

Biddenden Parish Council

APPROVED Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom on Tuesday 2 June 2020 at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllr J Tydeman (Chair) Cllr C Friend
Cllr T Bizley Cllr G Latter
Cllr D Boulding Cllr J Montgomery
Cllr M Clixby Cllr J Wright

Cllr M Hill, KCC
Mrs A Swannick (Parish Clerk)

No parishioners requested to participate.

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Hill to the meeting. He would be making a report after agenda item 4.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr R Hunt due to personal reasons
Cllr E Cansdale

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

No report.

Cllr M Hill, KCC

Cllr Hill addressed the Council. See the attached report

5. Parishioners' Questions

None.

6. Approval of the unapproved minutes of the meeting held on 5 May 2020

The minutes were deemed to be a true and proper record of the meeting. Proposed by: Cllr M Clixby
Seconded by: Cllr C Friend. **Unanimous.**

7. Any matters for information not on the agenda

The Bowls Club path resurfacing is a matter that is outstanding. Councillors considered the matter. The Clerk was asked to clarify that the path was on BPC land. The path however services mostly Club members (it is accepted that there is also entry onto the field at this point). **It was agreed** that the lower quote be accepted and that the bowls club be asked to make a contribution.

The Annual Parish Meeting will not be held this year. It had been hoped to hold it in at the beginning of June, but the last date that it could be held is 1 June and it cannot legally take place via Zoom unlike general parish council meetings. Parishioners are welcome to send any questions they may have to the Clerk.

It has been suggested that the council organise some form of Parish activity after lockdown is lifted to celebrate the opening of the High Street and the actions of all those volunteers serving the community over the period. Councillors were invited to put forward ideas. This will not take place before August.

Discussion took place regarding the scaffolding on the High Street. The Clerk was asked to contact the parishioners concerned and ask for an update.

8. Traffic Issues:

- **Village Centre Road Junction:** No updates have been received from KCC. Cllr Friend agreed to contact them.

- **North Street development road junction with North Street:** No further information has been received. The Clerk was asked to contact Millbrook homes regarding an update on the progress of the development.

- **Castletons Oak Crossroads/Benenden Road:** Nothing to report.

- **Other traffic issues:** There has been an accident on the A262 near Three Chimneys.

9. Housing: Nothing to report.

10. Telecommunications Mast

The reparation works on the playing field have taken place. The Grounds Maintenance firm has been asked to look at watering and looking after the seeded areas. They will attend 3 times per week at a cost of £30 each and water the areas, which the parish council will pay for by reimbursing VHSC. VHSC has agreed to this and will take a meter reading prior to watering taking place. Shared Access has been contacted regarding the chamber by the path to the tennis club as the tarmac has collapsed. They will return to fill the potholes in the top half of the Millennium Field Car Park, and it has been clarified that the contractors will be returning.

11. Group Reports:

a) Working Group Reports

i) Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow (Cllr Friend)

The lifting of the crowns of the oak trees has been completed and the paths will be mown. Danish oil has been bought for the wooden sculptures and the cost will be reimbursed.

ii) Traffic, Pedestrians and Footpaths (Cllr Wright)

A contractor has been asked to quote for turning the recreation ground sign the correct direction on the lamp post opposite Old Mill Court.

It has been suggested that the name of the working group name be changed to Traffic, Pedestrians, Cyclists and Footpaths. The issue was discussed. **It was agreed** that a meeting would take place *al fresco* and the name off of the group would be an agenda item and a new name reported back to the PC.

A letter regarding road works taking place on North Street in relation to the Millwood development.

Discussion took place regarding the old lamp posts in the churchyard and Old PO car park and why they had not been replaced when the others were. Ownership and costs to replace need to be considered.

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

The playing field was slit last year and sand is now being purchased to fill the gaps caused by the slitting.

iv) Regeneration (Cllr Wright)

A report was given. Further enquiries would be made to ABC to see what their plans

for the Cheeselands Playing Field are. It was agreed that a Zoom meeting would take place on Friday.

v) **Community Project Fund (Cllr Friend):** The football club have said that they wish to apply and their application is awaited. One other application has been received.

vi) **LTIDP (Cllr Hunt)**

Nothing to report.

b) Other reports:

i) **Police Liaison**

Police UK shows crimes reported in March 2020 as follows:

Violence and Sexual Offences	6
Burglary	1
Drugs	1

As agreed at the last meeting, a letter has been sent to Kent Police recognising the excellent work that PCSO Kate Richards does in the parish.

The PCSO Monthly newsletter had been circulated

ii) **KALC (Cllr Hunt/Cllr Bizley):** Nothing to report.

iii) **PO, Car park and toilets (Clerk):** The barbers remains closed until after 4 July. Nothing further to report.

iv) **Tenterden Forum (Cllr Friend):** Nothing to report.

v) **Village Hall Management Committee (Cllr Friend):** A Zoom meeting took place on 20/5/20. Cllr Friend updated the meeting.

vi) **Health and Safety (Clerk):** A report had been circulated.

