

Biddenden Parish Council

**APPROVED Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
Tuesday 8 January 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Old Village Hall, Biddenden**

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

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr P Harris due to personal commitments
Cllr E Stevenson-Rouse due to personal commitments

2. Any declarations of interest in items on the Agenda

Cllr A Lidgett due to an interest in removal of the hedge behind the tennis court as he contacted one of the contractors asked to quote.

3. Any alterations to Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

None.

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

Cllr Bell reported that KCC would not be following through on the village green proposals.

Aspire, the ABC team have been out and cleared the wall by Cloth Hall Gardens. ABC and KCC each own land each side of it but no-one seems to own the wall. It was agreed that a good job had been done.

Cllr Bell had received comments regarding the Cheeselands play area. It is owned by ABC Housing Department. The parish council has also received complaints about equipment. It is tatty and the area misused. Cllr Bell agreed to see what could be done about it.

Residents were thanked for their recycling efforts. The figures had risen from 44% to 56%. Ashford is one of the highest recyclers in Kent and 25th in the country.

A new cinema has opened in Ashford with a Travelodge and eateries. It is owned by Ashford Borough Council as a revenue stream.

5. Parishioners' Questions

A gentleman from a litter clearing and footpaths group stated that he had had some No Litter signs made. He explained that they would be fixed around the village. It would be discussed more fully under Traffic, Pedestrians and Footpaths.

6. Approval of the unapproved minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2018

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

7. Any matters for information not on the agenda

Due to the fire in the High Street, part of the pavement has been blocked off which has trapped the post box within the closed area. ABC are being contacted to put cones in the road to provide additional footpath as there is very little there and the post office is being contacted for a temporary post box.

A complaint was received regarding the state of the Cheeselands play area (see above under item 4). It has been described as a "metal, dangerous, seventies park with very little appeal. The roundabout is missing and the slide is dangerous.....there is often rubbish and beer cans." The issue has been passed on to Cllr Bell to look into as the park belongs to ABC, but the parish council does have an interest in it being a safe and pleasant place for children and adults to go. The council agreed that it should ask ABC about its last RoSpa check.

A parishioner has asked if his son-in-law could carry out metal detection on the Millennium Field. The council discussed

the issue in the light of there being a wild flower meadow and the digging up of metal required. The clerk would contact KALC regarding guidelines for metal detecting.

The subject of the BT telephone kiosk on North Street was discussed. There is currently no telephone in there but there is a light permanently on. The Clerk will follow this up with BT.

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

Nothing further has been heard.

9. Traffic Issues

- Village Centre Road Junction

Cllrs Friend and Lidgett will be meeting shortly to discuss alternative options.

- North Street development road junction with North Street

A reply to the council's email to the planning department on 31 October regarding traffic issues relating to the development has not been received. A chase up email has been sent and copied to Cllr Bell. A planning application had been received regarding the development. See under agenda item 18.

- Other traffic issues

An email from a parishioner asking to whom a reduction in the speed limit on the Headcorn Road should be sent has been received from a parishioner. A formal request was received. It would be sent on to Cllr Hill.

Enquiries are being made into speed signs. However, there are currently no suitable sites for signs.

10. Housing

Nothing further to report.

11. Telecommunications Mast

A meeting took place on 11 December to discuss the route of the cable. Changes were made and a new map showing the route is attached. A revised Wayleave Agreement has been signed to reflect this. Subsequently the owner of the mast wants to run fibre to the mast via BT Openreach. The wayleave agreement they sent was not clear as it detailed both the erection of three poles and overhead cable and ducting. **It was agreed** that the parish council would not permit any further digging of trenches other than those by UKPN or the erection of poles. The Clerk was asked to inform Shared Access of the refusal to sign the BT Wayleave agreement and ask if they could use the same ducting as UKPN.

Three quotations had been received to remove the hedge at the rear of the tennis courts. **It was agreed** that these would be discussed in closed session at the end of the meeting.

12. Post Office

No further information has been received regarding the post office move, but the Post Office has sent out consultation documents and these are available on the parish council website and in the post office.

13. Village Confines

A Planning Committee meeting was held on 2 January at 7pm in the village hall. The village confines were discussed. Changes were made and the minutes and a revised map is attached together with a copy of the original map for comparison for discussion. The maps were discussed, together with the definition of "village confines" and the reasoning behind the amendments made by the planning committee. **It was agreed** that a copy would be put on the website, on the facebook site, noticeboard and also in the parish magazine. Parishioners would be invited to submit comments.

14. VHSC LTIDP Working Group

The Bowls Club has now applied for planning permission for the new toilets in the parish council's name and this will come up under agenda item 18.

15. Website

The meeting to discuss the website quotations has been postponed as Cllr Harris, who has been involved with drawing up specifications and obtaining quotations, is unable to attend the January meeting. Therefore there will be a meeting at 7pm on Tuesday 5 February in the village hall, directly before the parish council meeting to discuss the issue. Cllr Boulding will

not attend this meeting as he has a prejudicial interest as he not only maintains the website but is quoting to build the new one. He will also be asked to leave the room when the discussion comes up during the parish council meeting.

