

Biddenden Parish Council

**UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD
VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON TUESDAY 2 MARCH 2021 AT 7.30 PM**

Present: Cllr J Tydeman (Chair) Cllr C Friend
Cllr T Bizley Cllr J Montgomery
Cllr D Boulding Cllr S Newman
Cllr E Cansdale Cllr J Wright
Cllr M Clixby

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

One parishioner attended.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Hunt due to technical difficulties
Cllr G Latter due to technical difficulties

2. Any declarations of interest in items on the Agenda

Cllr J Wright due to a personal interest in Biddenden Tennis Club

3. Any alterations to Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

None.

4. Report by Borough Councillor Neil Bell, ABC, to Parish Councillors

Cllr Bell reported that there had been some issues with refuse collection, but please bear with it.

The ABC budget will be going to the full council shortly. The Council Tax, despite a small percentage rise, remains lower than other councils in Kent. It has been difficult with decreases in income from car parking, business rates, council tax. A saving of approximately £3m needs to be made in the next financial year. There is a pay freeze and there has been a reduction in staffing. Two grants to the parish councils have been cut, but it seems likely that a one-off payment will be made for one of them.

5. Parishioners' Questions

A parishioner was in attendance but to answer any questions councillors may have on their planning application.

6. Approval of the unapproved minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2021

There being no comments or amendments, the minutes were deemed to be a true and proper record of the meeting. Proposed by: Cllr J Wright Seconded by: Cllr M Clixby. **Agreed.**

7. Any matters for information not on the agenda

The Bowls Club are happy with where the trees are to be planted. Cllr Clixby has offered to plant them, but they will need to be maintained by the council's maintenance contractor. This was **agreed**. It may be possible to speak to the Bowls Club regarding helping to water them.

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A national Census will take place later this month. Information will be sent out.

8. Traffic Issues:

- **Village Centre Road Junction:** Discussion has taken place regarding vegetation on the village green and councillors copied in. The new design has been drawn up by Kent Highways in line with the options presented to parishioners and agreed by the parish council. A programme of works is awaited but work is expected to start in May.
- **North Street development road junction with North Street:** Nothing to report. The Clerk is to follow up to find out how many homes have now been sold.
- **Castletons Oak Crossroads/Benenden Road:** No further information has been received since 13/1/21. A review is to be undertaken and the Clerk will request an update.
- **High Halden Road:** An update was given.
- **HIP (Highways Improvement Plan):** An article was sent to the Parish Council and a KCC article about HIP is on the parish council's website. A post will be sent to the Biddenden Community Facebook site so that the article is linked into the Council's website.

9. CCTV

Three quotes have now been received. They need to be gone through further. If councillors wish to go ahead with this discussion will be needed with the squash club regarding placement of one camera and power for both. **It was agreed** for the Clerk to contact the squash club and then report back to the next meeting.

10. Open Spaces Strategy

An update was given to the meeting. It was agreed at the last meeting that the Gordon Jones Playing Field and Conservation Working Groups would meet. This meeting will take place shortly and a report will be made to the full council.

11. Sewerage System

Southern Water has carried out carried out work at Pullen Barn Farm and the next door property. An email has received in reply to the Parish Council's letter giving an update of the Southern Water internal meeting of 9th February to discuss the Parish Council's concerns. Reports of issues in North Street have been reported by a resident in answer to the article giving an update on sewage issues in the parish magazine.

12. Land for sale by Maids Close

An advert for the sale of land by Maids Close was reported. The issue had been researched to look at possible development threat to village as it had been described as a development opportunity. Cllr Wright wrote a paper regarding this which was discussed. It was agreed that no further action was viable.

13. Group Reports:

a) Working Group Reports

- i) **Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow (Cllr Friend).** The second tree survey quote is being chased.

