

## BIDDENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

### APPROVED Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 14 June 2016 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Biddenden

Present: Cllr C Friend (Chair)  
Cllr E Cansdale  
Cllr P Harris

Cllr A Lidgett  
Cllr E Stevenson-Rouse  
Cllr J Tydeman

7 Parishioners attended.

#### 1. Apologies for absence

Cllr T Bizley due to work commitments; Cllr D Boulding due to personal commitments;  
Cllr S Parks due to business commitments.

#### 2. Parishioners' questions

- The Football Club and its teams were congratulated at for their presentation day.
- The downpipe outside the squash club is gushing water onto the playing field. *The Clerk will contact the squash club.*

#### 3. Any Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda

No declarations of interest were made.

#### 4. Any changes to Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

None.

#### 5. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10 May 2016

There being no additional comments or amendments the minutes were deemed to be a true and proper record of the meeting. Proposed by: Cllr P Harris Seconded by: Cllr A Lidgett. **Agreed** by all those who attended.

#### 6. Matters for information not on the agenda

None.

#### 7. Report by Cllr Bell, ABC

Cllr Bell reported that the ABC draft Local Plan has been published and is now out for consultation for a period of eight weeks. At the end of the eight weeks any changes will be made and the document will go out for consultation again. An external inspector will come out and an independent inspector will consider any comments and government guidelines.

A residential site in North Street has been put forward for 45 homes (policy S27, page 126) and two permanent gypsy/traveller pitches (policy S43 page 161) have been put forward at Priory Wood. Cllr Bell felt that 45 houses on the residential development was too many and now that the site had been put forward he would be asking for it to be reduced to 20-25 as there is another scheme going ahead on the Tapley Meadow. He said that he would also try to get more benefit for the village from the North Street development such as a scheme to address the excess water and drainage issues on the recreation ground. The North Street site makes provision for a “community building” such as a doctors surgery. The document also outlines traffic calming schemes in North Street. The process is that a planning applications will eventually come through based on policies S27 and S43.

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

See agenda item 7. Above. **It was agreed** that a Planning Committee meeting should be organised to specifically discuss this issue.

**9. Annual Governance Statement 2015/16**

The Annual Governance Statement which forms part of the council’s Annual Return was considered by all councillors and the following questions replied to as follows:

- |        |        |        |        |        |        |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1. Yes | 2. Yes | 3. Yes | 4. Yes | 5. Yes | 6. Yes |
| 7. Yes | 8. Yes | 9. N/A |        |        |        |

Proposed by: Cllr E Cansdale      Seconded by: Cllr A Lidgett      **Unanimous**

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

**Car Park, Toilets and Post Office:** The defibrillator has been fitted, although it has been fitted on the back wall of the Post Office rather than the wall next to the disabled toilet. However, this does allow the CCTV to get a side view of any individuals using/touching the unit rather than the back of their heads. A price is being sought for a permanent sign to be put by the equipment on the wall and the wording was **agreed** as follows:

“The Defibrillator is for emergency use only. The unit is covered by CCTV and anybody seen/reported abusing the equipment will be reported to the police.”

A request for details of KCC approved contractors who can remark the white lines in the car park has been made to the Highway Steward. Reply awaited.

**Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow:** Natural England has been contacted again regarding the Mid-tier scheme.

The request for a memorial tree by a parishioner was made last October for their daughter. The request was **agreed**.

The council was advised that space is now limited for Memorial Trees.

**Traffic, Pedestrians and Footpaths:** An email has been received from Cllr Lidgett regarding a mini SID, and this was discussed. **It was agreed** that Cllr Lidgett should look at the grant scheme available relating to the mini SID and contact Cllr Hill and report back to the parish council.

The litter bin outside the village store has been smashed. A new litter bin will be ordered.

*Noticeboard:* Nothing has been heard from the third company written to for a quotation for refurbishment and new doors for the large noticeboard. The Chairman agreed to ask one of the companies to requote for the unit to be adapted so that only half the board was covered, allowing other notices to be placed on the open section. Cllr Lidgett agreed to look at further quotations.

It was reported that the stones under the lychgate were still collecting water and **it was agreed** that the Clerk should contact a contractor for a quotation to solve the problem.

**Gordon Jones Playing Field and Play Area:** There have been issues concerning the mowing contractor as the mowing of the playing field has not been done satisfactorily. After discussion **it was agreed** that the Clerk should write to the contractor giving notice that the current contract would not be renewed after twelve months and that prior to that the council would be seeking quotations. The contractor should be informed that they were welcome to re-quote. Proposed by: Cllr E Stevenson-Rouse Seconded by: Cllr J Tydeman. **Unanimous.**

Following a meeting with the FA and a groundsman at the playing field, a quotation had been sought for mole ploughing and slitting the playing field. **It was agreed** that the Clerk should ask the contractor to do the work. Proposed by: Cllr A Lidgett Seconded by: Cllr E Cansdale. **Unanimous.**

**Play Area:** Lars Laj carried out a site meeting on 2 June. The planned work will start on 11 July with completion on 24 July. Nothing has been heard from the Lottery application.

