

## Biddenden Parish Council

### APPROVED Minutes of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 3 December 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Old Village Hall, Biddenden

**Present:** Cllr J Tydeman (Chair) Cllr R Hunt  
Cllr T Bizley Cllr G Latter  
Cllr D Boulding Cllr A Lidgett  
Cllr E Cansdale Cllr J Montgomery  
Cllr M Clixby Cllr J Wright  
Cllr C Friend

Mrs A Swannick (Clerk)

Borough Councillor Neil Bell  
PCSO K Richards

5 parishioners attended.

#### 1. Apologies for absence

None received

#### 2. Any declarations of interest in items on the Agenda

None.

#### 3. Any alterations to Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

None.

The Chairman stated that a report by PCSO Richards would take place before Cllr Bell's report.

#### ***Police Report – PCSO Kate Richards***

PCSO Richard outlined the special police event that took place over Halloween to prevent any related issues arising.

Advice was given to those who are away over Christmas, such as: close curtains; use timer switches; let a neighbour know.

PCSO Richards stated, once again, that if a crime has taken place please call CrimeStoppers or 101 unless a crime is taking place at the time of calling, in which case you should call 999.

Scams were also highlighted. There have been reports of people asking for money in villages and some people have given these individuals money and when they have tried to get the money back, they have discovered these people are not who they say they are. Some of the stories given when trying to get money have been "sob stories", and 9 out of 10 of them are scams.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Richards for all her hard work.

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

The draft budget has been put together and incorporates an increase of 5% . It is still the lowest council tax in Kent.

There are considerable budget pressures forecast for the next five years. ABC's property company has invested £26-27 million on property, which is being leased at market rate. These properties are not council housing stock. The company started buying single houses but have now begun to buy flats. They are also looking for land to develop. The ABC council

housing stock consists of 5-6,000 properties.

Cllr Bell stated that he would be opposing the Greenacres Farm Fishery application.

## 5. Parishioners' Questions

It was suggested that the parish council set up its own Facebook page and an offer was made to manage it on behalf of the parish council. Whilst the council was grateful for the offer of help, the council had already agreed not to have a Facebook page. However, **it was agreed** that the Clerk would produce regular bulletin for the Biddenden Community page. Minutes and other information remain publicly accessible at Biddenden.gov.uk.

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

It was deemed that the minutes were a true and proper record of the meeting. Proposed by: Cllr R Hunt Seconded by: Cllr G Latter. **Agreed** by those who had attended the meeting.

## 7. Any matters for information not on the agenda

a) The telephone box that is to be turned into a book exchange remains unfinished. It has been painted but there have been issues with the missing glass panes and these need to be fitted.

b) Cllr Boulding reported that an Accessibility policy was required for the website. **It was agreed** that Cllr Montgomery would work with Cllr Boulding to produce one.

c) Cllr Wright mentioned the need for badges/stickers at public meetings. **Agreed.**

d) Cllr Wright asked if the parish council could purchase a projector and screen. Cllr Lidgett stated that the Computer Club had one and that the PC could borrow it.

## 8. Traffic Issues:

- **Village Centre Road Junction:** A meeting with Cllr Hill and a Highways Officer will take place on 13<sup>th</sup> December and will be attended by Cllr Tydeman, Cllr Friend and Cllr Lidgett.

The consultation on the village green junction took place on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November. Parishioners were invited to view 4 options and to make their views known by writing them down and submitting them either by email or put them in the box provided. A Working Group meeting took place on 28<sup>th</sup> November to sort and analyse the comments made. The results were circulated. There was a poor turnout.

- **North Street development road junction with North Street:** Nothing further has been heard from the Planning Officer. Cllr Bell has been contacted. The issue will be raised with Cllr Hill.

- **Castletons Oak Crossroads/Benenden Road:** A reply was received from KCC, but nothing is to be done. This will be raised with Cllr Hill.

- **Other traffic issues:** A near miss on the High Street by the school has been reported and Cllr Hill has been made aware of it. In the absence of a Lollipop person outside the school and the lack of warning lights, which though present cannot be used by an untrained person. Lollipop people are employed by KCC and there has been a drop of 27 people.

Discussion took place about a pelican crossing, but it was suggested that a speed limit of 20mph in the High Street should be looked at together with flashing lights during school pick up and drop off times and a speed sign near Glebelands.

Three complaints have received regarding the new road layout at Bounds Cross road layout has been reported. The old two-way road markings remain although it is believed that these

may now have been removed. There is not enough signage and cars need to be made aware that they cannot just cross straight over the highway. The issue will be brought up with Cllr Hill.

#### **9. Housing**

It is understood that 8 of the 45 houses on the Millwood development are nearing completion and residents could be in by spring. The builders are continuously on site and building now and building will continue until all are built ie they will not sell then build the next batch. The S106 money situation needs to be kept an eye on.

#### **10. 2020 Meeting Dates**

The dates for 2020 meetings were presented and agreed.

#### **11. Telecommunications Mast**

The mast will be powered up and working in the next couple of weeks. The provider needs to put equipment in the box. However, the reparation works are delayed due to the heavy rainfall as the playing field is waterlogged. The contractor has tried to do the work but realistically they will have to come back when the playing field has either dried up or there is a cold snap. A report from the build manage is attached.

#### **12. High Street – work caused by fire**

It is understood that the oak beams and windows should be completed by 20th Dec and the roofers will come after Christmas to felt batten and tile the roof. Once this is completed the scaffolding should come down in the New Year.

