

6. Approval of the unapproved minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2021

The minutes were deemed to be a true and proper record of the meeting and no comment or amendments made. Proposed by: Cllr C Friend Seconded by: Cllr D Boulding.

Unanimous.

7. Any matters for information not on the agenda

Cllr Mark Clixby has resigned and the co-option notice has been placed on the website.

A parishioner has contacted the council regarding a memorial bench for her son. The papers are attached. **It was agreed** that the request be passed to the MF and JM Working Group to meet and decide upon a suitable site.

Southern Housing have had two properties for rental recently. Both properties have been advertised via the Biddenden Community Facebook page as well as Kent Home Choice.

The proposed sale of the garages at 1-3 Chulhurst was brought forward under item 7 from agenda item 18, Planning, **It was agreed** that the council would object on the following grounds:

The reasons for the objection are as follows:

- The Parish Council has been given very little notice to consider this.
- The local residents should be consulted on this and time given for appropriate consultation with them. The parish council has asked whether this has taken place but not received an answer.
- The danger here is that the site will attract developers who will cram more houses into an area with a lack of parking facilities. The sensible approach would be to remove the garages and designate the area as parking space or some other public space.
- It would set a precedent of removing parking facilities from the village in an area that could do with more.
- This could be viewed as an attempt to make money for ABC rather than considering its local residents.

8. Proposed development at East End, Benenden

Alex Simcox from the Friends of East End attended the meeting and gave an overview of the current position.

Emails have been exchanged with Southern Water regarding the sewerage system in relation to Castletons Oak sewage issues and asking for clarification regarding to possible emptying of sewage by Benenden Hospital into the Biddenden sewage system.

A letter was sent to the Independent Examiner and the Council has been sent a copy of his initial responses. He had asked Biddenden to submit detail of which properties in Biddenden should be included in a referendum.

After discussion, **it was agreed** to ask to be heard should a hearing be held and that the whole of Biddenden be included in a referendum as it is Biddenden that would be most affected by the proposed development at East End in terms of use of its roads, facilities, and amenities. The Clerk was asked to draft a reply to be circulated to councillors for comment prior to sending it. The deadline for responses to his requests is **5pm on 30th April 2021**. There is also a second phase of the TWBC Local Plan consultation which ends on 4th June.

9. Traffic Issues:

- Village Centre Road Junction

The village junction scheme has been approved and works are expected to start on 24 May. Kent Highways have been asked about the possibility of them providing a duct for electricity cable regarding a supply for electricity supply re Christmas tree lights etc. However, Kent Highways have come back saying the Northside would be better. **It was agreed** that Cllr Friend would look at the issue and go back to Kent Highways.

- **North Street development road junction with North Street:** Nothing to report. This item is to be removed from the agenda.

- Castletons Oak Crossroads/Benenden Road

An update has been received as follows:

“By way of a brief update on the casualty reduction scheme for the crossroads, I am currently working on the scheme proposal and drawing and should be in a position to share this with you shortly (by the end of April). I am sorry this will not be available for your meeting today.

In developing the scheme, I have analysed and considered all the available crash data (for the last 20 years) and the correspondences received in relation to the more recent events at the end of last year. I have also had new traffic surveys carried out which took place a couple of weeks ago. This should hopefully all contribute towards the development of a scheme aimed at addressing the crash problem at this crossroads junction, making it safer for those travelling through it and those living nearby.

I am working towards a late September/ October construction date – with the scheme design, safety auditing of the scheme design, potential traffic regulation orders, asset owner approvals and roadworks & contractor programming this is a very tight timescale but one that I will endeavour to strive towards.

I will email again with a scheme proposal hopefully by the end of April.”

The Clerk was asked to let Kent Highways know about the proposed development at East End as it may affect any planned scheme.

- High Halden Road

An email has been received from a resident that a car has crashed into some of the wooden posts by the side of the road. These need replacing. The Southern Water manhole cover still needs replacing and the Clerk will report it.

The traffic remains fast on this road and is annoying residents with hooting when they slow to enter their properties etc. An extract is show below:

- HIP (Highways Improvement Plan)

An article has been written by Cllr Wright and published in the Parish Magazine. A note regarding the HIP has been posted on the Biddenden Community Facebook page asking residents to participate and referring them to the plan and articles on the Parish Council's website. Suggestions and comments are being received.

10. CCTV

Three CCTV quotes have been received and had been placed in the shared meeting papers folder for councillors to read. The front runner appears to be Prism as there are no ongoing operational charges other than servicing. They were also the only contractor to visit the site. Cllr Montgomery and the Clerk have a Teams meeting with Mark Butterworth from the squash club next Thursday to discuss the possibility of powering the cameras from the squash club. Please read the quotes carefully as they are different in price etc. **It was agreed** that £10,000 was put in the budget. Approval was given in principle to go ahead if the costs were under the budgeted amount and there were no other issues. The Chair of VHSC was also to be consulted. Proposed by: Cllr J Wright Seconded by: Cllr C Friend. **Unanimous.**

The issue of lights possibly affecting visibility in the High Street car park was also to be mentioned to the contractors.

11. Electric Car Charging

The Clerk has looked at Electric Car Charging and had a meeting with another council who have recently put a system in. Goudhurst PC have also come back via email and their email was circulated. link. **It was agreed** that Cllr Friend should investigate the matter further. The possibility of having car charging at the GJ car park was also mooted.

12. Open Spaces Strategy

Work on the strategy continues. A further draft has been produced for discussion and various agreements and leases will be appended to the document.

13. Equal Opportunities Policy

The policy is being drawn up.

14. Social Media

Discussion took place both for and against having a parish council Facebook Page. It was agreed that a policy would be put together to allow for further discussion on the matter.

15. Sewerage system

See agenda item 8.

