

Biddenden Parish Council

2 October 2018

APPROVED Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 2 October 2018 in the Old Village Hall, Biddenden

Present: Cllr J Tydeman (Chair) Cllr R Hunt
Cllr E Cansdale Cllr A Lidgett
Cllr C Friend Cllr E Stevenson-Rouse
Cllr P Harris

Mrs A Swannick (Clerk)

15 parishioners attended

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He made the following statement:

“I was informed that this morning Councillor Bell made a post on Facebook stating that I was denying Parishioners the right to question him at Parish Council meetings. This is completely untrue and I asked our clerk to post an appropriate response explaining this and that it was a matter of procedure.

I regret that Councillor Bell made this post despite my clear explanation to him last week, when I briefed him on the changes I was making to the agenda along with other changes and why.

To avoid confusion I would now like to clarify the position of Councillor Bell in relation to the Parish Council and the changes I have made.

Councillor Bell is a Borough Councillor and is not a member of the Parish Council. We extend an invite to him to attend our council meetings to provide a report to The Parish Council on ABC matters that may be of interest to us. We value this report and it sometimes raises points that Parishioners might want to question as well as our councillors.

To enable this and keep Parishioners Questions to one agenda item, and thus avoid having to close the meeting to take direct questions to him, the answers to which cannot be included in our minutes, I therefore moved his report to immediately before Parishioners Questions. This enables questions relating to his report to be taken in that agenda item and then directed to him through the Chairman and the answers can then be minuted. He in fact suggested this way of questioning him to me in an email last week.

This is a matter of correct procedure and is not in any way an attempt to deprive Parishioners of the opportunity of asking him questions.

Thank you.”

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr D Boulding due to illness
Cllr G Latter due to personal commitments
Cllr T Bizley due to work commitments

2. Any declarations of interest in items on the Agenda

Cllr Hunt declared an interest in agenda item 12, Bowls Club Project Application.

3. Any alterations to Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

None.

4. Report by Borough Cllr N Bell

Local Plan: The Local Plan is still out for consultation until 26 October and recommendations are then passed to the Planning Inspector to consider. With regard to protecting villages from large developments, it stands them in good stead. There has been no movement in the number of houses.

Bins: Cllr Bell stated that he had been approached as a number of bins had been taken out of the village. He had received a call from Environmental Services and they will be reinstated.

Weavers Development: This is dragging on. There is no date for the final development but Southern Water need to do some work and this is being waited upon.

5. Parishioners' Questions

Is ABC now secure should Gladman come back with alternative/revised plans? *It is never infinite protection. The next local plan will start in three or four years.*

Discussion took place about the possibility of other sites being put forward. Cllr Bell stated that windfall sites have been factored into the plan.

A parishioner stated that there had been a number of crimes in the village involving theft of tools, catalytic converters etc. Would it be worth looking into a network of security cameras to cover the village? *The Clerk would look into it.* Discussion took place regarding provision for youth.

The Speedwatch Group is being re-established. There are only 7 people involved in it at the moment and 20 people are needed. It was suggested that parish councillors

may wish to join.

6. Approval of the unapproved minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2018

There were no amendments or comments on the minutes and they were deemed to be a true and proper record of the meeting. Proposed by: Cllr E Stevenson-Rouse
Seconded by: Cllr A Lidgett. **Agreed.**

7. Any matters for information not on the agenda

The street lamp outside Cloth Hall gardens is not working.

8. ABC Local Plan to 2030 – Site Submissions for Biddenden

A consultation is taking place on the Main Modifications to the Ashford Local Plan 2030 an Ashford Local Plan 2030 Sustainability Appraisal Environmental Report Addendum 2018. The consultation will run from 13 September until 5pm on 26 October 2018. Details are on the parish council website.

9. Traffic Issues

- Village Centre Road Junction

Village Centre Road Junction: A meeting was held on 12th September and the minutes have been circulated. Once the Kent Highways report is received then a copy will be put on the website and it will be discussed at a parish council meeting.

