

Biddenden Parish Council

APPROVED Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 5 October in the Old Village Hall, Biddenden

Present: Cllr J Wright (Chair) Cllr M Metcalfe
Cllr T Bizley Cllr S Newman
Cllr A Kadinopoulos

Borough Cllr N Bell

Mrs A Swannick (Clerk)

1 parishioner attended.

In the absence of the Chairman, a vote was taken to allow Cllr Wright as Vice- Chair, to chair the meeting. There were no objections.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr R Hunt due to personal commitments
Cllr J Montgomery due to work commitments
Cllr G Latter due to personal commitments
Cllr D Boulding due to work commitments

It is with regret that it was announced shortly after the last parish council meeting, that Cllr Cansdale had passed away. She has been a councillor for many years, and was also Chairman, and had worked tirelessly for the village. She was a well-respected and well-liked councillor amongst her colleagues on the council and parishioners alike. Her funeral will be held at 2.30 pm on 20th October at Charing Crematorium. Donations to Kent Air Ambulance would be welcome and arrangements are through Fuggles in Tenterden. Family flowers only.

A minute's silence was held in memory of Cllr Cansdale.

2. Declaration of interest in item on the agenda

None.

3. Any alterations to Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

None.

4. Approval of unapproved minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2021

The unapproved minutes of 7 September 2021 were deemed to be a true and proper record of the meeting. Proposed by: Cllr T Bizley Seconded by: Cllr S Newman. **Unanimous.**

5. Matters arising from minutes of previous meeting

A communications meeting has been held and will be reported upon later in the meeting.

Further photographs of cars parking on or by the village green had been sent to Kent Highways. This was covered under item 10.

6. Matters for Information not on the agenda

It was reported that an article had been published stating that High Weald Academy will fully

close in 2022, and will become an SEN school. The Clerk had contacted County Councillor Hill and Borough Councillor Bell in addition to Damian Green MP. Staplehurst is a parish where many children will be affected, and the Clerk has been liaising with them to find out what will be happening. Helen Grant MP was trying to organise a public meeting in Cranbrook.

Several emails had been received from concerned and upset parents in Biddenden. Responses have been sent and the information that is available given. There is a Listening Period survey, and this has been posted in the Biddenden Community Facebook group and on the Parish Council's website. Affected and interested residents have been urged to complete it to give their views. **It was agreed** that the Parish Council would submit its views.

Cllr M Metcalfe was proposed as being the new parish council trustee to VHSC. Proposed by: Cllr J Wright Seconded by: Cllr A Kadinopoulos. **Unanimous**

7. Report by ABC Cllr Neil Bell

Cllr Bell stated that ABC officers would be visiting Chulkhurst regarding parking and access for refuse vehicles.

With regard to Gladman, ABC is unlikely to be making a decision before December. The ABC decision is unlikely to be the end of the matter as a Waites development was turned down in Tenterden and it is going to Appeal, so arguments for and against will be tested on that application.

Cllr Bell stated that he had been approached regarding holding a street market in Biddenden High Street. He asked BPC if it would hold a consultation, and he would be happy to support it.

8. Parishioners questions

A question was asked regarding whether a food bank was required in the village and what arrangements were in place in Ashford. Cllr Bell said that he would look into the Issue. The Clerk will ask neighbouring parishes what they have in place.

9. Planning

NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
21/01641/AS	Biddenden	Outbuilding, Birchley House West, Fosten Lane, Biddenden, Kent Conversion of barn to form dwelling [Revision to 20/01075/AS]	No Comment
21/01679/AS	Biddenden	Fernwood, Cranbrook Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8DY Proposed replacement dwelling and erection of an annexe.	Support
21/01711/AS	Biddenden	Whitehouse Cottage, Hareplain Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8LN Replacement outbuilding (garage) with detached annexe/home office.	Support

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
21/01544/AS	Biddenden	Weavers Barn, Cot Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8JB Erection of greenhouse and pole barn.	Support

10. Traffic issues

- **HIP & Working group updates:** Cllr Wright updated the meeting. The HIP is being put together for submission to Kent Highways, and Cllr Wright is liaising with the council's Highways Steward.

