

BIDDENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

APPROVED Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 2 April 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Old Village Hall, Biddenden

Present: Cllr J Tydeman (Chair) Cllr R Hunt
Cllr D Boulding Cllr G Latter
Cllr E Cansdale Cllr A Lidgett
Cllr C Friend Cllr E Stevenson-Rouse

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Harris due to personal commitments
Cllr Bizley due to work commitments

2. Any declarations of interest in items on the Agenda

Cllr Hunt stated that he had a personal interest in item 13 and the bowls club application.

3. Any alterations to Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

None.

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

Cllr Bell reported on an issue of two gypsy/traveller sites and applications for expansion in an area which is already quite substantial. A great deal of concern has been voiced. One site gained planning permission via delegated authority and that will now go to Planning Committee. The other has yet to be decided.

Discussion took place regarding the Cheeselands Playground. The current review of play areas is ongoing and the last report published was in 2006.

Cllr Bell stated that he was embarrassed by how long it was taking for development in The Weavers to take place. Hopefully it will be starting this month.

5. Parishioners' Questions

An issue was raised about the litter signs and the wording as the parishioner felt it to be patronising and the number excessive.

6. Approval of the unapproved minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2019

The minutes were deemed to be a true and proper record of the meeting. Proposed by: Cllr R Hunt
Seconded by: Cllr G Latter. **Unanimous.**

7. Any matters for information not on the agenda

Parish Council and Borough Elections: The elections will take place on 2 May 2019. There are details on the noticeboard and online advising residents how to stand for the parish council. They can, of course, contact the Clerk for details. The deadline for nominations is 3 April 2019 at 4.00 pm. Nominations must be delivered to ABC offices at the Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, by hand. Anyone taking in a nomination paper must ask for an Election Officer to come and collect it from them – do not leave it at Reception.

The Chair stated that two councillors would be standing down at the election: Cllr Philippa Harris and Cllr Edward Stevenson-Rouse. He thanked them for all their work during the years they had been on the council.

Biddenden Juniors are holding their club presentation on 8th June from 10.30 onwards at the playing field. Councillors are invited to attend. Please let the clerk know if you are able to.

The website is ready to go live and councillors have been emailed the links to view the new site. Councillors agreed that they were happy with the website and it could go live tomorrow, 3 April. Cllr Harris was thanked

for leading the project.

8. ABC Local Plan to 2030 – Site Submissions for Biddenden

Nothing to report as the Local Plan has been approved. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda until there are any matters to discuss.

9. Traffic Issues

- **Village Centre Road Junction** - The parish council submitted options to Kent Highways for them to decide whether any were viable and a meeting is to be held on 23 April at KCC to go through the options. Cllrs Friend and Lidgett will attend.

- **North Street development road junction with North Street:** The Clerk read out an email from ABC planning department regarding the current status. Discussions between KCC and Kent Highways are still on-going and a speed survey has yet to be carried out.

- **Castletons Oak Crossroads** – There are 40-45 houses planned for development over two sites at the Benenden Hospital site. This would be in addition to an existing planning permission for 24 units and the proposed refurbishment of 18 existing properties to bring them back into use there – making the aggregate of 87. Such development could well have the affect of increased traffic at the Castleton Oak crossroads and Woolpack Corner. Councillors agreed that a letter should be written to the Chair of Benenden Parish Council.

- **Other traffic issues:** None.

10. Housing

The issue of additional caravans at two sites in Hareplain Rd has been reported. The residents have spoken to Cllr Bell and requested a meeting with parish councillors. It was reported that a meeting with residents from Hareplain Rd had been held directly before the parish council meeting. They had aired their concerns regarding the gypsy/traveller sites and planning applications related to them.

11. Telecommunications Mast

An email has been received from Shared Access stating that due to delays with TEF (provider) the works scheduled for 8 April are on hold. Shared Access has advised holding off signing the BT wayleave agreement until a new date for the trenching, ducting etc is advised by TEF comms.

Shared Access has been advised of the Football Club's tournament on 1 June which means not only will all the pitches be required, but there will be a lot of people playing and attending, and also their presentation day. Shared Access will try and work around these.

