

## BIDDENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

### APPROVED MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9 APRIL 2013 IN THE VILLAGE HALL, BIDDENDEN, KENT

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

Mrs A Swannick (Clerk)

#### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from:

Borough Cllr Bell  
Cllr P Harris due to work commitments  
Cllr H Ruse due to work commitments

#### 2. Parishioners' questions

- a) A parishioner addressed the council regarding planning application [13/00239/AS](#). The Parish Council has previously approved this application.
- b) The Council was asked why the Gordon Jones playing field play area had been sprayed with weed killer. The grass in front of Hendon Hall had been sprayed. The Council is aware of the situation and the contractor had been over enthusiastic, but would be taking remedial action.
- c) A parishioner asked the Council what the rules were concerning tables and chairs on the pavement in front of a shop in the High Street. The Clerk is to check with ABC.

#### 3. Any declarations of interest in items on the agenda

Cllr Tydeman had a personal interest in planning application [13/00219/AS](#) as the property was adjacent to his.

#### 4. Any changes to the register of members' interests

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

#### 5. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12 March 2013

The minutes had been circulated with an amendment sheet. There being no changes the minutes were declared a true and proper record of the meeting. Proposed by: Cllr C Friend  
Seconded by: Cllr A Lidgett. **Agreed by those who attended the meeting.**

## **6. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19 March 2013**

The minutes had been circulated and no amendments had been suggested or incorporated. There being no further comments on the minutes they were declared a true and proper record of the meeting. Proposed by: Cllr E Cansdale      Seconded by: Cllr A Lidgett.  
**Agreed by those who attended the meeting**

## **7. Matters for information not on the agenda**

The deadline for applications for co-option to the Council is 26 April 2013.

## **8. Report by Cllr Bell, Ashford Borough Council**

Cllr Bell submitted the report below in his absence to the Clerk.

### **“Power cuts**

Following the third power major power cut in a week for parts of Biddenden (and there were more a few months previously), I have asked the chief exec at Ashford Borough Council to contact the power company to ensure that in the short term everything is being down to restore and stabilise the power supply to those areas affected and, longer term, to report on the more general pattern of power outages the parish has suffered.

Some residents may qualify for compensation, the details of which can be found at <http://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/internet/en/help-and-advice/documents/Electrical%20Guarantee%20Final.pdf>

The trigger appears to be suffering four 3hr unplanned power cuts in the course of a year.

### **Recycling Collection**

I would urge residents to prepare for the new refuse collection system. Ashford Borough Council will be keeping everyone fully informed of the details.

I am only too aware that changes to this basic service can cause upheaval and irritation to well-established domestic routines, but I would ask Biddenden residents to please rise to the challenge, stay positive and work together to make the recycling system work. My thanks go to all residents in advance!”

## **9. Southside Pavement**

Nothing further has taken place and the quotations for phase 2 are not expected until June 2013.

## **10. Housing Needs**

The walk around the 15 sites identified with Tessa O’Sullivan of Action with Communities in Rural Kent (ACRK) at the Council meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> March, took place on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April. The aim, as discussed, was to look at each site and to consider issues of suitability, access

etc. prior to ACRK submitting the site details to the ABC planners, Kent Highways and the Housing Department. Tessa was accompanied by Cllr Friend and Peter Whapham.

## 11. Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on 23 April at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall.

**It was agreed** that the Chairman should write a Chairman's report rather than councillors doing individual reports.

Presentations will be given by Melanie Williams, Headteacher of John Mayne CE Primary School, and Stephanie Boucher, Chair of the Community Led Plan.

Arrangements for refreshments have been made.

## 12. Recycling Fund

At the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> March it was agreed to contact Biddenden Juniors FC to ask them for further details and costings relating to their application to the fund. This has been done and the reply containing further details circulated to councillors for consideration. **It was RESOLVED** to provide 50% of the funding (£245) subject to them getting the other 50% funding from the Football Foundation. Proposed by: Cllr D Boulding Seconded by: Cllr J Tydeman. **Unanimous.**

The current balance being carried forward from 2012/13 is £1096.36.

The Chairman stated that Agenda item 15, Planning, would be taken next

## 15. Planning

No	Case	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
<a href="#">13/00219/AS</a>		Biddenden	<b>Cheveney Place, 4 The Nightingales, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8HN</b> Proposed side extension to include new double garage, extension to existing pool room and living space within the roof area requiring the addition of a window to first floor over garage	Support
<a href="#">13/00239/AS</a>		Biddenden	<b>Barn at, Hare Plain Farm, Hareplain Road, Biddenden, Kent</b> Proposed conversion of redundant curtilage listed barn to dwelling; construction of a detached garage; erection of gates and fencing and installation of sewage treatment plant.	Support but noting that BPC had supported this application before and was disappointed to see it back again.
<a href="#">13/00240/AS</a>		Biddenden	<b>Barn at, Hare Plain Farm, Hareplain Road, Biddenden, Kent</b> Proposed conversion of redundant curtilage listed barn to dwelling.	Support
<a href="#">13/00233/AS</a>		Biddenden	<b>Hawthorns, Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8EQ</b>	Support

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
		Change of use of land for the keeping of horses and the erection of a stable block and 20 metre x 40 metre menage for private use.	
<a href="#">13/00225/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>Cackle Hill Lakes, Headcorn Road, Biddenden, Kent</b> Retention of new building selling tackle/bait and refreshments ancillary to the fishery (retrospective)	Support
<a href="#">13/00264/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>Beacon Hill Farm, Benenden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8BX</b> Amended scheme for garage granted under planning permission 92/0581/AS	Support
<a href="#">13/00295/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>Shorts Wood House, Tenterden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8DW</b> Detached four bay oak framed garage	Support
<a href="#">13/00149/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>Worsenden Farm, Fosten Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8EL</b> Change of use of agricultural farm barn for the use of wedding ceremonies and receptions	Support
<a href="#">13/00230/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>The Coach House Riverhall, River Hall Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8JE</b> New orangery to replace existing conservatory	Support

Cllr Tydeman left the meeting whilst application [13/00240/AS](#) was considered.