- Cranbrook Road and Castletown Oak crossroads

A serious accident took place at Castleton's Oak on Friday 21/9.

It has been noted that there is no warning as to the crossroads until cars are upon it. There is no warning on the road to alert the user and so cars do not slow down. Road markings need to be in place together with better signage and preferably a raised road surface. The hedge has been cut back so the signs can be seen, but drivers pay no attention. Improvements are required that will provide a resolution.

- North Street development road junction with North Street

It is hoped that there will be a proper traffic road junction to control access to the North Street development area and to reduce speed on North Street. The Clerk was asked to check with the planning officer what was happening with this issue.

- Other traffic issues

The Chairman contacted PK Produce and parking issues were discussed. PK Produce

staff are not breaking the law as there are no yellow lines, although they are too close to the junction. It was suggested that yellow lines be put at the junction – Highways to be contacted, and the PCSO to be spoken to.

10. Housing

- Planning Application 18/01273/AS, Land rear of 17, Townland Close

This application is for twelve dwellings. The meeting was advised that this application was likely to go to the ABC Planning Committee. It will be reviewed later in the meeting.

- North Street Development

The planning department at ABC has been asked about land to the west of the Millwood Homes site on North Street. Over the last few weeks 'new fencing' has been placed in the field to the West of the site. It is rumoured that farm buildings are being relocated to this site. Clarification is awaited from ABC as the parish council is not aware of this being part of the original planning application. In the meantime, the meeting heard that two new stable units have been put in and big containers are in the field.

11. Village Hall Sports Committee – Long term Improvement Development Plan – Mr Tom Lupton

Mr Lupton had written a paper which had been circulated to councillors prior to the council meeting. He outlined the history of VHSC and how the current system with the sports clubs worked.

VHSC is currently in the process of carrying out a Long Term Improvement & Development Plan. The facilities are now dated and the squash club is now 40 years old. The actual fabric is tired, the toilet facilities are poor and the felt roof is showing signs of aging. There are a number of projects identified which range in cost from £5,000 to £25,000 and the aim is to work through the clubs' improvement projects over time. Mr Lupton stated that perhaps the Parish Council would be able to take out a PWLB loan to help with the costs.

After discussion, **it was agreed** that a working group be set up consisting of Cllr P Harris, Cllr C Friend, Cllr A Lidgett, Cllr R Hunt. Mr Lupton would be invited to attend the meetings where appropriate. The aim is to put a plan and recommendations together to present to the parish council.

12. Bowls Club project application

The Bowls Club has applied for funding to the parish council for a new toilet block.

They wanted their application to be considered outside of the Community Project fund. The application is for £4000, 20% of the building costs. Mr Paul Buggins presented the plans for the project. He believed no planning application would be required, but this was to be checked. **It was agreed**, that the project should be included under the VHSC plan because the parish council could not consider separate projects from each club in addition to the VHSC LTIDP which was looking at club projects. All communication should be through Mr Lupton and the Parish Clerk and not with each club.

13. Burial Ground

Reverend Bienfait outlined the current position. It is understood that the church will pursue the reburial option, but confirmation is awaited.

14. Website

Cllr Harris reported that a brief had been sent out to three companies. Two responses had been received and a third was awaited.

15. Reports from Group Chairmen (if necessary): PO, Car park and toilets: The plumber was called due to a leak in the pipe leading to the urinal. The issue of missing bins was discussed. A meeting with ABC is to be held on 5 October.

The possibility of extending the CCTV in the PO car park to cover the whole area rather than just the toilets was discussed. The Clerk was asked to look into the matter.

Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow: Nothing to report. A proposal to open the Jubilee Meadow to the public was agreed at the last meeting, but will be discussed further at the next Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow meeting.

Work to repoint the paving at the sundial (including re painting text) and direction indicator will take place soon.

