

BIDDENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

APPROVED Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 6th November 2013 at 7.30 pm in the New Hall, Biddenden

Present: Cllr T Lupton (Chair) Cllr C Friend
Cllr D Boulding Cllr P Harris
Cllr E Cansdale Cllr A Lidgett
Cllr F Chalk Cllr J Tydeman

Mrs A Swannick (Clerk)

No parishioners were present

1. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Parishioners' questions

There were no questions.

3. Any Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda

Cllr Boulding declared an interest in an item on the payment schedule as his company organised the hosting of the BPC website.

4. Any changes to the Register of Members Interest

There were no changes to the Register of Members' Interests.

5. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8 October 2013

The Clerk stated that one amendment had been made, to change "Mary Quant" in Cllr Bell's report to "Mary Portas". There being no other amendments or comments the minutes were deemed to be a true and proper record of the meeting. Proposed by: Cllr D Boulding Seconded by: Cllr A Lidgett. **Agreed** by those that attended the meeting on 8 October.

6. Matters for information not on the agenda

Cllr Hunt has offered his resignation. This has been sent to Ashford Borough Council and they will advise on the next steps.

It was noted that Cllr Cansdale had purchased a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council from the Royal British Legion to be laid on the council's behalf at the Remembrance service.

7. Report by Cllr Bell, ABC

There was no report from Cllr Bell.

8. Southside Pavement – Phase 2

There is nothing further to report at the present time.

9. Implementation of the Community Led Plan

Business Association – a notice will be in the December magazine indicating an open meeting will be held in Jan/Feb 2014. The Clerk was asked to fix a date for this event in February.

Children Youth and Leisure: A letter has been received regarding Young Kent and KIYS Youth Clinic Launch. It was **agreed** that Sue Maiden be contacted to see if she would talk to councillors at the December meeting.

Seating: Ashford Access yet to be contacted.

Doctors Surgery: No reply received an email reminder has been sent. It was agreed that the matter should be left until January and if nothing has been heard the council will assume that the Doctors are no longer interested in building a surgery in Biddenden and will write to them accordingly.

10. Local Needs Housing

A reply is still awaited from the owners of the preferred site.

11. Ashford Borough Council Local Plan to 2013 - Site submissions for Biddenden

The letter and maps had been circulated. The council is being asked to give feedback to ABC about how the council would like the consultation process to take place in Biddenden. It was **agreed** that an open meeting should be held and that ABC should lead the process. The Clerk was asked to write a letter to ABC stating that BPC does want to be involved in the consultation process and would like to carry out an open consultation process with ABC planning staff present guiding the council through the process and decision. BPC would also like to know the timescale of the process together with key strategies. ABC should be reminded about the on-going process of the local needs housing. The letter should be copied to Cllr Bell.

12. Speedwatch

- a) The constitution of the Biddenden Community Speedwatch Group was noted
- b) 15 volunteers have received police training. The police have identified at least ten sites.

Councillors were asked if they now agreed to go ahead as a council with the joint purchase of the SID at a cost of £460 and put insurance in place. **Agreed.**

It was **agreed** that the Clerk be authorised to sign the Speedwatch agreement with Cranbrook and Sissinghurst Parish Council on BPC's behalf and arrange for payment to Cranbrook PC.

Proposed by: Cllr C Friend
favour.

Seconded by: Cllr F Chalk. **Agreed.** 1 Abstention; 7 in

It was **agreed** that Speedwatch no longer required to be a main agenda item but could be reported on under Clerk, Group Chairman and Parish representative reports.

13. Meeting dates for 2014

A schedule of meeting dates for 2014 was presented and **agreed**.

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

Car Park, Toilets and Post Office: Final quotations are awaited on the decoration of the toilet block.

The quotation for the repair of the overhead barrier is awaited.

A request to have the car park hedge cut back has been made.

Cllr Bell's help has been requested to chase the toilet grant as nothing has been heard from ABC despite requests for updates.

The fence along the northside of the car park is the responsibility of the parish council as ABC's tenant. Provision for its repair needs to be included in the 2014/15 budget. An estimate for this work is being prepared. It involves putting in two extra posts and either a timber or metal rail. The Clerk and Cllr Friend to organise.

The toilet roll holder and toilet roll have been taken from the disabled toilet. A new dispenser has been ordered.

Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow: A reply is awaited from KHS re whose responsibility the maintenance of the Sissinghurst Rd culvert is.

It is understood that the Tractorfest will not be held on the Millennium Field in 2014 as an alternative site has been found.

Following the recent storm, two trees were blown over in the wood on the Millennium Field and contractors have dealt with this due to it being dangerous. A quotation for the minor damage to other trees is awaited.

The PCSO was asked to set up a meeting with the young people using the Millennium Field car park. This has been chased up.

The litter bin in the MF car park has been moved. This will be looked at.

Traffic, Pedestrians and Footpaths: The deep hole outside 39 Glebelands has been reported.

The Meadows sign will be replaced in Spring 2014.

The sign at Browns Corner was reported and has been removed.

The two further replacement litter bins have been ordered.

The painting of the village sign has been completed and will be replaced once Cllr Friend is available and the pole will then be painted. The plaque for the village sign has been completed and is due to be picked up. It will be put on the space on the village sign pole once the restoration is complete.

Turf for the village green is waiting to be laid.

The salt bag has been delivered. The Clerk informed the council of the rules for salting set by its insurers.