#### **13. Future of Post Office Building**

The 1-3 High Street Committee met on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November. Interviews with prospective tenants were held and a decision made and minutes of the meeting circulated to councillors.

Letters have been sent out. The council's solicitors are now drafting leases and references are being sought.

#### **14. VHSC LTIDP Working Group**

An LTIDP Working Group meeting was held on 12 November. The minutes and recommendations are attached. The provision of public toilets on the Gordon Jones Playing Fields was also discussed at the meeting. This will go on the BPC agenda as a separate agenda item.

#### **15. Multipurpose Trail**

Papers had been circulated detailing all discussion relating to this project. The council had agreed this project previously and it would be moved forward. Discussion took place regarding materials.

Cllr Bizley agreed to contact Kent Design Studio to ask if they would get in touch with suppliers in order to obtain costings. Costings would be got for both options on the table, but the aim was to keep the trail simple. An update will be given at the February meeting.

S106 money would be looked into.

## 16. Area in front of the church lychgate

A drone was launched and took photographs of the area. These will be sent to the Clerk.

## 17. Group Reports:

### a) Working Group Reports

#### i) Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow (Cllr Friend)

Nothing to report.

#### ii) Traffic, Pedestrians and Footpaths (Cllr Lidgett)

Please see Agenda Item 8. A new bin is to be sited at the entrance to the public footpath at Sandeman Way. The new bin in Glebelands will also be put in shortly.

It was noted that the gate on the public footpath from Millennium Field had not yet been fixed.

#### iii) Gordon Jones Playing Field and Play Area (Cllr Bizley)

Please see the report on the Telecommunications Mast under Agender Item 11.

Repairs to the play area have been agreed with the contractor.

#### iv) Regeneration (Cllr Wright)

Cllr Wright updated the meeting. A questionnaire has been put in the Parish Magazine to recruit parishioners to focus group. It was agreed that a lockable metal ballot/suggestion box should be purchased by the Clerk. This would be placed in The Bakehouse and emptied regularly. The Clerk was authorised to reimburse herself for the cost.

Minutes and recommendations of a working group meeting held on 18 November had been circulated.

A meeting took place on 2 December with the Environment Agency to see if the Hammer Stream on the Cheeselands Playing Field is suitable for daylighting. Meeting notes were circulated by email.

Discussion took place regarding an overarching Open Spaces policy and **it was agreed** that Cllr Tydeman would draft a strategy for presentation at the February meeting. Cllrs Clixby and Friend would be consulted during rafting.

It was confirmed that the Working Group would not be able to commit to spend/spend funds without full council permission.

#### v) Community Project Fund (Cllr Friend)

Only two applications were made

Biddenden Tennis Club  
All Saints Church

£164.80 re additional fence cost  
£800.00 re ramp

Proposed by: Cllr R Hunt Seconded by: Cllr J Montgomery. **Unanimous.**

**vi) LTIDP (Cllr Hunt)**

See Agenda Item 14.

**b) Other reports:**

**i) Police Liaison/NHW (Cllr Lidgett)**

Police.UK is showing 8 crimes reported in October 2019:

Buglary	3
Drugs	1
Vehicle Crime	2
Violence & Sexual Offences	2

**ii) KALC (Cllr Hunt/Cllr Bizley)**

Cllr Wright wishes to attend the Health & Wellbeing Conference on 6 February 2020. More information is to be found out about this conference.

**iii) PO, Car park and toilets (Clerk)**

The work to the toilets has been completed an they are open again.

**iv) Tenterden Forum (Cllr Friend)**

Nothing to report.

**v) Village Hall Management Committee (Cllr Friend)**

The next meeting is 4 December 2019.

**vi) Health and Safety (Clerk)**

A report had been circulated.

**18. Finance**

**a) Payment List:** The list had been circulated. Proposed by: Cllr C Friend Seconded by: Cllr R Hunt. **Unanimous.**

**b) Note accounts to 1 December 2019:** The accounts were noted.

**c) Budget and Precept 2020/21:** The budget discussion was postponed to the January meeting. However, it was agreed that there would be a precept increase of 1%. This had to be notified to ABC prior to the next meeting. Proposed by: Cllr C Friend Seconded by: Cllr M Clixby. **Unanimous**

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

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
19/00505/AS	Biddenden	<b>Greenacres Farm Fishery, Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8EH</b> Proposal: Erection of new bailiffs cabin and siting of 4 holiday-lets on site (Amended description)	<b>Object</b>
<a href="#">19/01565/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>18 Chulkhurst, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8ED</b> Two storey rear extension	<b>Object</b>
<a href="#">19/01618/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>Old Dairy Cottage, Pook Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8JU</b> Proposed replacement of two existing prior approval buildings, kennels, mobile home & other buildings with two four bedroom dwellings with detached garages and biodiversity enhancement.	<b>Support</b>
<a href="#">19/01648/AS</a>	Biddenden	<b>Fairings, Tenterden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8BB</b> Conversion of existing garage to home gym and store with new roof.	<b>Support</b>

## 20. Correspondence

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

## 21. Items for future consideration

CCTV  
Financial Regulations  
Staffing – Annual Review for Cleaner  
Toilets on the GJ Playing Field  
Open Spaces Policy

## 22. Staffing

The annual review for was postponed until the January meeting. However a bonus of £30 was approved for the Cleaner.

## 23. Next meeting: Parish Council meeting, Tuesday 7 January 2020 – *All Welcome*

Alison Swannick            07783 223450  
Parish Clerk