Traffic, Pedestrians and Footpaths: The work required to the Benenden public footpath stiles has been reported.

Gordon Jones Field and Play Area: The Play Area RoSpa report is being assessed. Signs are being ordered for 'No Smoking in play area' and one relating to dogs.

It was reported that Cllr Friend had contacted Lars Laj regarding repairs to the play equipment. The Clerk was to ask a contractor about the sunken matting around pieces in the equipment in the play area.

The tender process for the grounds maintenance contract will be started shortly.

With regard to the CCTV camera on the squash club roof, it was reported that it may not be sensible to have access to another person's CCTV camera as it would affect the parish council's current Data Protection Registration. However, confirmation needed to be received that a) appropriate footage would be made available upon request and given to the police as appropriate, and that the camera could pick up license plates at night. These must be confirmed before the agreed £600 was handed over.

Police Liaison: Police UK showed 0 crimes reported in July 2018.

KALC: A meeting was held on 12 September which Cllr Lidgett attended. Cllr Lidgett reported on the meeting and questions put to the station commander.

Tenterden Forum: Nothing to report.

Community Project Fund: The deadline for applications is 31 October 2018.

Allotments: There are no vacant allotments. Further to discussions at the last meeting, the Clerk has been in touch with the National Allotment Growers Association and ABC regarding their tenancy agreements. Information is still awaited from them.

Village Hall Management Committee: Nothing to report. The next meeting is 3 October 2018.

Health and Safety: As mentioned above, the issues raised in the play area RoSpa report are being looked at.

Working Group Report: No reports given

John Mayne School: The most recent newsletter had been circulated.

16. Finance

a) Payment List

The Payment List was presented. Proposed by Cllr E Stevenson-Rouse
Seconded by Cllr R Hunt.

b) Note accounts to 31 August 2018

The accounts were noted.

c) Annual Return

It was reported that the Annual Return 2017/18 had been signed off by the External Auditor and were available on the parish council's website.

17. Planning – to note decisions and any plans tabled

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
18/01273/AS	Biddenden	Land rear of 17, Townland Close, Biddenden, Kent Erection of 12 dwellings with associated access and parking	Object
18/01286/AS	Biddenden	32 High Street, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8AH Conservation rooflights to west elevation	Support
18/01287/AS	Biddenden	32 High Street, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8AH Internal alterations to include partition walls, replacement staircase and adjustment to existing stud wall. Alteration to ground floor window on west elevation; conservation rooflights on west elevation	Support
18/01308/AS	Biddenden	Monks Hill Farm House, Smarden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, TN27 8QJ Alterations to ground floor of existing garage/outbuilding to create additional ancillary accommodation space and proposed extension to the outbuilding to form new garage	Support
18/00005/OLE/AS NO NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTEES – Not for consultation	Biddenden	Overhead line north of Guy House, River Hall Lane, Biddenden, Kent Relocation of an HV pole	N/A
18/01307/AS	Biddenden	Roberts Farm, Smarden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, TN27 8QJ Construction of outdoor swimming pool 12x6 metres (retrospective)	Support
18/01338/AS	Biddenden	Fernwood, Cranbrook Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8DY Removal of condition on application WE/8/65/99B - agricultural occupancy condition	Object
18/01387/AS	Biddenden	6 Mansion House Close, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8DE Proposed front and rear single storey extensions (retrospective garage conversion)	Object
18/01426/AS No consultees for this application	Biddenden	33 Chulkhurst, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8EF Lawful development certificate - proposed - replacement single storey rear extension	

18. Correspondence

There were no comments or requests on correspondence list.

19. Items for future consideration

Budget
Impact Assessment
Working Group Report re VHSC LTIDP

20. Next meeting: **Parish Council meeting, at on 6 November 2018 at 7.30 pm in
the Village Hall**

All Welcome

The meeting concluded at 21.48

Alison Swannick 07783 223450
Parish Clerk