An email regarding the post box at Woolpack Corner has been received from Royal Mail. They do not intend to replace it. Cllr Bell has been informed and letter to the royal mail expressing disappointment and concern at their decision has been sent.

The Clerk and Cllr Friend have inspected the Bethersden marble stones by the church lych-gate and a quote has been sought for re-fixing the four wobbly stones. Enquiries are being made to see if either KCC or ABC own or know who owns the land. In the meantime the Clerk will arrange for the stones to be fixed and arrange a meeting with residents of relevant properties and local/county authorities.

Damage has been sustained to the north and Southside pavements and this has been reported. One damaged area has been fixed and it has been requested that the other area be taped off. The jubilee stone has also been knocked over and arrangements to fix it are in hand.

Gordon Jones Playing Field and Play Area: The picnic table was to be removed but the contractor has managed to mend it and there is, therefore, no longer a need for a new table.

The damaged dog bin has been replaced.

Playground quotations are ongoing.

A note was presented regarding future work to the play area. The previous plan to replace the current equipment is to be revisited together with the possibility of grants. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact ABC for advice and also Frittenden and Sandhurst who recently had their playground refurbished to ask them how they budgeted/obtained funds.

Police Liaison: Nothing to report. However it was noted that violent crime had increased. A report was requested for the next meeting.

Planning and Local Housing: The house in Cheeslands has now been allocated to people with connections in High Halden as no-one from Biddenden applied.

KALC: The Annual General Meeting is to be held on Saturday 23 November in Ditton. Councillors were not available to attend.

Parish Forum: The next meeting of the Parish Forum will be held on 11 December 2013.

Recycling: A meeting was held on 30th October. The Council noted the minutes and the following recommendations were made:

- a) Allotment Society : **£150.00** towards cost of new Rotavator
- b) Friends of John Mayne School : Agree in principal to payment towards renovation works to ITC room. However we suggest that the Clerk write a letter to F o JM asking them to re-apply when they have received firm quotations for the work. A final decision on the amount of the donation will then be made.
- c) Women's Institute: **£175.00** We hope this will give the incentive to attract new members.
- d) Village Halls and Management Committee: **£500.00** towards refurbishment works to the toilets.
- e) Squash Club: **£400.00** towards building works. It was suggested that they look to receiving a grant towards the cost of insulation works.

The above recommendations were **agreed**. Proposed by: Cllr D Boulding
Seconded by: Cllr F Chalk. **Unanimous**.

Village Hall Management Committee: Nothing to report.

Health and Safety: Biddenden Juniors Football Club has reported that a visiting supporter injured themselves standing on a storm drain whilst trying to retrieve a ball from the hedge during a match. The vegetation around the drain area has been cleared and the slabs correctly placed. Southern Water has been informed of the incident.

Allotments: The papers for the vacant allotment plot have been received and the pro-rata rent to 31 March 2014 received.

John Mayne School: A new website has been set up: www.john-mayne.kent.sch.uk
A successful harvest festival was held in the church. French and German are now being taught. Fundraising is taking place for the redevelopment of the old ICT area into a new music and drama space. There are 3 new governors; 1 foundation governor and 2 parent governors.

15. Finance

a) Approval of cheques for payment: The schedule of payments was presented. One addition for the hosting of the website was made. Proposed by: Cllr J Tydeman Seconded by: Cllr P Harris. **Agreed**. Cllr Boulding was unable to vote due to his interest.

b) Accounts to 1 November 2013: The bank statements had not yet arrived and so the accounts would be circulated as soon as possible.

c) Bank Accounts: The Clerk advised that an account could not be opened with Aldermore due to various conditions which the council could not meet. However it was **agreed** that the Clerk should continue to set up an account with Nationwide International and deposit £20,000 into the account.

d) Budget 2014/15 timetable: The budget will now be done with the figures currently submitted. A Finance Committee meeting will be held on 2nd December to discuss it.

16. Planning

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
13/01104/AS	Biddenden	The Barn, The Colt House, Cranbrook Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8ET An Application for Lawful Development Certificate for existing use being use of barn as a single dwelling house for a period of more than four years.	Support on condition that ABC link the dwelling to the kennel business
13/01113/AS	Biddenden	Pullen Barn Farm, Headcorn Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8JA New agricultural building to provide a covered feeding area for cattle over existing feed yard	Support
13/01217/AS	Biddenden	Orchardene, Frittenden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8LF Proposed rear single storey and proposed two storey part side and rear extension with balcony.	Support

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
13/00175/TC	Biddenden	Biddenden Place, Tenterden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8BB Fell 1 x small cherry tree in front garden	Support

The council discussed the increase in applications for Lawful Development Certificates, ABC monitoring and any penalties applicable to applicants. The Clerk was asked to write to ABC.

17. Correspondence

21/10 Email from Cllr Bell re post box at Woolpack Corner. Councillors are asked how they wish to proceed (correspondence circulated). **No further action by PC**

28/10 Email re Young Kent and KIYS Youth Clinic Launch. **Dealt with under item 9.**

31/10 Amendment to Code of Conduct (circulated). KALC advice was that the amendments should be accepted. **It was agreed that the Amended Code of Conduct be put on the agenda at the Annual Statutory meeting in May 2014.**

6/11 Email from a parishioner regarding a planning application (circulated) for consideration. **It was agreed that the parish council would not send a representative to the meeting.**

18. Items for future consideration

Budget
Precept

19. Date and time of next meeting: Finance Committee – Monday 2 December, New Hall

**Parish Council meeting – Tuesday 10 December,
Village Hall**

All Welcome