12. Finance

a) **Payment List.** The list was presented and payments approved. Proposed by Cllr C Friend
Seconded by: Cllr J Montgomery

b) **Note accounts to 31 May 2020:** The accounts are still with the internal auditor.

13. Planning – to note decisions and any plans tabled

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
20/00562/AS	Biddenden	Little Omenden Farm, Biddenden, Ashford, TN27 8QP Erection of 2no Cart Barn style Garages and associated change of use of land to enlarge the residential curtilages for the 2no dwellings approved under planning permission 19/01739/AS.	Support
17/00172/CONB/AS	Biddenden, Tenterden	Buildings and Yard opposite Laurenden, Cranbrook Road, Tenterden, Kent Discharge of conditions 2, 3, 4, 5(ii), 8, 10, 12, 13 &15	Unable to comment but draw attention to objection from Environmental Protection

20/00600/AS	Biddenden	Great Omenden Farm, Smarden, Ashford, TN27 8QP Repointing external walls and repairs of internal wall cracks	Support
20/00603/AS	Biddenden	4 Church View, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8EB Loft Conversion with rear dormer with juliet balcony, two rooflights to front roofslope and new front porch	Support
20/00620/AS http://planning.ashford.gov.uk/Planning and input application reference 20/00620/AS	Biddenden	Hales Place, Cranbrook Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8DY Proposed single storey extension with associated LB application 20/00621/AS Proposed single storey extension with internal alterations to include addition of partition walls	Support

14. Correspondence

There were no comments.

15. Items for future consideration

Annual Return
Review of BPC Policies; terms of reference; Asset Register

The Clerk was asked to allocate policies for review.
Bench survey

16. Next meeting: Parish Council meeting, Tuesday 7 July 2020 – *All Welcome*

The meeting closed at 21:21.

Alison Swannick
Parish Clerk

REPORT BY CLLR HILL

Parish Council Update

1. KCC currently in both Response and Recovery phases of the emergency,

2. Response - much of the activity previously reported is still on-going.
 - Adult Social Care – carrying the main burden continuing the vital job of protecting our most vulnerable people. New responsibility in care homes where the government has asked local authorities to put in place the care home support plan, drawing on local resilience and business continuity plans.

 - Also heavily involved are our Children’s Services, their burden exacerbated by the ongoing problem of Unaccompanied young asylum seekers.

 - Emergency Planning team is embedded in the Kent Resilience Forum and remains heavily engaged on providing food and care for the shielded and homeless and recently acquiring PPE for a host of partners.

- Community Wardens have proved to be a most effective and flexible service providing help and support to a wide range of vulnerable people.
- Test and Trace – a new role for the Council to manage NHS test and trace programme cases in more vulnerable settings such as schools, prisons and care homes and to manage the hot spots.
- Kent Together continues to provide a single convenient point of contact for anyone in the county who is in urgent need of help. It is also the place to report any concerns about the welfare of someone else.

3. Recovery

- HWRC began reopening on Friday 15th May. The majority of sites are open 7 days a week and we have introduced a booking system to manage the numbers. Following an initial surge on the first evening this has settled down well and there have been no queues. HWRC have been reconfigured so that people using them can stay the requisite 2m of social distance apart.
- Country Parks and PROW – all 9 Country Parks and PROW are open and we have now reopened the car parks. In this glorious weather we have seen a very big

take up of both these facilities and we have had problems of litter and social distancing. However, this is now, I am pleased to say, settling down.

- Library Plans – all our libraries are currently closed in line with government advice but we are delivering a robust digital offer which has seen a 500% increase in new customers for these resources and a number of compliments from members of the public on how much they are enjoying the digital experience. We are expecting to start opening libraries in early July and we will be running a phased opening programme in the months ahead.
- Registration – currently we are conducting death registrations over the telephone and that is working well. However, birth registrations are halted as there are legal constraints on telephone registrations. Again, we are hoping to resume birth registrations in July and hope to recover the significant backlog within a couple of months.
- Schools – Primary Schools have started reopening and 118 schools were opened to relevant age groups on 1st June. The figures for 2nd June are not yet available but

the Director of Education was anticipating a figure of 250 schools to be open. KCC is supporting governors, teachers and parents to facilitate the return to school.

- Support for the voluntary and community sector – the VCS sector has been particularly badly hit by the Covid-19 crisis losing both earned income and donations. KCC has worked with Kent Community Foundation to provide grants and loans to ensure survival of many of these important organisations.
- Support for Businesses - Kent County Council, in collaboration with all the local authorities in Kent, has launched a dedicated business support line for coronavirus related issues, delivered by the Kent & Medway Growth Hub (<https://www.kentandmedwaygrowthhub.org.uk/>). The number to call is: 03333 602300. The authority is also informing those businesses that have taken advantage of KCC loans that a 12-month interest-free repayment holiday is available.
- Government has provided funding to develop Active Travel Plans Encourage walking and cycling and provide cycle facilities

- Supported Bus routes will be 100% on 1 Jun. Public bus service will be returning during June.
- Turner Contemporary is closed but providing a popular digital offer. Hoping to reopen in July.