16. Group Reports:

a) Working Group Reports

i) **Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow (Cllr Friend)**

A meeting took place on 25 March with the lady from Natural England regarding their pond creation/restoration opportunity in Kent scheme. A lot of work would need to be done if the top pond were to be refilled and work would need to be done at the pond in the Jubilee Meadow. It was agreed that the MF and JM working group investigate and put forward recommendations to the parish council.

The school has said they do not use the pond as the planks on the platform are rotten. However, these have been walked over and they do not appear to be. It was agreed that the MF and JM Working Group will look at this and the pond area and will report back to the council.

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

The Footpaths group will not now be using the grant awarded by the parish council. They have managed to finance their book through sponsorship. There are added complications, and these were discussed. **It has been agreed** that should they wish to take the grant at a later date then they will be in touch.

Cllr Wright wrote to Cllr Hill regarding footpath A10. He has replied that he has contacted the PROW Team and the path is already on the programme list for future maintenance It will be reinspected and the prioritisation assessment reviewed in light of the latest report. £10,000 has been secured through the S106 contribution linked to the Millwood development and it has been agreed to provide forward funding for this work to take place as soon as possible.

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

There have been some broken posts by the zip wire. This has been removed and I will look at having it replaced. A bench needs replacement and the dips under the matting by the roundabout and slide need doing. This is a total of £680. A larch post would be sufficient.

iv) **Conservation (Cllr Wright)**

There was little report as information was still awaited from ABC.

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

A notice inviting applications has been put on the PC website and in the parish magazine.

vi) **LTIDP (Cllr Hunt)**

The work to the fire alarm/boiler access at the squash club has now been finished. This work was approved at the meeting on 1 December. The total that the council has been invoiced for is £1346.22. **It was agreed** to pay the amount into the VHSC bank account. Proposed by: Cllr R Hunt Seconded by: Cllr C Friend. **Unanimous.**

b) **Other reports:**

i) **Police Liaison:** 5 crimes were reported in February 2021

Violence & Sexual Offences	2
Other Theft	1
Public Order	1
All Other Crime	1

The March PCSO report had been circulated. The Clerk was asked to chase up the incident regarding motorbikes on the GJ Playing Field.

- ii) **KALC (Cllr Hunt/Cllr Bizley):** A planning conference will be held on 12 May 2021. Cllr Hunt indicated that he may like to attend but would confirm to the Clerk.
- iii) **PO, Car park and toilets (Clerk):** The disabled toilet had a blockage which affected the ladies toilet. The plumber has been out and fixed it.
- iv) **Tenterden Forum (Cllr Friend):** Nothing to report.
- v) **Village Hall Sports Committee (Cllr Friend):** A meeting was held on 10 March 2021. The next meeting will be held in June. The potholes in the MF car park had become an issue. Cllr Friend agreed to look at it.
- vi) **Health and Safety (Clerk):** The report had been circulated.

17. Finance

- a) Payment List: The list was presented. Proposed by: Cllr J Montgomery Seconded by: Cllr D Boulding. **Unanimous.**
- b) Note accounts to 31 March 2021. The accounts were noted.

18. Planning – to note decisions and any plans tabled

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
21/00382/AS	Biddenden	26 High Street, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8AH Minor repairs and internal re-finishing following a fire in the adjoining building.	Support
21/00390/AS	Biddenden	Castweazel Manor, Fosten Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8EW Main chimney stack repair and panel repairs on the north west elevation	Support
21/00421/AS	Biddenden	Washenden Manor, High Halden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8DA Rear Extension	Support
21/00422/AS	Biddenden	Washenden Manor, High Halden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8DA Rear Extension; Alterations to the fenestration.	Support
21/00428/AS	Biddenden	Cackle Hill Lakes, Headcorn Road, Biddenden, Kent, TN27 8JW Removal of Condition 3 (Holiday Let Accommodation) Variation of Condition 5 (Occupancy Restricted upto 6 weeks) to planning reference number 20/00965/AS [Proposed Use of the land for the Stationing of 5no. Residential Park Mobile Homes] to vary the Occupancy of the use to Persons over 55 years of age, or to an Occupancy for upto 11 months of the year.	Support. Vote taken 3 in favour 2 against
21/00484/AS	Biddenden	The Haons, Benenden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8DJ Demolition of existing outbuilding and replacement with a new Annex.	Support
21/00517/AS	Biddenden	11 Glebelands, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8EA Lawful development certificate - proposed - single storey rear extension	Support

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
21/00546/AS	Biddenden	Island Farm, High Halden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8JG Proposed single storey rear extension; enlarged porch; relocation of the existing staircase	Support
21/00547/AS	Biddenden	Island Farm, High Halden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8JG Proposed single storey rear extension; enlarged porch; relocation of the existing staircase; other internal alterations.	Support
18/01055/CO NA/AS Discharge of Condition	Biddenden	Whitfield House, High Halden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8BZ Discharge of condition 4	Support
18/01056/CO NA/AS Discharge of Condition	Biddenden	Whitfield House, High Halden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8BZ Discharge of condition 3a, b & c	Support

NEW TREE APPLICATIONS

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
21/00050/TC	Biddenden	East Wing, Old Cloth Hall, North Street, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8AG Repollard x3 Poplar trees at back garden boundary, also to repollard Ash tree in front garden, Conifer - To fell	Support

19. Correspondence

There were no comments on the Correspondence Lists.

20. Items for future consideration

Annual Return

21. Next meeting: **Annual Parish Meeting**, Tuesday 27 April 2021 – **All Welcome**
Parish Council meeting, Tuesday 4 May 2021 – **All Welcome**

Discussion took place regarding moving the 4 May meeting date in order to have a face-to-face meeting. Agreed.

Alison Swannick 07783 223450
Parish Clerk