### 13. Reports by Clerk, Group Chairmen and Parish Council Representatives

**Car Park, Toilets and Post Office:** The new toilet roll holder has arrived and will be put in the disabled toilet to start with. More robust models are still being sought for the ladies' and gentlemen's toilets. **It was agreed** that The Bakehouse be given a radar key.

Discussion took place regarding future locking arrangements.

**Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow:** The application forms for adding the Jubilee Meadow to the Entry Level Stewardship have been submitted to Natural England.

A new bin has been put in place.

Work to cut away the ivy from the tree between the Jubilee Meadow and Vine House is still in progress.

The agreements for the Jubilee Meadow and the Millennium Field have been sent to the tenant for agreement. The Council needs to recognise that the Tractorfest may impact upon the hay crop. This may impact on the mowing agreement.

**Traffic, Pedestrians and Footpaths:** The order for the refurbishment of the large notice board by the Rectory fence has been placed.

Quotations for the refurbishment of the village sign have been sent out with a closing date of 30<sup>th</sup> April.

It has been noted that there has been excessive use of weed killer around the grass verges and the play area in the village. KCC Landscape Services are aware of the situation and taking remedial steps.

The Jubilee Stone has now been removed in order for the Diamond Jubilee engraving to take place.

Emails have been set to Kent Highways regarding concealed entrances in Smarden Road and Sissinghurst Road on the approach to the church.

Outstanding potholes have been chased with Kent Highways.

Work on the High Halden road is taking place on 13 April.

A note has been received from a parishioner about there being 20 mph limits through the village around the Sissinghurst Road bend.

**Gordon Jones Playing Field and Play Area:** The sign for the Recreation Ground has been requested and paid for and is now awaiting fixing.

The meeting with the dog warden is still being arranged.

The completion of the noticeboard on the side of the squash court is outstanding.

Squash Court embankment: The outstanding additional post has still not been installed.

A maintenance schedule for the Play Area will be drawn up and quotations gained for the work.

The meeting to discuss the tennis courts has been cancelled, due to changes in Biddenden Juniors' requirements.

**Police Liaison:** An update was given on the Youth Commissioner.

**Planning and Local Housing:** A 70% share (117,600) of a house in Cheeslands is being offered for sale to a local person via Rural Housing Trust. Details are on the large notice board.

**KALC:** Nothing to report.

**Parish Forum:** We have still received no response to the email requesting the Biddenden be included on the circulation list for information relating to the Tenterden Youth Action Group.

**Recycling:** All the donations for the applications agreed at the last meeting have been distributed.

**Village Hall Management Committee:** The AGM will be held on 23 May followed by a normal meeting.

**Community Led Plan:** Data entry of all the questionnaires has now been completed and 700 replies were received. A meeting will be held shortly to discuss the next steps. The prize draw will take place at the Parish Meeting.

**Health and Safety:** The inspection was undertaken on 3 April. A chicken wire fence was noted to be down by the woods. The gate to the Gordon Jones Playing Field was left open. The clerk will arrange for both to be rectified.

**Allotments:** All rental notices for 2013/14 have been sent out and cheques are coming in.

**John Mayne School:** Discussion took place regarding a parish councillor becoming the new Community Governor to replace Cllr Ruse. **It was agreed** that the governors should appoint a person with the skill that they required as there was not a councillor available to take on the position with those specific skills.

The meeting closed for refreshments and resumed at 2035 refreshments.

#### **14. Finance**

**a) Approval of cheques for payment.** As circulated. There being no questions or further additions, the list were approved for payment. Proposed by: Cllr C Friend Seconded by: Cllr D Boulding. **Unanimous.**

**b) Monthly Accounts.** The monthly accounts circulated were noted.

**c) Internal Audit 2012/13.** Work on preparing the 2012/13 accounts is underway. The internal auditor has been contacted to arrange for a date for the audit. The accounts will be available for inspection by arrangement with the clerk.

**d) EDF.** Following receipt of a note from EDF the council is requested to consider whether it wishes to review supply options. It was agreed that the Finance Committee should look at this and the Clerk was asked to research some information.

#### **16. Correspondence**

The correspondence list had been previously circulated. There were no further questions or requests.

#### **17. Items for future consideration**

There were no items for future consideration.

**19. Date and time of next meeting:** Annual Parish Meeting: 23 April at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall

Annual Statutory Meeting: 14 May at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

The meeting was closed to members of the public due to the confidential nature of the following agenda item.

#### **18. Staffing**

A confidential paper had been circulated to councillors updating them on the current

staffing issue and discussion took place.

**It was RESOLVED that** if no reply was received to the Clerk's most recent letter then a Staffing Committee meeting be convened to discuss the issue. The following councillors will serve on the committee: Cllr A Lidgett, Cllr P Harris, Cllr J Tydeman, Cllr D Boulding. The Staffing Committee is delegated authority to resolve the staffing issue rather than coming back to the full council. Proposed by: Cllr C Friend    Seconded by: Cllr E Cansdale.  
**Unanimous.**

Discussion then took place regarding future arrangements. **It was agreed** to purchase two new open top bins.

The meeting was reopened.

The meeting closed at 2125.

Alison Swannick  
Parish Clerk

Tel: 07783223450