AT10: This remains an issue as the footpath has not been completed. Cllr Hill has seen the footpath and agreed to help BPC take it up with Ashford. A letter is to be written

- **Village Green Junction:** Kent Highways have been sent some more photos of cars parking on the double yellow lines and on the green itself. Vehicles that are parking on the new area of green by the junction are liable to a fine or prosecution on two counts. Firstly, as this area falls within the public highway boundary and the adjacent carriageway is furnished with double yellow lines, they are liable to a fine for parking in contravention of the no waiting at any time restriction. Enforcement of on street parking restrictions is managed by Ashford Borough Council (ABC). Secondly, the vehicles in question are likely to have driven along the footway to access the green and in doing so are committing the offence in law of driving on a footway. This offence has to be witnessed in progress by a Police officer who can then issue the relevant prosecution notice to the driver.

Kent Highways have asked to be kept updated on this issue as if it continues they can look at any possible mitigation measures, and these may involve requesting increased parking enforcement from the officers at ABC and enforcement by Kent Police.

Parishioners are to be asked via the Parish Update to send in any footage.

Due to the resignation of Cllr Friend there is a vacancy on the Working Group. **It was agreed** that Cllr Kadinopoulos would join the TPFC working group.

11. Millennium Field & Gordon Jones Playing Field

KCC (KCC/Natural England) has been informed that the Parish Council wishes to go ahead with the top pond restoration as agreed at the last meeting. The paperwork needs to be completed.

A request has been made for the paths on the Millennium Field to be mown again before it becomes too wet. There will also be some hedge work and strimming done.

12. Communications

- **Working Group:** A meeting was held, and an update was given to the meeting. Discussion took place regarding purchasing additional notice boards in MF and GJ car parks and bus stops.

13. - **Noticeboards:** Discussion took place regarding purchasing 4 additional notice boards in MF and GJ car parks and bus stops. A notice board has been found for outside the shop. The cost will be over £300. Proposed by Cllr S Newman Seconded by: Cllr T Bizley.
Unanimous.

14. CCTV

A meeting has been held with the Squash Club and VHSC. Cllrs Hunt, Montgomery and Boulding attended. **It was agreed** that the proposed licence and the Term sheet should be sent to the solicitors for them to look at and approve and be got ready for signing. Proposed by: Cllr T Bizley Seconded by: Cllr M Metcalfe. **Unanimous**

15. 2022: Biddenden Celebrates

The events below will all be taking place next year. Councillor Wright updated the meeting on these issues. She also attended a meeting initiated by Friends of John Mayne School to discuss celebrations for 500 years since foundation and reported on this.

- **Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee**
- **Centenary of the Maydes Village Sign**
- **John Mayne School 500 years since foundation.**

Mrs Rona Ashton was asked to join a group to discuss issues relating to the sign renovation. This issue was discussed in detail, and it was agreed that this matter will involve others from the Parish and not the Council alone.

16. Working Group Reports

- **Health & Safety:** A verbal report was given, and councillors had been sent the link to the RosPa Report. Any issues were to be sent to Lars Laj where appropriate and fixed.

- **Police Liaison:** Police UK is still showing the figures for July 2021, and these were reported at the September meeting. Attached is the PCSO's most recent report and newsletter. It was noted that this was PCSO Farnfield's last newsletter as he was leaving the police force and that his temporary replacement is PCSO Laura Langridge.

Discussion took place about E-scooters and the Clerk asked to put a note in the Parish Update.

- **Other Working Group reports as necessary**

Conservation Working Group: A meeting is to be held shortly via Teams.

17. Finance

The Payment List was noted and approved: Proposed by: Cllr M Metcalfe Seconded by: Cllr T Bizley. **Unanimous**

18. Any other business

- **Correspondence**

None.

19. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 2 November 2021 at 7.30 pm in Old Hall, Biddenden

The meeting closed at 10.20 pm

Parish Clerk
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