

BIDDENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM ON TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER 2020 AT 7.30 PM

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

Mrs A Swannick (Clerk)

4 Parishioners attended.

- **Apologies for absence**

Cllr E Cansdale due to technical issues
Cllr T Bizley due to work commitments
Cllr R Hunt due to personal commitments
Borough Cllr Neil Bell due to technical issues

Apologies were accepted.

- **Any declarations of interest in items on the Agenda**

None.

- **Any alterations to Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests**

None.

- **Co-option of one councillor to the parish council**

There were two candidates for the co-opted position. Each candidate was invited into the meeting one at a time. Each was asked to give a brief detail about themselves and why they would like to become a councillor. After each had spoken, they were asked questions by councillors and then returned to the waiting room. Councillors discussed both applications. It was a difficult decision as both candidates were excellent. However, after consideration councillors decided to offer the co-opted position to Sara Newman, who will become a councillor with effect from 3 November. The council invited both candidates back into the meeting to receive the decision. Both candidates were thanked for their applications and for their time and the unsuccessful candidate was invited to reapply should there be another vacancy.

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

Due to technical difficulties at the start of the meeting, Cllr Bell was unable to attend but sent the following report:

- a) Once again, the staff at ABC are working flat out to get these schemes up and running and make sure the money goes to those who are in need.

- b) I've managed to secure funds for the replacement slide at the Cheeselands play area (its slightly under 2m whereas the previous one was slightly over 2m) and I've had to use my entire annual ward members grant to help fund it – however, I'm really pleased that this is proceeding well and look forward to seeing the new slide. Please note, the effects of the pandemic mean that all councils are extremely short of money, so I'm really pleased that we look to being managing to achieve this.
- c) With regards, to the Greenacres Fisheries application. I expect to oppose this and am particularly keen that the restrictions in place continue.

6. Parishioners' Questions

A parishioner wished to speak against planning application 19/0505/AS which was on the agenda for the ABC Planning Committee on 14 October. The planning application was discussed, and the Parish Council agreed to put in a statement objecting to the application as it had objected to it at all stages thus far.

A parishioner raised the issue of face masks not being worn in the village shop despite the shop asking people to where them and there was an incident the previous Friday. **It was agreed** that the Parish Council would put something out possibly in the parish magazine asking people to wear a mask and inform the PCSO asking him to look in. The Clerk was asked to go to the shop and speak to the owners to see how the PC might help.

7. Approval of the unapproved minutes of the meeting held on 1 September 2020

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

8. Any matters for information not on the agenda

Biddenden Consolidated Charity informed the Clerk that Philippa Harris's 4-year term as a representative trustee ends on 5th December. She is a PC appointee and is happy to continue. Councillors **agreed** to Philippa Harris continuing in this role.

The Parish Council laptop was purchased in July 2015. It is now getting slow and the battery needs replacing. It drops the wifi several times a day. Councillors **agreed to the purchase of a new laptop.**

A virtual meeting was held with WCCTV and the Clerk and Cllr Boulding attended. The aim was to find out about possible CCTV installation in GJ Car Park/MF Car park. This company can be flexible with payment and is used to dealing with local authorities across the country. The cost is likely to be £7000. However, before the council goes any further it must be clear what it wants and expects from a CCTV system. The council **agreed** to move forward and asked Cllr Montgomery, Cllr Boulding and the Clerk to meet and put a proposal together, seeking quotes.

There has been some correspondence regarding the Beech Lane signs which have gone up on what is commonly termed "Ongley Lane". After doing some research and asking the Biddenden History Society to look at old maps, it turns out that "Ongley Lane" never existed. The correct name of the name is Beech Lane which runs into Tripe Lane. As several residents have been querying this they will be informed of the situation and it is up to them if they wish to change their addresses. It was suggested that Beech Lane/Ongley Lane might be a solution.

9. Traffic Issues:

- Village Centre Road Junction: Councillors had been circulated with emails between BPC and Kent Highways. The Conservation Officer has been contacted regarding any permissions required to move the village sign and planting and her reply is attached. A consultation needs to take place and KCC have agreed an extension. More information may be found under the TPFC Working Group. A consultation was agreed.

- North Street development road junction with North Street: A letter from Kent Highways to ABC had been circulated. Councillors noted the suggestion of contacting the developer to contribute to a SID.

- Castletons Oak Crossroads/Benenden Road: The Speed Indicator has been removed at this junction and correspondence with Cllr Hill had been circulated to councillors.

- Other traffic issues:

- HIP – this was discussed and will be completed in due course.

10. Housing

Nothing to report. There has been an issue with a parishioner who requires more appropriate accommodation wandering in the area. This has been reported the Parish Council and Cllr Bell, who referred the matter to ABC for first steps.

11. Telecommunications Mast

The resurfacing of the top half of the Millennium Field car park has been completed. The area around the tennis courts has been cleared ready for seeding. An electrical inspection will take place by Shared Access contractors on 14 October from 0800 and will take approximately 5 hours.

12. Youth

Next steps to be discussed with Tom Swain.

The next three agenda items were taken together.

13. Review of policy for dealing with the press/media (Cllrs Latter and Wright)

14. Review of policy for Habitual or Vexatious Complainant Policy (Cllrs Latter and Wright)

15. Review of Working Groups Policy (Cllrs Latter and Wright)

The three agenda items above were agreed and the suggested changes made by the reviewers and accepted. It was agreed that Cllr Wright look at an Equal Opportunities policy as mentioned within one of the documents. Proposed by: Cllr C Friend Seconded by: Cllr J Montgomery.
Unanimous.

