

APPROVED

BIDDENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

APPROVED Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 4 April 2017 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Biddenden

Present: Cllr C Friend
Cllr T Bizley
Cllr D Boulding
Cllr E Cansdale
Cllr P Harris

Cllr A Lidgett
Cllr S Parks
Cllr E Stevenson-Rouse
Cllr R Wayre

Mrs A Swannick (Clerk)

8 Parishioners attended

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr J Tydeman due to personal commitments

2. Parishioners' questions

a) Permission was asked to use the Jubilee Meadow for The Great Get Together on 17 June for a village picnic. *The Clerk will get back to organisers once the tenant who grazes cows on the field has been contacted and the council's insurers have been spoken to.*

b) Various traffic issues were reported but still remain unrepaired. *They have been reported to KCC. The Clerk will chase them up.*

3. Any Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda

Cllr C Friend re planning application 15/01348/AS
Cllr T Bizley re planning application 17/00330/AS
Cllr P Harris re planning applications 17/0095/AS and 17/00475/AS

The above councillors will not be able to participate in discussions or decisions on the planning applications next to their names.

4. Any changes to Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

None.

5. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7 March 2017

There were no comments or amendments to the minutes and they were, therefore, deemed to be a true and proper record of the meeting. Proposed by: Cllr E Stevenson-Rouse Seconded by: Cllr E Cansdale. **Unanimous**

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6. Matters for information not on the agenda

None.

7. Report by Cllr Bell, ABC

Cllr Bell reported that there was a lull in communications from ABC and KCC as they were in purdah due to the elections in May.

With regard to the Local Plan, there is a shortage in the five year housing land supply. Construction at Chilmington Green has now started and this may help. Originally there were 4-5000 homes proposed but it is the rate at which they are built that counts not the end number.

Cllr Bell was asked what was happening to chalet bungalows at The Weavers. Cllr Bell stated that he had not heard anything and will chase this up. These properties are aimed at older people.

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

Suggestions received in response to the parish councils notice requesting suggestions for Community Planning Gain relating to the proposed North Street development. The suggestions were considered on an individual basis. The notice was put on the website, in the parish magazine, on the notice board and in the Post Office and it had also been sent to the Biddenden Correspondent for the Kentish Express.

One of the suggestions was for updating the Cheeselands Park. The Clerk has contacted ABC Planning department as neither the land nor the play area belong to BPC, they are ABC property to ask whether, if this option was considered, ABC would be putting money towards it. The matter had been passed by Planning to Cultural Services. A reply from Cultural Services had been received.

A meeting was also held by the S27 and S43 Working Group held on 21 March 2017 and the minutes of this meeting had been circulated. Cllr Stevenson-Rouse summarised the meeting.

Discussion took place regarding the amount of S106 money available. By the time ABC had been sent the appropriate amount of money by the developer per house, the parish council would only get a possible 10% but the council didn't know what this might be in relation to the quoted 10%. It was unlikely to be enough to refit the Cheeselands play area. The new play area on the Gordon Jones playing field had cost the parish council £66,031.20 incl. VAT.

Discussion took place regarding suggestions relating to traffic calming, the village green and Kent Highways issues.

It was **agreed** that the Clerk should write to ABC giving items 12, 19, 25 and 27 from the list of suggestions received as the Council's chosen items for Community Planning gain. Proposed by: Cllr T Bizley Seconded by Cllr D Boulding. **Unanimous.**

9. Broadband

As agreed, the Chairman discussed Biddenden's broadband issues with Cllr Mike Hill at the

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Tenterden Forum meeting. Cllr Hill requested to see correspondence with BT and the Clerk be forwarded to him and this has been done. Cllr Hill is looking at it as KCC has been given approximately £11.5m to upgrade BT broadband services.

Discussion took place regarding the possible siting of new boxes in Sissinghurst Rd and Mockbeggar Lane.

Cllr Bell said he would send Cllr Stevenson-Rouse a copy of the Better Broadband scheme.

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

Car Park, Toilets and Post Office: Nothing to report. The Chairman asked Cllr Hill about the upgraded toilets at St Michaels as agreed at the last meeting. They have made the majority of the toilets into a storage area and now have just a single cubicle each for male and female with steel main doors.

Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow: Nothing to report.

Traffic, Pedestrians and Footpaths: A meeting took place on 13 March between Julie Lupton, Cllr Lidgett, Alison Swannick and the ABC Conservation Officer at the church lychgate. The minutes of the meeting are attached. The reply for the Conservation Officer does not quite reflect the discussions. Also attached is an extract from the architect's report. The Chairman spoke to Cllr Hill about the area in front of the lychgate, but there is little he can do.

Lychgate: The Chairman has put forward a proposal using a mixture of Bethersden marble and paving setts and suggested the church architect draw up plans and put forward to ABC planning and conservation officer for comments.

Gordon Jones Playing Field and Play Area: The new mowing contractor is now in place and a contract is being drawn up. The contractor has been given a key to the gate by the squash club to allow mowing equipment through.

It has been reported that parishioners are taking their dogs into the play area with them, even though there is a sign saying "No Dogs". Dogs have been leaving "deposits" which are not being cleared up by the owners. The Clerk went down on Tuesday 28 March and cleared up the dog poo left behind. It was stated that it wasn't just the issue of the dog poo being left but the possibility of dogs being taken into the play area which might not be comfortable with young children being around or touching them. Dogs are not allowed into the play area with or without owners. Cllr Parks was asked to contact Lars Laj to get a quote to extend the fencing into the tennis court hedge on both sides to prevent any unleashed dogs entering.

