 dormer windows, proposed demolition of existing conservatory to side elevation to be replaced with pitched side extension and redesign of garage roof from flat to pitched.	Support
16/00050/AS	Biddenden	Agricultural building south of Tatu Barn, High Halden Road, Biddenden, Kent Prior approval for change of use of part of an agricultural barn to one dwelling house	Support
16/00094/AS	Biddenden	Barn north west of Beacon Hill Farm, Benenden Road, Biddenden, Kent Prior approval for change of use from agricultural barn to one dwelling house and associated operational development	Support
16/00110/AS	Biddenden	Worsenden Farm, Fosten Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8EL Variation of condition 3 on planning approval 13/00149/AS to allow no more than 12 weddings between May and September in any calendar year.	Support
16/00106/AS	Biddenden	Cottage, Rats Castle, Cranbrook Road, Biddenden, Kent, TN27 8DY Demolition of an existing fully self-contained residential unit and construction of a new four bedroom detached annexe building	Support

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
16/00137/AS	Biddenden	Guy House, River Hall Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8JF Prior approval for associated operational development and design and external appearance in association with 15/00587/AS for conversion of barn to single dwelling.	Object The proposed barn conversion should look like a dwelling

14. Correspondence

- 18/1 Lighting Beacons on 21/4 to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday. *Clerk to ask BEST if they would be prepared to light the beacon.*
- 28/1 KALC Planning Conference on 7/5 at Lenham Community Centre from 09030. *Councillors asked to let the Clerk know if they wish to attend.*

15. Items for future consideration

Changes to the Model Financial Regulations

16. **Date of Next Meeting:** **Parish Council Meeting, Tuesday 8 March 2016**
at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall