

Biddenden Parish Council

APPROVED Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 1 October 2019 in the Village Hall, Biddenden

Present: Cllr J Tydeman (Chair) Cllr C Friend
 Cllr D Boulding Cllr A Lidgett
 Cllr E Cansdale Cllr J Montgomery
 Cllr M Clixby Cllr J Wright

Mrs A Swannick (Parish Clerk)

Borough Cllr Neil Bell

8 Parishioners attended

The Chairman welcomed Cllrs Clixby and Montgomery to the parish council.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr T Bizley due to work commitments
Cllr R Hunt due to personal commitments
Cllr G Latter due to personal commitments

2. Any declarations of interest in items on the Agenda

Cllr Wright re Agenda Item 13, LTIDP Working Group as there is a paper regarding the Tennis Club

3. Any alterations to Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

None.

4. Report by Borough Councillor Neil Bell, ABC, to Parish Councillors

Cllr Bell gave his report at 8pm as he had a prior ABC meeting. This item was taken later, between items 10 and 11.

Cllr Bell stated that he would be objecting to the application for dwelling to the rear of 17 Townland Close at the ABC planning committee meeting on 2 October as it was not in the local plan.

He spoke about the proposed developments at Beneden Hospital site. Not all Tunbridge Wells councillors are in favour of the developments as they feel it is too remote for a major development

5. Parishioners' Questions

None.

6. Approval of the unapproved minutes of the meeting held on 3 September 2019

There being no comments or additions, the minutes were deemed to be a true and proper record of the meeting. Proposed by: Cllr D Boulding Seconded by: Cllr E Cansdale. **Agreed.**

7. Any matters for information not on the agenda

Hedgehogs: Further discussion took place on hedgehogs and signs that could be put on Highways. **It was agreed** that the Clerk would contact the parishioner and state that whilst the parish council would encourage hedgehog safety projects, it could not commit to providing road signs as collision data along North Street and High Street, Biddenden shows no pattern involving hedgehogs or small animals or being the cause of collisions.

8. Traffic Issues:

- **Village Centre Road Junction:** Correspondence has taken place with Kent Highways regarding options for the village centre road junction. Councillors considered the options and **it was agreed** that a consultation within the parish should take place in November. Kent Highways would be contacted to get proper drawing done. A notice would be put up on the Biddenden Community Facebook Page, the parish magazine, BPC website and noticeboard. Cllrs Friend and Lidgett would work with Kent Highways.

- **North Street development road junction with North Street:** The planning officer was chased on this issue again but they are still waiting to hear and will chase the developer.

- **Castletons Oak Crossroads/Benenden Road:** A letter was written to Benenden Parish Council regarding their neighbourhood plan in relation to the crossroads and Benenden Road. A letter was also sent to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council in relation to its draft local plan consultation, and a request for a reduction of the speed limit on Benenden Road to Cllr Mike Hill. Cllr Friend stated that he would be bringing the issue up at the next Tenterden Forum meeting.

- **Other traffic issues:** None.

9. Housing

The ABC planning committee will be discussing planning application 18/01273/AS (Land to the rear of 17 Townland Close, application for 12 houses) on Wednesday 2 October. Requests to speak need to be made online during the morning of 2 October.

10. Telecommunications Mast

An update has been received from Shared Access. This has already been emailed to all councillors and to VHSC and the clubs on the Gordon Jones Playing Field. Shared Access have been asked not to allow UKPN vans onto any of the pitches as the grass will not stand this treatment given November weather, and also that despite the council understanding why and who is at fault regarding the disruptions, it is disappointed in the delays. They have also been made aware that any reinstatement work to the trenches is likely to require more work now ie new turf etc due to the delays. The pulling through of cables and filling of ducts will take place 20-23 November.

11. High Street – work caused by fire

Nothing to report.

12. Future of Post Office Building

The Planning Application for a change of use has been completed. A working group will deal with the applications and make recommendations as to who to accept as a tenant to the Parish Council. **It was agreed** that members of the working group would be:

Cllr J Tydeman (Chair)
Cllr E Cansdale
Cllr M Clixby
Cllr J Montgomery

Terms of Reference for the Working Group will be drawn up.

13. VHSC LTIDP Working Group

The letter approving the grant to VHSC was sent to as agreed at the last meeting. VHSC have sent an email regarding some available funding from the Football Foundation and this has been followed up with the Football Foundation asking if any of the projects that were listed in the email might be eligible for funding and also the procedure. The clerk has emailed them.

The council was asked by VHSC to arrange for the clearance of the area behind the squash club embankment fence. Two quotes were sought for the work, but neither contractor was able to do it due to the short notice given and therefore VHSC will arrange to clear the area required by the builders.

