

BIDDENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

APPROVED Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 08 January 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Biddenden

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

Mrs A Swannick (Clerk)

2 parishioners were present

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He stated that item 15 would be taken earlier than scheduled.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from:

Cllr Hunt due to a business trip
Cllr Ruse due to personal commitments
Borough Cllr Bell

The Chairman stated that Cllr Hewitt had tendered her resignation from the Council due to work commitments and expressed the Council's thanks for the work she did whilst on the Council. The Clerk would inform Ashford Borough Council

2. Parishioners Questions

- a) The safety of the "S" bend on the Smarden Road was queried. The parishioner had approached Kent Highways and they had said that the matter needed to be dealt with through the Parish Council. Cllr Friend will look into the matter.
- b) Who is responsible for new name plates on roads? KCC is responsible.
- c) The bottle bank is full again. The Clerk will contact ABC to request action.

3. Any declarations of interest in items on the agenda

Cllr Lidgett declared a personal interest in Planning application [12/01413/AS](#) as it relates to a neighbouring property.

4. Any changes to the register of member's interests

There were no changes.

5. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11 December 2012

There being no amendments or comments, the minutes were declared a true and proper record of the meeting. Proposed by: Cllr D Boulding Seconded by: Cllr E Cansdale.

Unanimous (note: only those councillors who attended the meeting on 11 December 2012 voted).

6. Matters for information not on the agenda

The Council thanked BEST and residents and businesses in the High Street who put up external Christmas decorations. Comments have been received about how nice they were.

7. Report by Cllr Bell, Ashford Borough Council

Cllr Bell's report was circulated and taken as read.

"I'm pleased to report that the Joint Transportation Board meeting which I attended and spoke at the end of last year rejected the highways proposals at the A262/A28 junction for traffic lights together with changes to the speed zones. I'm also pleased that the proposals to block (wholly or one way) Oak Grove Lane were not dropped ahead of the meeting."

"I'd like to record thanks to Chris Friend & Adrian Lidgett for their support at public meetings in High Halden and Ashford."

"Without a doubt the junction does need some sort of traffic calming but the impact of the dramatic changes which had been planned did not seem to have been thought through with the benefit of local knowledge."

8. High Street Southside Pavement

The pavement was mended on 8 January.

9. Oak Grove Lane

A letter opposing the traffic proposals was sent to both KCC and Jacobs. A meeting of the Joint Transportation Committee took place on 11th. Notes of the meeting have been received and circulated.

The meeting concluded that the proposed changes in layout needed to be revisited and it appeared that there was a preference for a speed limit of 50 or possibly 40 mph between St Michaels and High Halden, as well as a maximum 30 mph speed limit through High Halden village including the back lanes rather than making major alterations to the junctions.

This item was also covered under Cllr Bell's report.

10. Housing Needs Survey

The Survey together with the minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2012 had been circulated to all Councillors.

It was **agreed** that the Council supports the idea of additional social housing in Biddenden and wishes to implement this through working with Action with Communities in Rural Kent. Proposed by: Cllr E Cansdale Seconded by: Cllr P Harris **Unanimous**. The Clerk would inform Tessa O'Sullivan of the decision.

11. Model Publication Scheme

The Model Publication Scheme had been circulated. There being no alterations to the presented document, **It was RESOLVED** to adopt the Model Publication Scheme as presented. Proposed by: Cllr C Friend Seconded by: Cllr P Harris. **Unanimous**

12. Risk Assessment

The Risk Assessment had been circulated. Minor amendments were made and **it was RESOLVED** to adopt the amended document as discussed. Proposed by: Cllr P Harris
Seconded by: Cllr D Boulding. **Unanimous**

13. Business Continuity Plan

There being no amendments or comments, **it was RESOLVED** to adopt the Business Continuity Plan as presented. Proposed by: Cllr C Friend Seconded by: Cllr A Lidgett.
Unanimous.

15. Finance

- a) **Approval of cheques for payment.** The list had been circulated. There being no alterations or comments, the list was approved for payment. Proposed by: Cllr C Friend Seconded by: Cllr A Lidgett. **Unanimous**
- b) **Monthly accounts.** The monthly accounts had been circulated. There were no comments and the accounts were noted.
- c) **Budget 2013/14.** The budget for 2013/4 together with a forecast for the following three years had been prepared by the Clerk, and reviewed by the Finance Committee. The clerk reported that the budget for 2013/4 needed to be agreed together with the level of precept for the next financial year. The Chairman asked if there were any questions on the budget that Councillors would like to raise. There were no comments raised and therefore **it was RESOLVED** that the budget for 2013/14 noting the forecast for the following three years be approved. The precept for 2013/14 was to remain at £47,500 – the same level as the last financial year. Proposed by: Cllr J Tydeman Seconded by: Cllr D Boulding. **Unanimous.** The budget was adopted.

It was noted that within the budget a provision of £10,500 was included for a contribution towards the cost of completing Phase 2 of the Southside pavement from the High Street to Tenterden Road. This figure comprises £8,000 from revenue and £2,500 balance remaining from the Mill Court Development. The total cost of the work has been estimated as £24,000 by Kent Highways Services, however they have indicated they will not have funds to carry out the work. **It was AGREED** that KCC Cllr Hill be written to request a meeting to explore the possibility of his sourcing the balance of funds needed for the project.