16. Reports from Group Chairmen (if necessary):

PO, Car park and toilets: Further information about CCTV is awaited. No further information on the Post Office move has been received.

Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow: An incident of an out of control dog has been reported on the Millennium Field. Unfortunately, the owner was not identified by the complainant and so nothing could be done.

Traffic, Pedestrians and Footpaths: Cllr Lidgett to report on the current status regarding issues relating to byway AT254. A temporary prohibition order was requested but Cllr Hill said it was not possible, but he went to look at the byway on 16/1 and a solution was being looked at.

The issue of litter signs raised under agenda item 5 was discussed. He was a member of the Litter and footpaths group and David Frost was replacing Peter Whitestone. The parishioner asked if the council would reimburse the £95 for the cost of the signs. He was prepared to fix signs at no extra cost. He had identified sites. **It was agreed** to reimburse the money spent and for the siting of the litter signs to go ahead. Proposed by: Cllr R Hunt Seconded by: Cllr C Friend. **Unanimous.**

Gordon Jones Field and Play Area: Quotations have been requested relating to the grounds maintenance for 2019. The deadline is the end of January.

A quotation for work on the play area is awaited from Lars Laj together with a date to meet with the contractor.

The quotation for work on the matting has been chased up.

A meeting was held with Biddenden Juniors regarding the telecommunications mast and the possibility of one pitch being put out of action whilst the cables are being laid. A question arose regarding how the lorry delivering the mast will turn around without damaging the back pitch. It has been confirmed that enough tracking will be laid to cater for this and protect the pitch. A discount was given on this years fees as one pitch would be out of action for up to a month.

The tennis club wish to have a portaloo tucked behind the hedge for the tennis season. They have asked permission for a vehicle to park on the basketball area in order to empty the portaloo whilst in situ. Councillors asked for further details to be provided before a decision is made.

Police Liaison; Police UK has shows 0 crimes reported in November 2018.

NHW: Cllr Lidgett reported that there had been an incident at the village hall whilst the Yoga Club was taking place involving youths. The Yoga Club had been asked to report the incident to the police.

KALC: Nothing to report.

Tenterden Forum: A meeting will take place at the end of January – date to be confirmed.

Community Project Fund: nothing to report.

Allotments: Nothing to report.

Village Hall Management Committee: Nothing to report.

Health and Safety: See attached.

Working Group Reports: An update was given on the multi-purpose track. **It was agreed** to take the project further and get proper drawings done. Councillors were asked to agree to pay for the drawings. Proposed by: Cllr T Bizley Seconded by: Cllr C Friend. **Unanimous.**

John Mayne School: Newsletter circulated.

17. Finance

a) Payment List

The payment list was considered. Proposed by Cllr C Friend Seconded by: Cllr E Cansdale. **Unanimous.**

b) Note accounts to 31 December 2018

Noted.

Planning – to note decisions and any plans tabled

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	Object
18/01714/AS	Biddenden	Greenacres Farm Fishery, Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8EH Erection of new bailiffs cabin and siting of holiday-let pods on site.	Object
18/01765/AS	Biddenden	Gorse Farm, Pook Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8JJ Proposed replacement dwelling including part change of use from agricultural field to residential rear garden.	Support
18/01780/AS	Biddenden	The Forge House, 64-68 North Street, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8AS Proposed internal and external repairs following subsidence damage to include: repairs in/around windows; repointing; repairs to helibar; window/door adjustments; crack and render repairs; replacement of plasterboard	Support
18/01798/AS	Biddenden	Biddenden Bowls Club, Tenterden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8BB Replacement of existing portaloos on site with new building housing male, female and disabled wc and groundskeepers store	Support
17/00258/CONE/AS Parish council not a consultee	Biddenden	Land rear of Rose Cottage Farm, North Street, Biddenden, Kent Discharge of condition 5, Part discharge of condition 8.	Ask why not consulted
18/01811/AS	Biddenden	Land 320m north west of Castweazle Farm, Fosten Lane, Biddenden, Kent Construction of a pond for Great Crested Newts	Support
18/01849/AS	Biddenden	Wealden, Cot Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8JD Proposed single storey rear and side extension with first floor extension to the rear; proposed detached car port/garage/store. Demolition of existing outbuilding and replacement with outbuilding to serve as holiday let accommodation	Site Visit/Support

18. Correspondence

The Correspondence List was considered but there were no comments or requests for information.

19. Items for future consideration

Multi-use trail

The meeting was closed to consider quotations for hedge removal to the rear of the tennis courts. Members of the public were asked to leave the meeting.

Three quotations were considered in detail. The quotation from D&S Chestnut Fencing was selected.

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

All Welcome

Alison Swannick 07783 223450
Parish Clerk