

Biddenden Parish Council

APPROVED Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 4 June 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Old Village Hall, Biddenden

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

8 Parishioners attended.

In the absence of Cllr J Tydeman **it was agreed** that Cllr C Friend (Vice Chairman) would chair the meeting in his absence.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr J Tydeman due to personal commitments
Borough Cllr Neil Bell due to personal commitments
PCSO Richards

2. Any declarations of interest in items on the Agenda

Cllr Wright declared an interest regarding connection with the tennis club and its application to the Community Project Fund.

3. Any alterations to Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

None.

4. A written report was submitted too late to be read out at the meeting, but is detailed below:

“Firstly, Gerry Clarkson (the previous council leader) has been re-elected as council leader by the new council.

He was elected by the two largest parties, the Conservatives and the Ashford Independents although opposed by the Labour group.

Personally, as a result, in addition to having my Biddenden duties, I have been asked to run a portfolio of Finance, IT, Parish forums and the Compliance & Enforcement strategy.

And secondly, folk may have heard that Kent County Council are reported as having problems withdrawing £2-300m from an investment fund. I'd like to make it clear that Ashford Borough Council has no monies invested in this fund and is not connected to this fund.”

5. Parishioners' Questions

A parishioner stated that the obelisk by the first crossing was a traffic hazard. It had been replaced three or four times after having been blown over. It will be reported to Kent Highways.

A slippery road sign had not been removed and there were signs on the wrong side of the road about turning down Fosten Road.

There was a crossing at the recreation ground 40 years ago and it should be replaced. Cllr Friend agreed to bring this up. It was also reported by the parishioner that at that time PC Dave Handley made a lot of suggestions about traffic.

6. Approval of the unapproved minutes of the meeting held on 8 May 2019

The minutes have already been circulated for comment.

7. Any matters for information not on the agenda

Any items can be brought up under this item.

The telephone box repairs for the book swap scheme are still ongoing. The box has been painted and new panes of glass obtained, but they need to be fitted.

8. Traffic Issues

- **Village Centre Road Junction:** Nothing to report since the last meeting

- **North Street development road junction with North Street:** The parish council submitted its report to the MLM consultation by the due date. Nothing has been received yet.

- **Castletons Oak Crossroads:** Nothing further has been heard on this matter.

- **Other traffic issues:** Change at junction Headcorn Road and Frittenden Road

9. Housing. Nothing to report.

10. Telecommunications Mast

Shared Access has reported that a new works programme could be drawn up as the provider had sorted out the issue with the fibre. The current date for works to start is 22nd July, but a programme of works is awaited. Shared Access also advised the council to now sign the BT Wayleave, which I attach for consideration together with a copy of the council's solicitor's advice. **It was agreed** that the Chair of the meeting, Cllr Friend, should sign on the council's behalf with two additional points written in hand on the agreement that a) all cabling was to be underground and b) No alterations or additions to the mast without prior agreement. Cllr Friend duly signed the document for the Clerk to send off.

11. High Street – work caused by fire

Cllr Friend has been chasing up KCC regarding the unsuitability of the southside pavement as a main thoroughfare whilst the scaffolding and hoarding is up. However, an incident has been reported on Facebook, although nothing directly to the parish council as it does not monitor or run the Biddenden Community Facebook Page. Cllr Bell has taken up the issue with Cllr Hill and Cllr Friend has chased again, but the parish council had already identified such issues and have had meetings with KCC regarding the matter. Cllr Hill has replied saying he has personally taken the matter up with the Highways director and will let the parish council know what will be done as soon as possible.

12. Annual Return 2018/19

The Internal Audit has taken place and the Internal Auditor has signed off the accounts. Councillors considered Section 1 – Annual Governance questions. All questions were in the affirmative and it was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk could sign the document. Proposed by: Cllr D Boulding Seconded by: Cllr G Latter. **Agreed.**

13. VHSC LTIDP Working Group

The group has not met during the last month.

14. Reports from Group Chairmen (if necessary):

PO, Car park and toilets: The post office moved over to the village shop on 23 May rather than 21st. The building remains rented until the end of its lease period on 30 June 2019.

The Planning Application for a change of use is being completed and will be submitted to ABC once the Chairman/Vice Chairman has approved it.

The purchase order for the additional CCTV camera has been sent to Cllr Boulding, but information regarding costs for downloading information from locations other than actually in the car park is awaited.

A start date for the work on the toilets is awaited.

Details on a green charging point have been obtained and a meeting is to be organised with a provider to find out what is involved.

Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow: A meeting of the working group was held on 28 May. The minutes are attached and recommendations to the council are contained in them. Councillors went through the recommendations and they were agreed. Proposed by: Cllr R Hunt Seconded by: Cllr E Cansdale. **Unanimous.**

Traffic, Pedestrians and Footpaths: A consultation letter has been received on Footpath AT254, via Cllr Lidgett. **It was agreed** that the Clerk should submit a reply stating that 4x4 vehicles should not have access once open to the public due to the damage they cause.