Planning and Local Housing: Nothing to report.

S27 and S43 Working Group: See agenda item 8 above and the minutes of the working group meeting attached.

Police Liaison and Neighbourhood Watch: 10 crimes have been reported in Biddenden for January 2017

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Burglary 3

- Cot Lane
- Shuttle Close
- Tenterden Road

Other theft 3

- Includes theft by an employee, blackmail and making off without payment
- Headcorn Road
 - Gore Lane

Violence & Sexual Offences 4

- Includes offences against the person such as common assaults, Grievous Bodily Harm and sexual offences
- Sandeman Way
 - parking area (map shows on or near PO car park)
 - on or near petrol station, Tenterden Road
 - Cranbrook Road

The Police have been invited to the Annual Parish Meeting or to provide a report for the meeting. However, there is no-one on late duty on that date. Councillors were referred to correspondence with the police

The issue of the lack of PCSOs was raised with Cllr Hill at the Tenterden Forum meeting. Cllr Hill will raise the issue again with the Police & Crime Commissioner. He has been assured that there are more PCSOs being recruited.

Neighbourhood Watch: There has been an increase in theft of mowers and items from sheds.

KALC: Copies of minutes had been circulated. It was noted that a councillor should attend the next meeting.

Parish & Urban Forum and Tenterden Forum: The Chairman attended the Tenterden Forum. Information on relevant issues has been included under the appropriate agenda item.

Community Project Fund: Notices have gone out with a deadline of 15 April.

Village Hall Management Committee: No report

Health and Safety: A report had been circulated.

Allotments: Renewal tenancy notices have gone out and rents are now coming in.

John Mayne School: Newsletter attached.

The meeting was closed at 21.05 for refreshments and reopened at 21.25. Cllr Stevenson-Rouse left the meeting due to illness.

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11. Finance

a) Approval of cheques for payment. Proposed by Cllr R Wayre Seconded by: Cllr S Parks. Unanimous

b) Note accounts to 31 March 2017. The accounts had been circulated by email and were noted.

c) Annual Return. The documentation has now been received from the External Auditor. The accounts for 2016/17 are being prepared for the internal auditor after which the external audit procedure will take place.

VAT totalling £1,633.10 has been claimed to 28/2/17 and had been received. Unfortunately you can only claim to the end of the month just past not up to the date you are claiming on. The remainder totalled less than £100 and therefore will have to be claimed in 2017/18 as it currently totals less than £100. The VAT on the play area was refunded last year.

The Rate demand for the Car Parks & Parking Spaces is £535.90 for 2017/18. However, the Rate demand for Other Miscellaneous is 0 due to the Small Business Relief of £1864.00 which covers the entire bill of £1864.00.

12. Planning – to note decisions and any plans tabled

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
17/00330/AS	Biddenden	14 The Weavers, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8AP Erection of two storey extension (revision to 16/01475/AS)	Support
17/00343/AS	Biddenden	The Castletons Oak, Benenden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8DN Lawful Development Certificate - Existing Use - use of public house as a dwelling	Support
17/00384/AS	Biddenden	2 Worsenden, Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8EH Single storey rear extension and loft conversion with 2no. dormers to side elevation and extension to rear roof to create gable.	Support
17/00428/AS	Biddenden	Echo Barn, High Halden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8JG Erection of greenhouse and installation of pool and plant room	Support
15/01348/AS (DEL)	Biddenden	Woodlands Park, Tenterden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8BT Variation of conditions 2,3 & 4 of permission 12/00898/AS to allow the stationing of up to a maximum of 145 static holiday caravans occupied for holiday purposes only and not to be occupied as a person's sole or main place of residence in place of the approved total of 180 touring and static units for holiday use on an all year round basis	Object. Too many static caravans. Concern re infrastructure. Also ABC to be asked how they will check on not being used for sole residence

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17/00395/AS	Biddenden	Appleby, Frittenden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8LG Conversion of existing single garage to habitable accommodation	Support
17/00475/AS	Biddenden	Ibornden Farm, Frittenden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8LG Proposed demolition of existing agricultural building and erection of replacement agricultural building. Proposed reuse of existing building and extension to form stables.	Support

13. Correspondence

No comments or requests for papers.

14. Information items

None

15. Items for future consideration

Policies/Procedures will need to be reviewed for the Annual Statutory meeting in May. The allocation for the current year is as follows:

Review of Code of Conduct	Cllr J Tydeman, Cllr E Stevenson-Rouse
Standing Orders and Financial Regulations	Cllr D Boulding and Cllr E Stevenson-Rouse
Complaints Procedure	Cllr A Lidgett and Cllr P Harris
Procedure for handling requests made under FOI	Cllr J Tydeman and Cllr D Boulding
Press and Media	Cllr R Wayre and T Bizley
Data Protection	Cllr S Parks and Cllr P Harris
Habitual or Vexatious Complaints	Cllr E Cansdale and Cllr C Friend
Records Management Policy	Cllr D Boulding and Cllr S Parks
Working Groups Policy	Cllr C Friend and Cllr A Lidgett
Health & Safety	Cllr T Bizley and Cllr S Parks

Policies will be emailed out to councillors.

- 16. Date of Next Meeting:** Annual Parish Meeting, Tuesday 18 April 2017 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall, Biddenden
Parish Council Meeting, Tuesday 2 May 2017 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Biddenden

The meeting closed at 21.57

Alison Swannick
Parish Clerk