

BIDDENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

APPROVED Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 11 June 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr T Lupton (Chair) Cllr F Chalk
Cllr D Boulding Cllr A Lidgett
Cllr E Cansdale Cllr H Ruse

Mrs A Swannick (Clerk)

3 parishioners attended

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from:

Cllr C Friend due to personal commitments
Cllr P Harris due to personal commitments
Cllr J Tydeman due to work commitments
Borough Cllr N Bell due to work commitments

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Chalk to the Council.

2. Parishioners' questions

A parishioner wished to object to planning application [13/00587/AS](#). The proposed development was very close to his home and whilst he did not disagree with the development itself he objected to the proposed site as there were other more appropriate sites available further away from the residential area at Woodlands.

The Chairman stated that he had received several telephone calls about the same planning application and had spoken to the council's lead on the Planning Committee. He noted that the parish council are asked for their views rather than to make a decision. This item would be discussed later in the meeting and it may be appropriate to organise a site visit in order to understand the impact of the planning application before making a decision.

3. Any Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

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 14 May 2013

The Clerk outlined the amendment that had been made and circulated to councillors

prior to the meeting. There being no further comments or amendments to the minutes, they were declared a true and proper record of the meeting. Proposed by: Cllr A Lidgett
Seconded by: Cllr D Boulding. **Agreed** by those who attended the meeting on 14 May 2013.

6. Matters for information not on the agenda

The Chairman stated that it was with regret that the Council had been notified of the death of Tom Richards. He had been a councillor for many years and was a representative on the Tenterden Rural Council and Ashford Borough Council. He had also been Mayor of Ashford at one point.

The Chairman proposed to write a letter to the family. The Council had been approached by the Kentish Express to make a statement and had done so acknowledging the role of Mr Richards in the parish over many years.

A celebration of Mr Richards' life is to be held at All Saints Church, Biddenden on 21st June at 1pm following a private cremation.

7. Report by Cllr Bell, Ashford Borough Council

No report.

8. Southside Pavement

Nothing further has been heard to-date regarding phase 2 of the Southside pavement. An email to Cllr Hill reminding him that the matter is outstanding has been sent.

9. Housing Needs

An email had been sent to Tessa O'Sullivan giving the Council's consent for her to approach the landowner of site 12 to see if they would be interested in selling the site, and then in order of ABC preference if the answer is negative. Tessa had requested the land registry documents and discovered that site 12 is split into 44 plots, each owned by different people, and this makes it too complicated purchase the land for affordable housing. She is, therefore, going to go back to ABC to ask for their next preferred site and asked the council if she had permission to contact the landowner. As the Council had already given its permission for Tessa O'Sullivan to contact landowners in order of preference should site 12 not be available, it was **agreed** that this request was granted and there was no need for it to come back to the council.

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

Car Park, Toilets and Post Office: The plumber has been called out to the toilets as the urinal has not been emptying and the toilet was blocked and the problem is now solved.

A contract cleaner was employed (Tenterden TC cleaners) whilst the PC cleaner was on holiday.

Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow: The parishioner has been advised of the action regarding the tree by the gate in the Jubilee Meadow as agreed at the meeting on 14 May.

Two items of correspondence have been received. The first querying the spraying around the seats, statues etc and the second complimenting the council on the Millennium Field. Both letters have been acknowledged and passed on to the Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow Working Group.

Traffic, Pedestrians and Footpaths: A speedwatch meeting is to be held on 12 June at 10.00 am with Cranbrook & Sissinghurst, Newenden and Hawkurst parish councils. The Traffic Pedestrians and Footpaths Working Group met on Tuesday 4th June to discuss speedwatch. The minutes had been circulated and were noted. The group made the following recommendation:

It is being proposed that Cranbrook & Sissinghurst, Newenden, Hawkurst and Biddenden parish councils could perhaps buy the speedwatch equipment between them at a cost of £500 per parish. Discussion took place regarding the benefits of speedwatch as not all councillors were in agreement. Each councillor was asked their view. Cllr Lidgett proposed that the Parish Council to make £500 available for this purpose. Seconded by: Cllr D Boulding. A vote was taken by a show of hands regarding Cllr Lidgett's proposal. The vote recorded was:

In favour: 5
Against: 0
Abstention: 1

It was therefore **RESOLVED** to make £500 available for the joint purchase of speedwatch equipment.

An email has been written to KCC Highways requesting that they fully investigate parish council boundaries and consult accordingly before work is due to start so that situations such as the A262 do not reoccur.

An email has been sent to KCC Landscape Services regarding the poor quality of the mowing/lack of it of the verges in parts of the village.

The order for the refurbishment of the village sign has been done.

The return of the jubilee stone has been chased.

It was agreed to discuss an item of correspondence under this agenda item:

4/6 Email from Kent Highways regarding a request from a member of the public asking that the triangular pieces of land - Cot Lane/Bush Lane and Wrens Nest be kerbed.

Maps of the position of three triangular islands had been circulated. The issue was fully discussed and it was **agreed** that the council did not support the kerbing of the

islands for the following reasons:

- a) It was not practical for farming
- b) There are no current safety concerns
- c) There are cost concerns
- d) Aesthetics

It was noted that potholes continued to be a problem.

Gordon Jones Playing Field and Play Area: It was decided at the meeting on 14 May that the Gordon Jones Playing Field and Play Area working group should meet with Biddenden Juniors to discuss the mowing. Biddenden Juniors have come back to say that Steve Reeves-Vane could meet with them Monday or Tuesday evenings or Saturday mornings. The Working Group would organise a meeting.

Quotations for replacing the bark in the play area are currently being sought. It was **agreed** the Clerk should review the quotes with the chairman and vice chairman, and proceed with placing an order.

