

BIDDENDEN PARISH COUNCILfa

**APPROVED Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on
Tuesday, 12 January 2016 in the Village Hall, Biddenden**

Present: Cllr C Friend (Chair) Cllr A Lidgett
Cllr T Bizley Cllr S Parks
Cllr D Boulding Cllr E Stevenson-Rouse
Cllr E Cansdale Cllr J Tydeman

Mrs A Swannick (Clerk)
Cllr N Bell, ABC

3 parishioners attended.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr P Harris due to work commitments.

2. Parishioners' questions

None.

3. Any Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda

None.

4. Any changes to Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

None.

5. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8 December 2015

There being no comments or amendments, the minutes were deemed a true and proper record of the meeting. Proposed by: Cllr S Parks Seconded by: Cllr A Lidgett.
Unanimous.

6. Matters for information not on the agenda

The defibrillator order has been sent to KALC who are doing a bulk buy.

7. Report by Cllr Bell, ABC

Councillors have approved the Ashford Borough Council (ABC) draft budget and it will now go out to consultation. There is likely to be a council tax increase and it is assumed that it will be 1.99%. The Council tax charged by is still the lowest in Kent and is likely to remain so.

Parish boundaries are being looked at. Biddenden's boundaries have not changed. Borough council boundaries are now being looked at. Cllr Bell mentioned that there was S106 money due to BPC from the Sandeman Way

development. Cllr Lidgett mentioned that there may be some money due from a development at Stede Quarter. Cllr Bell agreed to look into the matter.

8. Ashford Borough Council Local Plan to 2030 - Site submissions for Biddenden

The parishioner feedback was presented at the last meeting. Nothing further has been heard. An email was sent to Simon Cole asking him what, if anything, the parish should be doing next, but no answer has been received to-date.

The Chairman stated that items 9, 10 and 11 would be taken together.

9. Model Publication Scheme

10. Risk Assessment

11. Business Continuity Plan

Councillors reviewed the above documents and **it was agreed** to adopt them with minor amendments made. Proposed by: Cllr D Boulding Seconded by: Cllr S Parks.

Unanimous.

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

Car Park, Toilets and Post Office: The urinal in the men's toilet has been unblocked. Repair to the urinal needs to be made and an alternative plumber is to be sought as it was not fixed as requested.

Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow: The remainder of the tree work is likely to take place in January/February as a cold spell is needed to get rid of the hornets/wasps.

Two quotes have been received to fill the potholes in the Millennium Field Car Park. Attached. After consideration it was agreed to accept the quotation of £1800 + VAT to include a layer of plainings as the lime filling recommended by the other contractor had not lasted well. Proposed by: Cllr D Boulding Seconded by: Cllr S Parks. **Unanimous.**

However, before work on the car park can take place, the Clerk was asked to contact VHMC to find out if the flooding in the car park was due to a blocked drain.

Traffic, Pedestrians and Footpaths: Discussion regarding the replacement of the stile behind Mansion House Close is ongoing. The Chairman gave the Clerk an email to contact

A meeting to discuss the traffic flow around the village green is to be held with Kent Highways on 14 January.

Gordon Jones Playing Field and Play Area: VHMC has increased its contribution towards the car park to £350 per annum and the cheque has been received.

Play Area: It was noted that under new laws and standing orders, the playground redesign would need to be advertised on Contracts Finder, a government website, as the contract value was in excess of £50,000. . **It was agreed** that the Clerk should do this.

It was agreed that any S106 monies should be put towards the cost of the playground.

The funding application to ABC has been submitted and the Chairman and Clerk will attend a panel meeting on 13 January to discuss the application.

The Big Lottery application is currently being completed. The offer of £5,000 from Cllr Hill towards the project has been formally accepted by BPC.

The contract for the mowing and maintenance of the Gordon Jones Playing Field is now due. Quotations from 3 contractors in addition to the incumbent had been sought. The Only two quotes had been received, one from the incumbent and one from another contractor. After careful consideration regarding the performance of the incumbent in recent years, **it was** agreed to try a new contractor and therefore the quotation by Countrywide would be accepted at £2800 + VAT per year. This would include 18 cuts to the playing field from March to the end of November. Proposed by: Cllr E Cansdale
Seconded by: Cllr A Lidgett. **Unanimous.**

Planning and Local Housing: Nothing to report.

Police Liaison and Neighbourhood Watch: In November 2015, 5 Crimes were reported:

Anti-Social Behaviour	3
Criminal Damage & Arson	1
Vehicle Crime	1

Police Surgery dates:

Thursday 28th January
Thursday 3rd March
Thursday 7th April
Thursday 12th May
Thursday 16th June

All the surgeries will be held at All Saints, Biddenden, and will be from 10am-11am.

A list of these dates is on the website and details will be put on the notice board and put in the Post Office.

Neighbourhood Watch: On 9/12 a councillor reported a man in a “white lab coat” around the village. Other people also saw him and it was reported.

3 and 4 January in Pook Lane, a white van was raided.

KALC: Nothing to report.

Parish and Urban Forum: Nothing to report

Recycling: This will appear in future as the Community Project Fund as the recycling fund has closed in line with the cessation of the Recycling Credit Scheme operated by ABC. A date for new applications will be set shortly.

Village Hall Management Committee: A production of Stones in his Pocket will take place in the village hall on Saturday 26 March.

The meeting was closed at 20.45 for refreshments and opened again at 21.00.

Health and Safety: Nothing to report

Allotments: Nothing to report.

John Mayne School: Christmas and January Newsletters attached.

13. Finance

a) Approval of cheques for payment were agreed. Proposed by: Cllr E Stevenson-Rouse
Seconded by: Cllr S Parks. **Unanimous.**

b) The accounts to 31 December 2015 were noted.

14. Planning – to note decisions and any plans tabled

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
15/01562/AS	Biddenden	Ibornden Farm, Frittenden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8LG Prior approval of proposed change of use of agricultural building to single dwelling house	Support
15/01270/AS	Biddenden	White House Farm, Hareplain Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8LN Erection of a double silage clamp	Support
16/00016/AS	Biddenden	Frogshole Farm, Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8EY Prior approval of proposed change of use of two existing agricultural buildings and land within its curtilage to a use as two residential dwellings	Support

15. Correspondence

Presented but no amendments or queries.

16. Items for future consideration

None

17. Date of Next Meeting: **Parish Council Meeting, Tuesday 9 February 2016 at 7.30**
in the Village Hall

All Welcome