16. Group Reports:

a) Working Group Reports

i) Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow (Cllr Friend)

A site meeting was held on 30 September with those that were able to attend and a Zoom meeting was held on 1 October with those that were not to go through the draft minutes of the site visit to allow all members' input. Councillors had been circulated with recommendations. These were agreed. Proposed by: Cllr C Friend Seconded by: Cllr J Wright. **Unanimous.**

It was noted that the cost of maintaining the fields was going to increase as the gentleman who currently does much of the work is unable to do the work himself. . This was agreed and a sum of £5k be put in the budget.

ii) Traffic, Pedestrians, Footpaths, Cycling (Cllr Wright)

A TPFC meeting was held on 22 September, but unfortunately not enough parish councillors attended so it was not quorate. A MS Teams meeting took place on 23 September.

Much of the content and work covered by this group has been discussed and covered under Traffic Issues.

The Clerk was asked to find out about the situation regarding Streetlighting being handed back to the parishes, and details of the scheme are expected in due course.

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

The path to the Bowls Club has been completed. As requested at the last meeting the Parish Council asked the Bowls Club to consider increasing their £250 contribution to the £1800 ex VAT cost. They have paid £250 into the PC accounts.

Work needs to be carried out on the tennis club hedge in the play area (it is their hedge not the PCs). The parish council agreed to maintain this hedge some time ago. The brambles need to be cleared and it needs to be trimmed at the back to allow tennis balls to be collected. **Agreed.**

The hedge to the right of the tennis courts needs to be cut. **Agreed.**

The vegetation within the embankment fencing needs to be cut back and access to path around the squash club cleared. **Agreed.**

The RoSpa inspection of the play area has taken place and a report has been circulated to those involved in the play area. It was a good report with low/medium risk items.

iv) Conservation (Cllr Wright)

The issue of a replacement slide on the Cheeselands playing field is being dealt with by Cllr Bell. Cllr Wright gave a brief update of the status of projects.

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

A notice inviting applications has gone out.

vi) **LTIDP (Cllr Hunt)**

A request has been received from VHSC for the new village hall door. The Parish Council has budgeted £8000 for 2020/21. Documents had been circulated. **It was agreed** to pay the amount requested by VHSC for the doors within the document. Proposed by: Cllr C Friend Seconded by: Cllr G Latter. **Unanimous.**

b) **Other reports:**

i) **Police Liaison:** 14 Crimes were reported during August 2020. The “hotspot” appears to be the village centre:

Anti-Social Behaviour	4
Violence and Sexual Offences	4
Criminal Damage & Arson	3
All Other Crime	3

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

iii) **Old PO, Car park and toilets (Clerk):** Nothing to report

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

v) **Village Hall Management Committee (Cllr Friend):** Update to be given at the meeting.

vi) **Health and Safety (Clerk):** The inspection report is attached.

17. Finance

a) **Payment List.** Proposed by: Cllr G Latter Seconded by: Cllr J Montgomery.
Unanimous

b) **Note accounts to 30 September 2020.** Accounts to the end of August were noted as the statement wasn't available.

c) **Budget.** Any sums of money required by groups/committees should be notified to the Clerk for inclusion in the 2021/22 budget.

18. Planning – to note decisions and any plans tabled

19. Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
20/01153/AS	Biddenden	Orchardene, Frittenden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8LF Construction of proposed detached double garage, store and shed, and separate outbuilding to provide loggia, games/yoga room and guest accommodation	Support
20/00948/AS	Biddenden	23 High Street, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8AL Change of use from tearoom (use class E) to 1-bedroom property (use C3)	Support
20/01016/AS	Biddenden	23 High Street, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8AL Works of conversion to provide one-bedroom dwelling to include provision of staircase and internal walls	Support
20/01192/AS	Biddenden	Ashenden Farm, Bell Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8LD Demolition of existing agricultural buildings and erection of a detached dwelling (revision to layout and driveway on planning permission 20/00430/AS)	Support
20/01236/AS	Biddenden	Ibornden Farmhouse, Frittenden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8LG Erection of lake room sited within the rear garden of Ibornden Farmhouse.	Support
20/01303/AS	Biddenden	Broad Oak Barn, Great Batchelors Lodge, Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8EX Variation of condition 2 on planning permission 19/01364/AS (Conversion of a redundant agricultural building to a four bedroom dwelling and construction of detached car barn/bat loft) to alter fenestration detailing	Support
20/01309/AS	Biddenden	Ferndale, Cranbrook Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8DW Erection of a new dwelling and garage following demolition of existing bungalow (revised scheme to Planning Approval 18/00304/AS).	Support

New Tree Applications

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	
20/00201/TC	Biddenden	Mill Field, Tenterden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8BB T1 Cupressus - to fell, T2 T3 & T4 - Conifers - to fell, T5 Willow - pollard to 3m trunk, T6 & T7 - Willows reduce by 3-4 metres due to excessive lean over the pond, T8 Willow - to fell as dead, T9 Willow - reduce by 5 metres, T10 Silver Birch - remove as dead, T11 Willow - reduce back to previous cut points in order to maintain size and balance, T12 - Willow - reduce by 2-3 metres	Support

20. Correspondence

There were no comments or requests for copies of correspondence.

21. Items for future consideration

Review of procedures/policies
Budget
Electric car charging points

22. Next meeting: **Parish Council meeting**, Tuesday 3 November 2020 – **All Welcome**

This meeting is being held via Zoom. Please inform the Clerk by email: clerk@biddenden.gov.uk if you wish to join the meeting by no later than midday on Monday 2 November 2020.

