

## Biddenden Parish Council

### **UNAPPROVED Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 6 July 2021 at 7.00 pm in the Old Village Hall, Biddenden**

Present: Cllr R Hunt (Chair) Cllr G Latter  
Cllr J Wright (Vice Chair) Cllr S Newman  
Cllr T Bizley  
Cllr D Boulding  
Cllr E Cansdale

4 parishioners attended.

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

Cllr J Montgomery due to personal commitments

The Chairman stated that Cllr Friend had sadly resigned from the Council. Ashford Borough Council had been informed and the process had now begun. He thanked Chris for all his hard work as a Councillor and Chairman over the years.

#### **2. Any declarations of interest in items on the Agenda**

None.

#### **3. Any alterations to Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests**

None.

#### **4. Approval of the unapproved minutes of the meeting held on 1 June 2021**

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

#### **5. Co-option to the Parish Council**

Five applications had been received for the two co-opted places available. Councillors considered all applications. Three applicants were present at the meeting, and they introduced themselves and answered questions. They left the room whilst discussion took place of all applications. Tara Aikman and Mike Metcalfe were selected as councillors and will take their place as councillors at the August meeting.

#### **6. Report by Borough Councillor**

Cllr Bell discussed the Gladman proposal stating that it was not a planning application. He explained about pre-determination and the need to be scrupulous in following a proper process.

Cllr Bell gave details of the ABC initiative to plant a tree for each resident over the next 3 years. He also spoke about the removal of covid-19 restrictions on 19 July. A question was asked about the recycling centre process possibly changing

## 7. Planning – to note decisions and any plans tabled

Councillors were aware that Gladman are proposing to put in a planning application for 50 homes at the land on North Street and they have been sending their proposals to residents and asking them to complete a survey. Thus far it is only a proposal, and no application has been made at the time of writing. Background to the previous planning application by Gladman on this land was given.

### New Planning Applications

Case No	Parish	Ward	Location and Description	Decision
<a href="#">21/01072/AS</a>	Biddenden	Biddenden Ward	<b>Plush Huts at, Little Hare Plain, Bettenham Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8LL</b> Change of use and conversion of the boathouse, together with associated single storey extensions and decking into a single holiday let and the re-purposing of one holiday let unit (currently two pods linked to a central tent style structure) into a single 2-bedroom holiday let unit. (amendment and changes to commenced application 17/00876/AS).	<b>Support</b>
<a href="#">20/01121/AS</a>	Biddenden	Biddenden Ward	<b>Weavers Cot, 14 Cot Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8JB</b> Proposed conversion to include roof extension and raised decking area; change of use existing outbuilding to form annexe and holiday let (dual use) along with bin store and plant room.	<b>Support</b>
<a href="#">20/01121/CONA/AS</a>	Biddenden	Biddenden Ward	<b>Weavers Cot, 14 Cot Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8JB</b> Discharge condition 3, 4	<b>Support</b>
<a href="#">20/01641/CONA/AS</a>	Biddenden	Biddenden Ward	<b>2 Ibornden Cottages, Frittenden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8LG</b> Discharge condition 6	<b>Support</b>
<a href="#">21/01157/AS</a>	Biddenden	Biddenden Ward	<b>Orchardene, Frittenden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8LF</b> Demolition of existing two storey and single storey extensions and construction of two storey rear and side extensions with single storey addition between.	<b>Support</b>
<a href="#">21/01190/AS</a>	Biddenden	Biddenden Ward	<b>Spill Land Caravan Park, Benenden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8BX</b> Lawful Development Certificate- Proposed- Use of land for the siting of up to 130 static caravan units	<b>Object</b> Plans not correct and work already taking place. Objections same as before
<a href="#">21/01121/AS</a>	Biddenden	Biddenden Ward	<b>Cheveney Place, 4 The Nightingales, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8HN</b> New Single storey rear extension, remodelling of existing roof at first floor, new open porch to side. New Flue	<b>Support</b>

Case No	Parish	Ward	Location and Description	Decision
21/01207/AS	Biddenden	Biddenden Ward	<b>Builders Direct The Old Beer Garden, 30 High Street, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8AL</b> The change of use of land and the construction of a single dwelling with associated parking, tree works, landscaping and other associated works	<b>Support</b>
<u>1133/AS</u>	Biddenden	Biddenden Ward	<b>Silver Birches, Tenterden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8BH</b> Change of use of land to provide two gypsy pitches to accommodate children at existing site	<b>No comment</b>

### TREE APPLICATION

Case No and Decision	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
<a href="#">21/00114/TP</a>	Biddenden	<b>Spill Land Caravan Park, Benenden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8BX</b> T45 Oak - Crown lift to approx 6m above ground level, T46 Oak - Remove 2 x lowest limbs (2m & 2.1m) & sucker growth. T47 Oak - Remove low limb @ 3.5m with lateral split. Remove pendulous limb to give a 6m lift above ground level. T48 Oak - Lift canopy, Trees numbered T45-T48 reason for works - access facilitation pruning to allow for installation of new mobile home units.	<b>Object</b>  The application relates to a planning application not decided upon. Work not required on all trees.

