

APPROVED

Biddenden Parish Council

UNAPPROVED Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held via Zoom on Tuesday 5 January 2021 at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllr J Tydeman (Chair) Cllr R Hunt
Cllr D Boulding Cllr G Latter
Cllr M Clixby Cllr J Wright
Cllr C Friend

Mrs A Swannick (Clerk)

Two parishioners attended.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from:

Cllr T Bizley due to work commitments
Cllr E Cansdale due to lack of technology
Cllr N Bell, ABC, due to work commitments

Apologies were accepted.

2. Any declarations of interest in items on the Agenda

None.

3. Any alterations to Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

None.

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

Cllr Bell submitted a report in his absence.

'The good news is that for ABC's part of the council tax, we expect to raise it by only £5 for a Band D property and our charge will remain the lowest in Kent for at least the tenth year running.

Although we're getting far less income from car parking, property income and other charges, we've managed to delete a number of officer posts to achieve savings in salary expenditure rather than asking the taxpayer to foot the bill. Not easy but I think it's the right thing to do in these difficult times.'

5. Parishioners' Questions

A question was asked about the speed of vehicles on High Halden Road. This will be dealt with under agenda item 8.

A question was asked about Castletons Oak/Benenden Road. This will be dealt with under agenda item 8.

APPROVED

6. Approval of the unapproved minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2020

The minutes had been circulated to councillors. There being comments or amendments the minutes were deemed to be a true and proper record of the meeting.
Proposed by: Cllr C Friend Seconded by Cllr G Latter. **Unanimous.**

7. Any matters for information not on the agenda

There have been serious sewerage issues reported at Pullen Barn Farm and its neighbouring properties. Reports have been made to Southern Water and Cllr Bell and the Parish Council have also written to them. Millwood Homes have been informed as the sewerage system may affect their properties. They have communicated their concern to Southern Water.

An additional issue has arisen on the Cheeselands Playing Fields where sewerage can be seen coming up to the surface, complete with toilet paper. The Parish Council has made strong representations to Southern Water and has supported both the parishioner and Cllr Bell in their endeavours to get the issue resolved. The issues are ongoing. **It was agreed** to have Sewerage as a specific agenda item.

The Chairman reported that Rev. Bienfait would be leaving the village to take up a post in Ashford. He was thanked for his ministry and work in the village for many years. **It was agreed** to give him a gift from the parish up to a sum of £30.

Details of the KALC community award were discussed and it was hoped it could be presented in person before Easter.

8. Traffic Issues:

- Village Centre Road Junction

- **Consultation update** – update to be given. Notes of the meeting with Kent Highways had been circulated and these minutes were gone through by Cllr Friend. Damage to the Southside pavement was discussed.

- North Street development road junction with North Street: Nothing to report.

- **Castletons Oak Crossroads/Benenden Road:** There have now been four accidents in a very short space of time. Kent Highways have been kept updated as has the Borough Councillor and Member of Parliament. The meeting was closed to allow the parishioner to update the meeting of his concerns and his correspondence with relevant people. The Parish Council continues to lobby for changes to the junction.

- **High Halden Road:** Concerns were expressed at the last meeting regarding the speed of vehicles on this road. The meeting was closed to allow the parishioner to brief the meeting on their concerns. **It was - agreed** to look into the concerns further and gather evidence.

- **HIP (Highways Improvement Plan):** **It was agreed** that the TPFC working group would complete the HIP. A suggested timetable for engaging with parishioners was presented and approved.

- **Other traffic issues:** To be raised at the meeting.

APPROVED

9. Housing

The Parish Council responded to the Benenden Neighbourhood Plan regulation 16 consultation. Nothing further has been heard.

10. Budget 2021-22

The budget has been reworked and balanced. This has meant some cuts being made. Some items have been moved to Special Projects and funding for these will need to be discussed separately. Proposed by: Cllr C Friend Seconded by: Cllr R Hunt. **Unanimous.**

11. Trees

Cllr Clixby has kindly been looking after the trees donated by ABC. Approximately 10-12 have survived but they need to be planted before the end of March 2021. Cllr Clixby has been in touch with Tom Lupton of the Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow working group. An area has been identified for planting ie just south of the Bowls Club on the Gordon Jones Field as a suitable planting location. However, whilst these trees are slow growing, they will become mature and there is no wish for them to cause any shading issues for the Club. Cllr Clixby is happy to meet with members from the Bowls Club to agree where to plant the trees. **It was agreed** that he should meet representatives of the Bowls Club

12. CCTV

A meeting was held with Prism by the Clerk and Cllr Montgomery on 16 December. A quotation is awaited Their suggestions do differ from WCCTV detailed in last month's document in that they are not in favour of rotating cameras as they miss possibly important things as they rotate. However, a quotation is awaited for comparative purposes. A third quote may be required.