Litter bins: It was requested that consideration be given to purchasing a new litter bin for the car park at the Gordon Jones Playing field and 2 other bins in the village require replacement. It was **agreed** that the Clerk seek quotes.

Confirmation has been received that the dog bins will cost £205 each including VAT to purchase and fit and an order has been placed.

It was suggested that the playground maintenance is restricted to adding bark and looking at the footholds on the rope climbing section in the older children's area and the rockers and seesaw in the toddler area, as well as weeding in both areas. This was **agreed**. The Council confirmed that the Working Group was happy to rake the bark into place.

Shaylers Fun Fair: The Clerk had received a telephone call from Mr Shayler asking if the Gordon Jones field could be hired for the funfair during the second week in September (9 – 16) Monday to Monday. They are happy to pay the usual amount and have been told that there will be an increase on that. **Agreed**.

Police Liaison: Nothing to report.

Planning and Local Housing: An email from Martin Vink at ABC regarding the new planning procedures introduced by the government allowing larger single storey extensions to houses to be built without needing planning permission was circulated to councillors.

A request from English Rural Housing Association was received requesting confirmation that applicants for a property in Sandeman Way did have local connections. A check was done and it was confirmed that the applicants had strong local connections, thus allowing a local couple to be considered for the property.

KALC: Councillors Conference - 13 July, Petham Village Hall
The Dynamic Councillor - 23 September, 6.30 – 9.30 pm, New Romney
Town Hall

Parish Forum: Nothing to report.

Recycling: The tin recycling bin needs emptying.

It was noted that the new recycling system will not make any difference to the recycling credits currently received by the parish council from ABC. The council had received an undertaking that this system would remain in place for the next couple of years, but it could not be guaranteed after that. A notice to this effect should go on the notice boards and in the parish magazine. The Clerk was asked to put a note on the notice boards, website and parish magazine to reflect this.

The Parish Council has received a cheque for £3899.46 in recycling credits for 2012/3.

Village Hall Management Committee: The Chairman and Cllr Lidgett had attended the AGM in their different capacities. The VHMC will be manning the Headcorn Car Boot Sale on 7th July to raise funds.

Community Led Plan: The final draft document has been produced. A final review meeting will be held at a public meeting on 18 June at which the final draft report will be presented. A further public meeting will be held on 10 July to launch the plan and celebrate its completion. It is hoped that the plan will be presented to the Parish Council for discussion and adoption at its September meeting.

Health & Safety: An inspection was carried out on 5 June and there were no issues to raise.

Allotments: Roadside vegetation by the allotments has been making leaving the site dangerous. BAA has confirmed that KCC are responsible and will hopefully be resolving the problem soon. An open day is to be held at the Allotments on 7 July.

John Mayne School: Mr Steve Brown has been appointed as Assistant Head Teacher. The Summer Fete will take place on 22 June.

The meeting was closed at 20:30 for refreshments and was re-opened at 20:50

11. Finance

a) **Approval of cheques for payment:** The payment schedule was presented and approved. Proposed by: Cllr H Ruse Seconded by: Cllr A Lidgett. **Unanimous.**

b) **Monthly Accounts:** The monthly accounts had been circulated and noted. There were no comments.

It was noted that the Reserve Account balance remained over £85,000 and the Clerk was asked to look at the terms of accounts in other banks.

c) **To Note the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 5 June 2013:** The minutes of the meeting had been circulated and the Committee's recommendations considered:

i) *Asset Register:* It was **agreed** that the litter bins should be recounted and the

insurance company advised of any amendments. **Agreed.**

ii) *Electricity provision*: It is recommended that given the analysis on costs of electricity provision to the Toilets/Post Office that the council switch supplier to Eon. Proposed by: Cllr H Ruse Seconded by: Cllr F Chalk. **Unanimous.**

iii) *Annual Return*: The Committee has considered and the Annual Return 2012-13 and the answers to the Annual Governance Statement as set out in item 4 of its minutes. The Committee recommends that the Parish Council agree and sign the Annual Return 2012-13. Proposed by: Cllr E Cansdale Seconded by: Cllr D Boulding. **Unanimous.**

12. Planning

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
13/00507/AS	Biddenden	Frogshole Barn, Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8EY Alterations to fenestration to all elevations, alterations to rear elevation & reordering of internal partitions and layout. Removal of chimney stack and replacement with two metal flues.	Support
13/00587/AS	Biddenden, High Halden	Woodlands Park, Tenterden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8BT To build an indoor swimming pool and clubhouse facility Commented as follows: Biddenden Parish Council support the concept of an indoor swimming pool and clubhouse facility at Woodlands. Given the mass of the building it is suggested that ABC carries out a site visit to see if alternative sites are available within the Woodlands complex which would have less visual impact on existing residents. Potential sites include the field immediately to the south of the proposed site.	Commenting

13. Correspondence

23/5 Email from Ashford KALC re Code of Conduct Training. It was agreed to purchase a copy of the training DVD

14. Items for future consideration

There were no items for future consideration.

15. Staffing

No applications have been received either from an individual or a contractor for the Lengthsman's position. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should draw up a detailed specification with Cllrs Lidgett and Cansdale.

The Clerk's appraisal was completed on 5th June. The Chairman briefed the meeting on the Clerk's agreed performance targets for 2013/14. There were no comments from Councillors.

16. Date of Next Meeting: **Community Led Plan**, Tuesday 18 June, at 7.00 pm,
New Hall
Parish Council Meeting, Tuesday 9 July 2013 at
7.30 pm,Village Hall

All Welcome

Note: There is no meeting in August

The meeting closed at 21:22

Alison Swannick 07783223450
Parish Clerk