An issue was noted regarding footpath AT17 and the need for a gate. The Clerk had looked up whose responsibility it was to put in a gate via the KCC website. It stated that it is the landowner's responsibility but that 25% of costs may be covered (usually by providing materials) if it is replacement of a stile or gate on a public right of way on landowner's land.

The hedging surrounding the leaning streetlamp outside Orchard Lodge has kindly been cut back by Cllr Friend. ABC has been advised they can now access it for inspection.

Gordon Jones Field and Play Area: Cllr Friend has now covered the graffiti on the climbing wall. The next RoSpa inspection will be carried out in July (date to be confirmed by PlaySafety).

Multipurpose trail: Cllr Bizley is holding a meeting with a contractor to walk around the field.

It has been noted that appropriate netting and supports have been put on the south fence of the tennis courts where the hedge was removed.

Police Liaison: Police UK is still showing crimes for March 2019, and only 2 were reported:

Anti-Social Behaviour	1	
Burglary		1

The next Rural Police Forum Meeting on Thursday 11th July 2019 at 19:00 to be held

at Tenterden Town Hall. Cllr Lidgett will be attending. Would any other councillor like to attend?

Nets were stolen from the tennis club together with posts, but these have been found. The incident was reported to the police.

Neighbourhood Watch: Cllr Lidgett updated the meeting on incidents that had taken place locally.

The Neighbourhood Watch AGM will be taking place on 22 June at Norton Knatchbull school. Representatives from parishes would be attending. Cllr Hunt stated that he would be attending.

KALC: Nothing to report.

Tenterden Forum: Nothing to report.

Community Project Fund. A meeting was held on Thursday 30th May and minutes and recommendations had been circulated to councillors. The recommendations were agreed. Proposed by: Cllr D Boulding Seconded by Cllr T Bizley.
Unanimous.

Allotments: All allotment rentals have been received. The BAA members have again asked for allotment agreements to be in more than one name. Changes were made by the council to allow one transfer to the spouse, civil partner of a deceased allotment holder if they worked on the allotment. The Clerk is finding out how other local parish council allotment agreements handle this issue.

Village Hall Management Committee: Next meeting is on 3 July 2019

Health and Safety: A report was circulated.

Working Group Reports:

Regeneration working group: Cllr Wright had been contacted by a representative from a company called Groundwork to look at improvements to open spaces. A working group meeting would take place shortly.

John Mayne School: Newsletter circulated.

15. Finance

a) **Payment List:** The list was presented. Proposed by: Cllr G Latter Seconded by: Cllr R Hunt. **Unanimous.**

b) **Note accounts to 31 May 2019:** As the accounts are only just back from the Internal Auditor the accounts will be updated and circulated. Correct details of finances were included on the Payment List.

16. Planning – to note decisions and any plans tabled

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
18/01513/CONA/AS	Biddenden	River Hall Barn, River Hall Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8JE Discharge condition 3, 6	
19/00575/AS	Biddenden	The Cow Barn, Cot Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8JD Change of Use of agricultural building into a car port, installation of a swimming pool and an extension to the existing domestic curtilage.	Support
19/00016/OLE/AS No consultees	Biddenden	Overhead Line at Common Farm, Hareplain Road, Biddenden, Kent This scheme includes the removal of several spans of overhead line, as shown on the attached plan.	N/A
19/00695/AS BPC not a consultee but a comment can be made on the portal	Biddenden	Spill Land Caravan Park, Benenden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8BX Certificate of Lawful Development- Proposed- Use of land for the siting of up to 130 static caravan units.	Object
19/00716/AS	Biddenden	Oakdene, Tenterden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8BL Rebuilding of incidental outbuilding/ workshop	Support
19/00718/AS	Biddenden	15 &; 17 High Street, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8AL Install stone slate weather protection cappings to the main chimney stack at 15 &; 17 High Street	Support
19/00719/AS	Biddenden	15 &; 17 High Street, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8AL Installation of a woodburning stove in existing first floor fireplace in 17 High Street, including the replacement register plates, ventilation grills and repairs as necessary; Install stone slate weather protection cappings to the main chimney stack at 15 &; 17 High Street	Support
19/00469/AS	Biddenden	COU – Agricultural to Dwellings Old Dairy Cottage, Pook Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8JU ** Prior approval for change of use from two agricultural buildings and land within its curtilage to two dwellings and associated operational development** DESCRIPTION CHANGE	Support
19/00567/AS	Biddenden	Full Planning Permission Old Dairy Cottage, Pook Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8JU Change of use of land from agricultural to residential and retrospective application for the erection of one storage building, one shed, kennel building and temporary siting of mobile home during the conversion of the Old Dairy (in association with prior approval 16/01048/AS)	Object
19/00749/AS	Biddenden	Summerhill Cottage, Cranbrook Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8ER Discharge S106 agreement on planning permission 88/02227/AS to allow use as an independent dwelling	Support

17. Correspondence

There were no queries or comments on the Correspondence List.

18. Items for future consideration

None.

19. Next meeting: Parish Council meeting, on 2 July 2019
No meeting in August

All Welcome

Alison Swannick 07783 223450
Parish Clerk