13. Group Reports:

a) Working Group Reports

- i) **Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow (Cllr Friend):** A quote for the tree survey has been received. However, a comparative quote is required and this is being sought.
- ii) **Traffic, Pedestrians, Footpaths, Cycling (Cllr Wright):** An update was given. The state of footpath from North Street into the Weavers is not good . **It was agreed** that details of the paths be given to the clerk to report.
- iii) **Gordon Jones Playing Field and Play Area (Cllr Bizley)**

The newly laid lines for the ramps on the road into the playing field and on the path to the tennis courts are crumbling. The contractor has been contacted and they had also spotted the problem. They will put down some permanent marker spray down until the weather warms up and then will repaint them in the New Year.

Repairs to the light on the playing field is being actioned.
- iv) **Conservation (Cllr Wright):** Notes of the working group meeting had been circulated and attention drawn to recommendations within. Councillors were asked to look carefully at the Open Spaces Strategy document and send any comments to the Clerk, Cllr Wright or Cllr Clixby.

APPROVED

- v) **Community Project Fund (Cllr Friend):** Nothing to report. The next round of applications will not be invited until April.
 - vi) **LTIDP (Cllr Hunt) :** Nothing to report.
- b) **Other reports:**
- i) **Police Liaison:** 9 crimes were reported to Police UK for October 2019
 - Violence & Sexual Offences 4
 - Anti-Social Behaviour 3
 - Burglary 1
 - Criminal Damage & Arson 1
 - ii) **KALC (Cllr Hunt/Cllr Bizley):** Nothing to report.
 - iii) **PO, Car park and toilets (Clerk):** The current streetlamp in the car park is not working. Before any repairs are carried out quotations are being sought with a view to replacing it with a lamp to fit in with the others in the conservation area. The Clerk was asked to find out the costs.
 - iv) **Tenterden Forum (Cllr Friend):** Nothing to report.
 - v) **Village Hall Management Committee (Cllr Friend):** A report to be given. The last meeting took place on 2/12/20.
 - vi) **Health and Safety (Clerk):** The Clerk went through the report circulated.

14. Finance

- a) **Payment List:** The list was presented and agreed. Proposed by: Cllr M Clixby
Seconded by: Cllr D Boulding. **Unanimous.**
- b) **Note accounts to 30 December 2020:** Noted.

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15. Planning – to note decisions and any plans tabled

16. Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
20/01606/AS	Biddenden	Great Batchelors, Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8EX Proposed conversion of existing garage / residential outbuilding to form self-contained annex for dependant family member and home office space.	Support
20/01631/AS	Biddenden	Weavers Cot, 14 Cot Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8JB Proposed fenestration alterations to south elevation and installation of heritage style steel windows and doors	Support
20/01632/AS	Biddenden	Weavers Cot, 14 Cot Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8JB Proposed fenestration alterations to south elevation and installation of heritage style steel windows and doors, removal of internal wall between kitchen and dining room, alterations to existing utility room walls (including removal of lift), alterations to existing bathroom and bedroom walls at southern end of property to create ensuite bathroom and storage cupboards (including removal of lift).	Support
20/01763/AS	Biddenden	Stede Court, High Halden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8JG Proposed conversion of the existing Oast into a Yoga Studio with new staircase, wc, Bi fold doors and windows.	Support
20/01764/AS	Biddenden	Stede Court, High Halden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8JG Proposed conversion of the existing Oast into a Yoga Studio with new staircase, wc, Bi fold doors and windows.	Support
20/01770/AS	Biddenden	Little Randolphs Farm, Tenterden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8BG Prior approval of proposed change of use and conversion of two agricultural buildings 5 residential dwellings	Comment made with concerns
20/01705/AS https://planning.ashford.gov.uk/Planning/details.aspx?systemkey=117177	Biddenden	Milepost Cottage, Benenden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8BY Loft conversion to form bedroom and office accommodation including addition of 2 no. roof dormers; single storey side extension to form dining room; application of cladding to existing external walls; change existing door and window to rear to single glazed door with sidelights.	Support

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TREE APPLICATIONS

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
20/00298/TC	Biddenden	Henden Cottage, Tenterden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8BB Willow (T1) - To reduce willow tree in the rear garden back to previous points Apple (T1) - To cut back branch overhanging neighbours	Support
20/00307/TC	Biddenden	The Forge House, 64-68 North Street, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8AS Ash Tree (T1) - fell to create turning area for cars. No plan to replant	Support but native tree planted in its place

16. Correspondence

The Correspondence list had been circulated. No queries or requests for copies.

17. Items for future consideration

Model Publication Scheme
Risk Assessment
Procedures and Policies

18. Next meeting: **Parish Council meeting**, Tuesday 2 February 2021 – *All Welcome*

The meeting closed at 21:10

Alison Swannick 07783 223450
Parish Clerk