

Biddenden Parish Council

APPROVED Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 5 February 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Old Village Hall, Biddenden

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

6 parishioners attended

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr T Bizley – Work commitments
Cllr D Boulding – Work commitments
Cllr P Harris – Work commitments

2. Any declarations of interest in items on the Agenda

None.

3. Any alterations to Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

None.

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

Cllr Bell had given his apologies due to having to attend due to urgent council business. His report was read to the meeting.

"I've been in close contact with the planning officers and my expectation is that the Greenacres application (Greenacres Farm Fishery, Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8EH Erection of new bailiffs cabin and siting of holiday-let pods on site) will be recommended for refusal by ABC. (Applicants are, of course, able to appeal refusals to the planning inspectorate)."

"Could I also pass on my thanks to all our residents on the recycling front, once again? In addition to the borough being the top recycler in Kent, I can confirm that the number of Christmas trees recycled through the Pilgrim's Hospice scheme was a record 1,250 across the borough."

5. Parishioners' Questions

a) A question was asked regarding the village confines being extended to the north on Sissinghurst Rd and whether the 30mph speed limit would be extended to cover it. *The parish council will pursue this.*

b) The issue of potholes in the Millennium Field car park was brought up. *The council is aware of the state of the car park and will be looking into resurfacing.*

c) When will the work on the telecommunications mast take place, and please could the council liaise with the tennis and bowls clubs directly over dates? *The council agreed to do so. At the moment it looks like April but there are no specific dates as dates are currently being agreed between the various companies involved.*

The issue of the tennis club rear fence was discussed. They are researching an appropriate fence to replace their current rear fence. *The parish council had suggested that they apply to the Community Project Fund, but as it appeared that the cost would be larger than the fund normally donated, the parish council stated that this issue should be considered separately.*

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

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

7. Any matters for information not on the agenda

As previously advised, the Local Elections will be held on 2 May 2019. Changes have been made following boundary consultations. Biddenden will have the same number of councillors: 11.

The BT telephone box on North Street has been removed.

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

Nothing to report.

9. Traffic Issues

- **Village Centre Road Junction:** Cllrs Friend and Lidgett sent three further options for councillors to consider. These have now been sent to Kent Highways for their consideration.

- **North Street development road junction with North Street:** An extension has been agreed to allow the parish council to discuss this issue. A Planning Committee meeting was arranged to discuss the planning application on 29 January. However, this meeting was cancelled as it was discovered that some documents seemed to be missing from the Stage 2 Road Safety Audit. This was reported to ABC, who also were not in receipt of the documents, and the developers were emailed. Following discussion, **it was agreed** to request a site visit with the developer to discuss the matter further. It was also mooted that the 30mph limit be extended further up the road.

- **Other traffic issues:** None.

10. Housing

A housing association with homes in the village had allocated housing to a family with a strong local connection.

11. Telecommunications Mast

The BT Wayleave request discussed at the last meeting was refused. It was suggested that the fibre cable could use the same duct as the electricity cable since they were both servicing the mast. This has been agreed.

BT Openreach carried out a fibre survey on 1 February. Dates for the work are being looked at. A call was received from the engineer who was looking at some of the work taking place 15 or 24 April. Shared Access is now looking at dates and they are trying to do the work during the school holidays and will come back to the Clerk with dates.

A letter has been received from VHSC regarding the land leased to them and to the tennis club. A meeting is to take place shortly to resolve the issue prior to VHSC's next meeting. **It was agreed** that Cllrs Friend and Tydeman would attend the meeting on behalf of the parish council.

High Street – work caused by fire

The owner of one of the affected homes has been contacted and they have agreed to speak to the builders about access to the post box and the reason for the scaffolding to be put up so far out onto the pavement, leaving very little space for people to pass by. A request has been made for any actions affecting the High Street to be notified.

A report regarding the scaffolding has been made to Kent Highways following an inspection by the Clerk and Cllr Friend and he was currently in contact regarding the fact that the scaffolding was dangerous and split the village High Street in two. **It was agreed** that Cllr Friend would be the point of contact.

12. Village Confines

The revised map was put on the large noticeboard, the website, on Facebook and a note was put in the Parish Magazine. Very few emails have been received, but copies are attached of those that have replied. **It was agreed** to ask about the extension of the 30mph speed limit up to Bloomsburys and to add in the ten additional houses and access on the Millwood/North Street development.

13. VHSC LTIDP Working Group

Nothing to report.

14. Website

A meeting to discuss the quotations received and the specification for the website were discussed at a meeting held prior to the full council meeting at 7.00 pm. Cllr Boulding was not invited to that meeting as his company had submitted a quotation. All quotations were considered, but it was agreed to award the contract to Southern IT as their quotation was not only reasonable but best addressed the specification provided. **It was agreed** that a group including Cllr Boulding, Cllr Lidgett, Cllr Hunt and Cllr Harris would meet to go over designs and content.

15. Reports from Group Chairmen (if necessary):

PO, Car park and toilets: Details have been received from Tenterden Town Council of metal doors (email attached). This is something that has been discussed previously. **It was agreed** that Cllr Friend would obtain a quotation.

Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow:

Three requests for memorial trees have been made. **It was agreed** that these be passed to the MF and JM Working Group.

At the last meeting it was reported that the bridges across the stream in the woods were slippery. The footpath group has been contacted to rectify it.

Traffic, Pedestrians and Footpaths: See agenda item 9, Traffic Issues.

Information has been received from Tenterden Town Council regarding speed signs.

The byway between Woolpack Corner and Fosten Lane is in a bad state of repair, similar to the problems experienced with the recently reported High Halden byway. This is to be reported.