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- ii) **Traffic, Pedestrians, Footpaths, Cycling (Cllr Wright):** A report was given. A meeting is to be held shortly. The deadline for the KCC Vision Zero survey responses is 15 March. Cllr Wright had responded as an individual
- iii) **Gordon Jones Playing Field and Play Area (Cllr Bizley):** The new slide has been collected by the contractor and should have been fitted.
- iv) **Conservation (Cllr Wright):** An update was given, mentioning the Open Spaces Strategy (see agenda item 10). The street scene in Chulkhurst was being looked at with the aim of perhaps rejuvenating it.
- v) **Community Project Fund (Cllr Friend).** A request has been received for funding from the church towards the upkeep of the church yard. This is an annual request. A notice is to go out inviting applications to the fund.
- vi) **LTIDP (Cllr Hunt)**

A letter has been received from VHSC and circulated to members, relating to the tennis courts. The Chairman has spoken with the Chairman of VHSC and LTIDP members working group members consulted. The LTIDP Working Group is proposing that the Parish Council does not pay the full sum requested in the letter, but a total grant amount of £5000 towards a new fence. The parish council cannot reclaim VAT on the work being carried out. Proposed by: Cllr Friend Seconded by: Cllr T Bizley. **Unanimous**

The Clerk was asked to send a grant letter setting out the terms of the grant. Once agreement had been obtained the money could be paid into the Biddenden Club House bank account by the Clerk.

b) Other reports:

- i) **Police Liaison:** 13 crimes were reported in January 2021

Violence and Sexual Offences	6
Anti-social Behaviour	3
Other Theft	2
All Other Crime	2

There had been reports of breaking into vans and tools stolen.

- ii) **KALC (Cllr Hunt/Cllr Bizley):** Cllrs Wright and Newman attended the KALC Social Media course. **It was agreed** that Councillors Newman and Wright could look into a Council Facebook page and report back to the next meeting, producing a draft policy that may govern it.
- iii) **PO, Car park and toilets (Clerk):** Nothing to report.
- iv) **Tenterden Forum (Cllr Friend):** Nothing to report:
- v) **Village Hall Sports Committee (Cllr Friend):** The next meeting will take place on 10 March.
- vi) **Health and Safety (Clerk):** The monthly inspection report was circulated.

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14. Finance

a) **Payment List:** The list was presented. Proposed by: Cllr M Clixby Seconded by: Cllr J Montgomery. **Unanimous.**

b) **Note accounts to 1 March 2021 |**

To be circulated separately as the statements were not ready.

15. Planning – to note decisions and any plans tabled

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
*21/00226/AS	Biddenden	Forge Field Oast, Cranbrook Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8ER Installation of new timber close boarded fence (retrospective)	Object
21/00236/AS	Biddenden	Agricultural Building north east of, Whitfield House, High Halden Road, Biddenden, Kent Prior notification for proposed change of use of and associated operational development of 1no. Building and land within its curtilage from use as agricultural to a use falling within Class C3 (1no. dwellinghouses)	Support
*21/00242/AS	Biddenden	33 North Street, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8BA Removal of existing garden room and erection of replacement single storey side extension.	Support
21/00292/AS	Tenterden, Biddenden	Buildings and Yard opposite Laurenden, Cranbrook Road, Tenterden, Kent Additional Environmental Approval to seek extension of time on planning permission (condition 1) 17/00172/AS (Erection of three dwellings with ecological enhancement and associated garaging).	Support
21/00283/AS	Biddenden	Elmstone Cottage, Cranbrook Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8ER Demolish existing outbuilding and erect new 3 bay cart style garage with office & storage space	Support
21/00338/AS	Biddenden	2 Worsenden, Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8EH Proposed extension of existing dormer.	Support
Land Sale Request	Biddenden	Purchase and incorporation of grass verge outside 33 Chulkhurst into property	Object

*In relation to 21/00226/AS a site visit was agreed. Due to Covid-19 restrictions **it was agreed** that three councillors, individually and independently, drive outside and view the fence. Several concerns were expressed regarding the application, in particular the fence impeding visibility for the neighbouring property when exiting. Should the three councillors individually believe this concern to be valid then the council would Object citing all concerns.

**Land Sale Request: Concerns were discussed and objection agreed due to precedent, street scene and erosion of green space amenity value and adequacy of parking.

16. Correspondence

The Correspondence List was noted.

17. Items for future consideration

Annual Return

18. Next meeting: Parish Council meeting, Tuesday 6 April 2021 – *All Welcome*

This meeting is being online. Please inform the Clerk by email: clerk@biddenden.gov.uk if you wish to join the meeting by no later than midday on Monday 5 April 2021.

Alison Swannick
Parish Clerk

07783 223450

DRAFT