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

Car Park, Toilets and Post Office: The locksmith has checked the lock on the ladies toilet as it was not locking. The toilet doors have swelled and arrangements are being made for them to be planed. Concern was expressed at the costs incurred in unblocking the gents toilet.

A request for the holly bush outside the post office has been placed to be cut back.

The pothole between the car park and Henden Hall had been reported to KCC and had been repaired.

Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow:

The tree between the Jubilee Meadow and Vine House, Tenterden Road: Work has started on removing the ivy.

A quotation is awaited for the emergency repair to the potholes on the Millennium Field car park.

A reply is still awaited from Natural England regarding entering the Jubilee Meadow into the Higher Level Stewardship scheme.

Dog litter bins: A letter is to be written to Ashford Borough Council requesting additional dog bins.

Traffic, Pedestrians and Footpaths: Kent Highways have been contacted about the condition of the road in The Meadows, in particular the potholes close to North Street.

Quotations for refurbishment of the large Notice board are still awaited.

The specification for the refurbishment of the village sign is awaited.

Gordon Jones Playing Field and Play Area:

KCC has been requested to provide a formal quotation for the recreation ground sign and is still awaited.

Squash Court Embankment. The work is still to be completed.

Quotations are being sought for the 2013 Grounds Maintenance.

Police Liaison: As PCSO Moorey is currently unavailable Cllr Lidgett offered to find out who Biddenden's contact was.

Planning and Local Housing: Nothing to report.

KALC: Councillors were asked if they would all like access to the KALC website or whether they wished to leave the Clerk as the main password holder. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should be the only person with password access.

Parish Forum: Nothing to report

Recycling: A letter, as requested, was sent to the Council Leader regarding the Council's wish for the recycling credits system to continue. A reply has now been received stating that it is the Leader's intention "to continue the payment of recycling credits to parishes for the remainder of the current administration". A copy of the letter is circulated. The next Borough Council elections are due to take place in May 2015.

A new round of applications to the Recycling Working Group for funding is to take place with a deadline of 28 February 2012. Notices will go into the parish magazine, on the notice boards and on the website.

Village Hall Management Committee: A meeting is to be set up with VHMC and BPC to discuss the use of the tennis courts. It was agreed Cllrs Friend and Cansdale to attend and the Clerk is to arrange the meeting.

Community Led Plan: A meeting was held on 5th December. It is planned that the questionnaire will be available for completion throughout February 2013. A public meeting to launch this process will take place on Thursday 24th January 2013.

Health and Safety: A check was done on 20 December. A rope swing was found to have been made over one of the branches of the trees in the wood by the stream. This has been cut down.

Allotments: Nothing to report.

John Mayne School: No report.

Biddenden Consolidated Charity – Parish Council Nominated Trustee: Eric Farris has completed his current term as a trustee in November 2012 and is willing to be reappointed for a further four years. Mr Farris has been Chairman of the Charity for several years and is a previous Clerk and Chairman of the Parish Council as well as a current member of the Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow Working Group. **It was AGREED** that Mr Farris be appointed for a further four years.

16. Planning

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
12/00006/OLE/AS	Biddenden	Pullen Barn Farm, Headcorn Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8JA Erection of new pole and 2 new spans of H/V overhead line (and associated stay wires) to replace underground cable	Support
12/01409/AS	Biddenden	90 Cheeselands, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8HL Proposed conservatory	Support
12/01413/AS	Biddenden	Grovelands Farm, High Halden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8JQ Single storey side extension and porch to front elevation	Support
13/00004/AS	Biddenden	36 The Weavers, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8AP Two storey rear extension and single storey side extension	Support

17. Correspondence

A list had been circulated for comment.

Pending

Re hire of Gordon Jones Field 1 and 2 June 2013: Biddenden Juniors FC have indicated they are planning a tournament on these dates but confirmation is still awaited. Once clarified Tenterden Tigers will be informed.

Action

12/12 Email from KALC re DCLG Consultation on Examining Speed Limits for HGVs over 7.5 tonnes on single carriageway roads. If the Council wishes to respond the deadline is 1/2/13 (circulated). **Cllr Lidgett to complete and send.**

- 21/12 Email from Community Safety Unit asking for input regarding Parish priorities (circulated). **No further action required.**
- 27/12 Email received from new Editor of the Parish Magazine (circulated). **The matter was discussed and it was AGREED that the Clerk write to the new editor saying that the Parish Council could not edit its minutes and did not wish to interfere with Editorial Policy of the Parish Magazine. Therefore if the editor wishes to edit the Parish Council Minutes that was fine, but to ask the editor to clearly state that a full version was available on the council notice board and website.**
- 3/1/13 Email from a parishioner regarding various issues in reply to the Clerk's update (circulated). **The parishioner's letter was discussed. It was agreed to complete the removal of the ivy and review the situation at that point, arranging a site visit to see what the issues are, inviting the parishioner to attend.**

18. Items for future consideration

- a) Consider the date of the Annual Parish Meeting as the current date and time may clash with another event.

19. Date of next meeting: Parish Council meeting, 12 February 2013 at 7.30 pm, Village Hall

All Welcome