Gordon Jones Field and Play Area: Cllr Bizley has been in touch with a company to do a scaled drawing of the proposed multipurpose track. A reply is awaited.

Cllr Friend has been in touch with Lars Laj regarding repairs and maintenance issues in the play area and a consultant will be coming to do the work shortly.

Councillors reviewed three quotations for the grounds maintenance contract. **It was agreed** to accept the quotation provided by J. Oakeley, the current incumbent for a two-year period. The council and also the football club had been happy with his company's work and the prices quoted were the most competitive. Proposed by: Cllr A Lidgett Seconded by: Cllr E Stevenson-Rouse. **Unanimous.**

Police Liaison: Police UK is showing zero crimes reported in December 2018.

PCSO Richards came in prior to the meeting and made a report. She stated that the zero crimes were not correct. The amount of local rural crime had increased and that the rural policing team were involved, and patrols increased. She again urged parishioners to report crime either to 999, 101 or online, and not to just report it on the Biddenden Community Facebook Site. If crime isn't reported it doesn't get reported via official channels, then it doesn't exist on police records.

NHW: A poster has been put on the noticeboard regarding the Ashford Knife Crime campaign. This will run from 4-22 February 2019. NHW is fully supporting the campaign and will be joining a two-day event being held in County Square, Ashford on 21-22 February outside Costa.

An issue has been reported to the PCSO in The Meadows. A group of young men have been arriving at the garage area by car and gathering at the garages at the bottom of The Meadows. There has been litter strewn over the area. A resident picked it up and put it in black bags, which were subsequently slit, and the litter spread back out. There is also litter being thrown into the stream. Drug use has been reported as well. It has been reported online. A request has been put in for a litter pick in the area.

KALC: Nothing to report.

Tenterden Forum: A meeting was held on 30 January. It was reported that KCC had increased its portion of the Council tax by 3%. It was reported that 99 libraries in Kent will remain open.

Community Project Fund: Nothing to report.

Allotments: A vacancy has arisen, and this is being dealt with.

Village Hall Management Committee: Cllr Friend and the Clerk met with the Chairman of VHSC at the village hall to look at the archive room. It has been agreed that the parish council will buy two lockable cabinets to go in the outer room where the stage is kept. However, the parish council are asked to contribute to the work in the main archive area to remove the sink. The amount of the contribution is awaited. There will be an annual charge of £100 to store council archives. **It was agreed** that the council would agree to contribute to the work in the main archive area and pay an annual charge of £100 to store the council's archives. Proposed by: Cllr R Hunt Seconded by: Cllr C Friend. **Unanimous.**

Health and Safety: An inspection report was attached. The bridges and potholes will be added to the list.

Working Group Reports: None.

John Mayne School: The Newsletter had been circulated.

16. Finance

- a) **Payment List.** The list was presented. Proposed by: Cllr C Friend Seconded by: Cllr E Stevenson-Rouse.
- b) **Note accounts to 31 January 2019.** Noted.

17. Planning – to note decisions and any plans tabled

A parishioner has sent an email (below) asking that councillors reconsider application 18/01717/AS, **Greenacres Farm Fishery, Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8EH**, Variation / Removal of conditions 4 and 5 of 15/00449/AS - limitations of hours of use of the access and amenity buildings on the site. Councillors re-considered the application and **It was agreed** to object to it for several reasons:

- The access to the site is not suitable/adequate.
- There is no precedent set by other local fisheries to extend the hours.
- Extended hours would be detrimental to neighbouring residents.
- Extended hours is inappropriate in the light of subsequent planning applications on the property.

NEW APPLICATIONS TO ASHFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON TUESDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2019

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
17/00258/COND/AS	Biddenden	Land rear of Rose Cottage Farm, North Street, Biddenden, Kent Discharge of conditions: 4, 8(b) & 24	Site Visit
19/00008/AS	Biddenden	Stables at, Park Farm Oast, Cranbrook Road, Biddenden, Kent Proposed change of use and works of conversion of existing stables to holiday accommodation	Support
19/00034/AS	Biddenden	Hemsted House, Mockbeggar Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8ES Erection of a two storey rear (west) extension, porch added to the south elevation, changes to fenestration detailing on the side (north and south) elevations and removal of internal walls of existing dwelling (revision to the position of kitchen window in extension granted approval under 18/00658/AS)	Support
19/00035/AS	Biddenden	Former Stables, Clapper Hill Farm, Benenden Road, Biddenden, Kent Change of use of existing former stable building to form annexe accommodation and home office	Support
19/00079/AS NO CONSULTEES	Biddenden	2 Church View, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8EB Lawful development certificate - proposed - Conversion of loft space and rear dormer extension	N/A
19/00126/AS BPC not a consultee	Biddenden	Rose Cottage Farm, North Street, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8BA Application for prior notification of proposed agricultural development for the erection of two buildings for hay and machinery storage	N/A
19/0019/AS	Biddenden	13 Townland Close, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN7 8AR Proposed single-storey rear extension	Support
19/0012/AS and 1900013/AS	Biddenden	Barn at, Little Randolphys, Tenterden Road, Biddenden, Kent 1) Conversion of existing barn outbuilding to residential annexe for use in association with primary dwelling 2) Listed Building: Same	Support

18. Correspondence

There were no comments or requests regarding the correspondence list.

19. Items for future consideration

Model Publication Scheme

Risk Assessment

Business Continuity Plan

21. Next meeting: Parish Council meeting, at on 5 March 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

The meeting closed at 21:04

Alison Swannick 07783 223450
Parish Clerk