12. High Street – work caused by fire

A meeting was held with Cllr Hill on Monday 25 March to discuss the scaffolding issue further. Cllrs Friend and Tydeman attended. Despite the council's efforts to get the design of the scaffolding changed, it was reported that nothing could now be done about it. The scaffolding had been put up in an emergency but without any consultation with the parish council and it was now cutting off the two halves of the village. The pavement on the southside is not suitable for those with disabilities, using pushchairs or motability scooters. There is currently no Lollipop person to help people crossing the busy A road. Cllr Hill agreed with councillors that the best solution would be a pelican crossing. Cllr Friend was asked to chase up the issues raised.

13. VHSC LTIDP Working Group

It was agreed that Cllr Latter would take over as Chair of this working group with immediate effect as Cllr Harris would be stepping down as a councillor.

The working group has been considering the Bowls Club Toilet Project. A working group meeting was held on 25 March and its recommendations were circulated and concerns relating to the toilet project detailed. These concerns were discussed and it was agreed that a meeting with Cllrs Friend, Lidgett and Friend and

representatives from the Bowls Club would be held directly after the parish council meeting in order to discuss concerns and resolve issues. If the working group agreed and any conditions agreed were satisfied, then the funding of up to £4000 could be confirmed by the Clerk to VHSC. Proposed by: Cllr C Friend Seconded by: Cllr G Latter. **Unanimous.**

14. Reports from Group Chairmen (if necessary):

PO, Car park and toilets: It was agreed that this issue be taken in closed session at the end of the meeting as it related to contractual issues.

The planning department has been contacted regarding a change of use of the Post Office and a reply is awaited.

CCTV: A quotation has been sought for additional cameras for the car park as only the toilet area is currently covered by the camera, and there have been several incidents where additional coverage would have been useful. The extension of the CCTV was agreed.

Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow: The Millennium Field car park has been resurfaced.

A complaint was received regarding the shooting of squirrels on the Millennium Field. Permission for one person to shoot vermin on the field has been given and in place for many years. The individual is fully licensed and insured. Notices are put up in two locations to inform walkers that shooting is taking place. Shooting only takes place when there are no leaves on the trees. A review of the risk analysis has taken place.

Traffic, Pedestrians and Footpaths: A complaint has been received regarding a new fence that has been erected across the footpath running to the side of Gram Spice just before the old railway line. A small style has been provided close to the stream/pond but there is no provision for dogs to get through. The matter has been investigated and it had been reported to KCC. The matter has now been chased up, so a reply is awaited.

A request for a crossing by the school has been made by a parent from the school. Her daughter was crossing the road when a car came up from the village green end and didn't slow down. Had the parishioner not been there to alert her then it could have ended rather differently. The parishioner has written to KCC, and councillors considered the issue. A pelican crossing has been mentioned to Cllr Hill.

Kent Highways have been contacted regarding the removal of the streetlamp outside Biddenden Place and the leaning lamp outside Orchard House. The light outside Biddenden Place was removed due to poor condition and rust, and this will be replaced towards the end of the year in phase 2 of their lighting works. The leaning lamp will be looked at once the hedge surrounding it has been cut back and a letter asking the homeowners to do this has been sent.

Gordon Jones Field and Play Area: The tennis court hedge behind the play area was due to be cut this week, but the contractor is unable to do it as it requires a chainsaw due to quite a bit needing to be taken off. Another contractor has been contacted to do the work as soon as possible.

A meeting took place between BPC, VHSC and the Tennis Club to discuss the lease. Minutes were circulated to councillors with their papers (see community project fund).

Police Liaison: Police UK is showing 0 crimes reported for January 2019.

On 22 March PCSOs Kate Richards and Luke Jones held a meeting at Tenterden Town Hall for Clerks and Councillors from the 19 villages they work in. The meeting was attended by Cllrs Cansdale, Lidgett and the Clerk representing Biddenden.

The aim of the meeting was to explain the work of the PCSOs. Questions and local issues were also discussed and the issue of parking in Cloth Hall Gardens was raised.

Also attending the meeting was a representative from Speed Watch who went through speed watch organisations, how it worked and took questions regarding the scheme and any issues.

The intention is for meetings with the PCSOs to take place quarterly. They are not able to get around to each

parish council meeting due to the sheer number and more than one taking place on the same night, so these meetings will provide a forum for discussion.