It was noted that the Church and Biddenden Juniors FC had very kindly made donations to the play area project and councillors formally thanked them. The Chairman would be writing to both donors.

**Planning and Local Housing:** Nothing to report.

**Police Liaison and Neighbourhood Watch:** There were 6 reported crimes in April 2016 according to Police UK:

Criminal Damage & Arson	2
Other Theft	3
Vehicle Crime	1

*Neighbourhood Watch:* A report was circulated to the meeting detailing several incidents:

- Theft of van and tools in Pook Lane
- Break-in in High Halden Road. Nothing taken but damage to gates and locks
- White car occupants acting suspiciously in Wagstaff Lane and Smarden
- Continuing scams eg telephone calls attempting to obtain card details
- White car in Fosten Lane going up driveways
- Theft of scaffolding and building equipment from Smarden Business Centre. Damage to lock-up
- Vehicle part stolen from parked vehicle on driveway in Spinners Close

**KALC:** Nothing to report.

**Parish & Urban Forum:** Nothing to report.

**Community Project Fund:** A meeting was held on 30<sup>th</sup> May and the following recommendations were made to local organisations:

Biddenden Village Halls & Sports Committee re seating rakes	£468
Friends of John Mayne School re Curling stones and target	£240
Biddenden Bowls Cub re replacement crockery and tablecloths	£100
All Saints Church re churchyard maintenance costs	£500
Tenterden and IofO CFO re defibrillator and equipment for Volunteer living in the village	£500

Proposed by: Cllr E Cansdale Seconded by: Cllr P Harris. **Unanimous.**

**Village Hall Management Committee:** Tom Lupton has taken over as Chairman.

**Health and Safety:** A report was circulated. Two trees in the Millennium Wood have been felled. The bench top has been replaced. The removal of the dipping platforms will be carried out by the MF & JM working group during the summer.

**Allotments:** Nothing to report.

**John Mayne School:** Mrs Sharon Lewis, the new Headteacher has been invited to attend a Parish Council meeting.

## **11. Finance**

a) Approval of cheques for payment. Proposed by: Cllr J Tydeman Seconded by: Cllr E Stevenson-Rouse. **Unanimous**

b) Note accounts to 1 June 2016. These will be done once the Annual Return is approved.

c) Annual Return. Councillors considered the Annual Return 2015/16 and **it was agreed** that the Clerk and Chairman should sign it and return it to the external auditor.

## 12. Planning – to note decisions and any plans tabled

As per schedule. Please note that under Decided Application 16/00514/AS which BPC put conditions for support on does not require prior approval.

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
<a href="#">16/00538/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>1 Church Cottages, High Street, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8AJ</b> Erection of ground floor partition wall, removal of first floor wall to airing cupboard and installation of new partition wall to create bathroom to first floor, relocation of bathroom door on first floor. Erection of a new roof and doors to external bin stores	Support
<a href="#">16/00709/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>Northstreet Farm, Headcorn Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8JA</b> Demolition and rebuild of north and south chimneys	Support
<a href="#">16/00714/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>Braceby, 62a North Street, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8AS</b> Erection of a twin bay oak framed garage	Support
<a href="#">16/00467/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>River Hall Oast, River Hall Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8JE</b> Erection of side extension to facilitate staircase to Oasthouse	Support
<a href="#">16/00738/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>Folk Meadow, Tenterden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8DW</b> Replacement of existing conservatory and alterations to external appearance of existing house	Support
<a href="#">16/00561/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>Holden House, Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8EX</b> Insertion of 2 no. dormer windows in side elevation.	Support
<a href="#">16/00773/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>Nimrod Farm, Ongley Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8HF</b> Prior approval for the associated operational development in accordance with prior approval 15/0004/AS (Prior approval of proposed change of use of an agricultural building to one dwelling house)	Support
<a href="#">16/00775/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>The Old Rose, 9 North Street, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8AG</b> Single storey rear extension	Site Visit Support
<a href="#">16/00840/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>Hemsted House, Mockbeggar Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8ES</b> Erection of a two storey rear (west) extension, porch added to the side (south) elevation, addition of an external door to the side (north) elevation and removal of internal walls of existing dwelling.	Object. Will affect historic character. More new house than old house
<a href="#">16/00841/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>Hemsted House, Mockbeggar Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8ES</b> Erection of a two storey rear (west) extension, porch added to the side (south) elevation, addition of an external door to the side (north) elevation and removal of internal walls of existing dwelling.	Object as above

**13. Correspondence**

There were no comments regarding the correspondence schedule.

**14. Items for future consideration**

Health & Safety Policy  
Press/Media Policy  
Ashford Draft Local Plan

**15. Date of Next Meeting: Parish Council Meeting, Tuesday 12 July at 7.30 pm,  
Village Hall**

*All Welcome*

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm

Alison Swannick  
Parish Clerk