An updated schedule has been sent by VHSC and a proposal from the Tennis Club. **It was agreed** that the Tennis Club Proposal needed to be included within the VHSC LTIDP and should not be separate. The Clerk was asked to send the documents back to VHSC as they should be dealing with the Tennis Club. The documents must be discussed and dealt with as a whole by the working group.

14. Area in front of the church lychgate

A specification has been received from the church for the works required for the area in front of the lychgate. However, the land concerned is part registered and part owned by KCC. Cllr Friend agreed to look into the matter further and plans to be put forward for agreement by KCC and the Parish Council.

15. Working Group Reports

Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow: Strimming around the middle pond has taken place.

Traffic, Pedestrians and Footpaths: It has been suggested that another bin is required at the Footpath on Sandeman Way. ABC has been chased on the bin group's request for new bins by the garages in The Meadows.

The "Bin Group" had asked for a number of bins to be put by the Garages and in and around Glebelands. ABC have come back stating that following a site visit there was no sign of any rubbish, although it has been pointed out to ABC that this because the Bin Group had cleared it. Councillors **agreed** with the ABC proposal for an additional bin made to site a bin off the path in Glebelands.

An additional bin has also been requested for the footpath at Sandeman Way and details of this proposed placement are awaited prior to going back to ABC. Councillors **agreed** with this suggestion, and the Clerk would send details to ABC.

Gordon Jones Playing Field and Play Area: An update on the mast has been given under agenda item 10. The RoSpa report has been forwarded to Lars Laj to look at regarding any work required.

A meeting was held on 20th September to discuss the multipurpose track and a report provided by the group. New drawings were awaited.

Regeneration: Cllr Wright presented a document. **It was agreed** that the document should come back to the council at the November meeting to give councillors time to fully consider its contents. A new name for the working group to better reflect its work would also be put to the November meeting.

Community Project Fund: A notice inviting applications will be sent out.

16. Other reports:

Police Liaison: Police UK is still showing 12 crimes in July 2019. This was the same month reported upon at the September meeting.

The next Rural Police Forum meeting will be held on 24 October at 7.00 pm at Tenterden Town Hall. Please advise if you wish to attend.

Neighbourhood Watch: A number of scams have been reported at the Kent Conference. The South East is one of the biggest scam area in the country.

KALC: Nothing to report.

PO, Car park and toilets: Work on the toilets continues. The work is due to be completed in approximately two weeks. There has been an issue with the notice being removed from the ladies' toilet telling people its closed. The door is not locking and so people are using it. A new notice has been put up and the contractor contacted regarding problems with the doors.

CCTV in the car park is to be looked at further.

Traffic, Pedestrians and Footpaths: Nothing to report.

Village Hall Management Committee: Nothing to report.

Health and Safety: A report was circulated.

17. Finance

a) Payment List. The list was presented and agreed. Proposed by: Cllr C Friend Seconded by: Cllr E Cansdale.

b) Note accounts to 30 September/1 October 2019

The statements were not available for reconciliation by the date of the council meeting.

The Annual Return has been signed off by PKF Littlejohn LLP. Only one comment was received regarding not including transfers between the current account and reserve account in the annual return. However, this has been included for many years without comment as the accounting package includes them in its calculations. This will be looked at before the next Annual Return is due.

18. Planning – to note decisions and any plans tabled

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
19/01264/AS	Biddenden	22 High Street, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8AH Proposed replacement single storey extension	Support
19/01265/AS	Biddenden	22 High Street, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8AH Proposed replacement single storey extension and alterations to existing element to the rear; erection of stud work wall within existing kitchen area to create an enclosed utility room / ground floor WC, removal of existing partition walls and alteration to fenestration	Support
19/01273/AS	Biddenden	2 Ibornden Cottages, Frittenden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8LG Erection of 2 storey side and rear extension; single storey rear extension; conversion of existing outbuilding to incidental games room	Object
19/01301/AS BPC NOT A CONSULTEE	Biddenden	Worsenden Farm, Fosten Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8EL Application for prior notification of proposed agricultural development for the erection of an agricultural building for secure and dry storage of hay, straw and machinery	
19/01299/AS	Biddenden	Silver Birches, Tenterden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8BH Proposed 3 bedroom bungalow, replacing approved planning application, 18/00062/AS	Support
17/00258/CONH/AS BPC not a consultee	Biddenden	Land rear of Rose Cottage Farm, North Street, Biddenden, Kent Discharge condition 10	

19. Correspondence

There were no comments or requests for further information on the Correspondence List.

20. Items for future consideration

Budget; Precept

19. Next meeting: Parish Council meeting, Tuesday 5 November 2019

The meeting closed at 21.55.

Alison Swannick 07783 223450
Parish Clerk