KALC: Nothing to report.

Tenterden Forum: Nothing to report.

Community Project Fund: The deadline for the next round of applications is 30 April 2019. It was agreed at the meeting with the Tennis Club that they could apply to the Community Project Fund for up to £500 to pay for netting as a temporary solution as a windbreak. Councillors were asked to consider this in advance of the deadline for fund applications because the start of the tennis season was imminent. Councillors agreed to this request and granted up to £500 for this purpose.

Allotments: Nothing to report.

Village Hall Management Committee: Report to be given at the meeting.

Health and Safety: Report attached.

Working Group Reports: Where appropriate

John Mayne School: A newsletter had been circulated.

15. Finance

- a) **Payment List:** The list was presented. Proposed by: Cllr R Hunt Seconded by: Cllr C Friend.
Unanimous.
- b) **Note accounts to 31 March 2019:** Noted.

16. Planning – to note decisions and any plans tabled

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
19/00269/AS	Biddenden	The Castletons Oak, Benenden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8DN Proposed demolition and replacement dwelling and outbuilding (Part Retrospective); existing vehicular access moved and alterations to driveway configuration; creation of acoustic bund and planting of additional native species trees along boundary	Support
19/00313/AS	Biddenden	Nimrod Farm, Ongley Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8HF Demolition of Existing Buildings and Erection of Single Storey Dwellinghouse with Garage and Holiday Let Addition (revision to roof design and fenestration as approved under 18/00841/AS)	Support
19/00318/AS	Biddenden	Biddenden Vineyards, Gribble Bridge Lane, Biddenden Application for prior notification of proposed agricultural development for the erection of a steel portal framed enclosed steel portal framed building for the storage of machinery, packaging and wine	Support
19/00319/AS	Biddenden	12 Glebelands, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8EA Removal of existing side elevation car-port and creation of new single-storey wrap-around side and rear extension, complete with new entrance porch	Support
19/00320/AS	Biddenden	Three Chimneys Stud, Hareplain Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8LW Variation of condition 2 of planning permission given under application 11/00290/AS, to allow for the stationing of no more than 3 caravans (2 static and 1 touring caravan).	Object

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
19/00342/AS	Biddenden	Old Dairy Cottage, Pook Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8JU Retrospective application for the erection of one storage building, one shed on site and siting of mobile home during construction of the Old Dairy.	Site visit organised with owner, but cancelled by owner. Object
19/00352/AS	Biddenden	1 Frogs Hole Cottage, Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8HB Variation of condition 4 on planning permission 17/00674/AS to allow part of the building to be used as ancillary annexe accommodation.	Support
19/00360/AS	Biddenden	Frogshole Farm, Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8EY Re-use and adaptation of redundant agricultural building into a single residential dwelling together with ecological, landscape and sustainability enhancements (part retrospective)	Support
19/00387/AS	Biddenden	Dullens Farmhouse, High Halden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8BF Proposed conversion of attached garage to form habitable space to include installation of proposed windows/doors within new opening and existing openings. Erection of proposed detached garage with home office above.	Support
19/00388/AS	Biddenden	Dullens Farmhouse, High Halden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8BF Proposed conversion of attached garage to form habitable space (including removal of internal wall and raising of valley to allow unrestricted head height). Installation of proposed windows/doors within new opening and existing openings.	Support
19/00404/AS	Biddenden	Ravenscourt, 60 North Street, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8AS Proposed rear single storey extension	Support

17. Correspondence

The list was noted

18. Items for future consideration

Annual Return

19. Staffing (closed session)

Postponed until next meeting.

Post Office (Closed Session)

Contractual issues relating to the Post Office were discussed and the notice period and terms agreed.

Councillors Friend, Latter and Lidgett (LTIDP working group) met with officers from the Bowls Club and VHSC in another room to discuss the Bowls Club toilet project application. The Chairman stated that if the LTIDP working Group was happy and recommended the work could start then the council would give permission. The Bowls Club were asked to clarify some items and to provide further information on others. The LTIDP working group would inform the Clerk of its decision.

- 20. Next meeting:** **Annual Parish meeting**, on 23 April 2019 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall
Parish Council meeting , on Wednesday 8 May 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

The meeting closed at 21:50

Alison Swannick 07783 223450
Parish Clerk