#### 8. Parishioners' Questions

A parishioner attended and showed a bag of nitrous oxide capsules that had been collected with some other drug related items which had been disposed of. Discussion took place and the Clerk was asked to inform the police. The parishioner was thanked for collecting the capsules and for bringing the matter to the parish council.

#### 9. Any matters for information not on the agenda

Overgrown hedges were reported going down from High Halden Road.

#### 10. Traffic Issues:

- **Village Centre Road Junction:** The roadworks are not complete and KCC had been asked when they would be finished. A reply had been received and the Clerk was asked to monitor it.

- **Castletons Oak Crossroads/Benenden Road:** A meeting was held on 8 with the Borough Councillor, Highways Officer and Cllr Wright. A report was written and circulated. Speed limit changes have been applied for.

- **High Halden Road** - Nothing to report

- **HIP (Highways Improvement Plan):** Meetings with various road groupings are being held and the plan being put together.

#### 11. **Proposed development at East End, Benenden**

The Chairman attended the public hearing on 25 June regarding the Benenden NDP and answered questions relating to Question 6 re Castletons Oak crossroads and Woolpack Corner

#### 12. **CCTV**

It appears that a licence is required to put CCTV in the squash club and a draft is being prepared by solicitors. Discussion took place regarding drug issues in the car parks. The police had been informed of such issues on previous occasions, but with the new information given it had become apparent that CCTV needed to be installed in the Millennium Field and GJ car parks and a new system required in the High Street car park. Councillors were extremely concerned with the discovery of needles and a small bag of drugs on the path to the school from the car park. The costs of the new CCTV were given by the Clerk, and **it was agreed** that the Clerk would ask for costs to be put on one sheet of paper by the supplier and circulated to councillors so that costs were clear and in one document. Once received, the Clerk should send a purchase order to the supplier to get the High Street system done whilst the licence issue was sorted for the other two car parks. Proposed by: Cllr D Boulding  
Seconded by: Cllr T Bizley. **Unanimous.**

#### 13. **Communications**

The Chairman has asked councillors to think about Communications and how the parish council can improve communications with parishioners. Cllr Wright has written a paper with her suggestions for discussion, and **it was agreed** that this issue would be postponed until the next meeting.

#### 14. **Electric Car Charging**

Cllr Friend attended a webinar on Electric car charging, and he had done some research. The information would be considered in the future.

#### 15. **Open Spaces Strategy**

A draft had been circulated. It would be brought back for discussion at another meeting.

#### 16. **Maintenance of KCC land**

The Parish Council currently cuts the grass on the west side of Tenterden Road and north Street from GJ Playing Field to Cloth Hall Gardens, the Village Green and the grass verges in the High Street. These areas are KCC Land. An email was received from KCC asking the council about mowing and offering to work with the council to sort it out. Currently KCC don't cut the grass as it is noted on their records that a third-party cuts it. Information had been circulated to councillors and the Clerk was asked to speak to KCC to find out what options were available.

#### 17. **Cheeselands playing field**

Councillors are asked to consider whether they wish to take over the maintenance of the Cheeselands playing field ie devolving the management of Cheeselands over to BPC from ABC Housing department. **It was agreed** that the matter needed further investigation before it could be considered.

## 18. Social Media

Social Media will be discussed within the Communication discussion.

## 19. Group Reports

### a) Working Group Reports

i) Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow (Cllr Friend)

The paths on the Millennium Field have now been mown.

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

HIP, village green ongoing and that KCC will be informed of hedges needing attention between Village and High Halden Rd.

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

The multipurpose trail will be discussed at the next meeting.

iv) **Conservation (Cllr Wright)**

Cllr Wright would like to propose that Liz Finn-Kelcey be co-opted to the Conservation Working Group. **Agreed.**

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

There is still an application outstanding. This is to be brought forward at the next parish council meeting.

vi) **LTIDP (Cllr Hunt)**

Nothing to report.

b) Other reports:

i) **Police Liaison:** There were 12 crimes reported for May 2021

Violence & Sexual Offences	6
Vehicle Crime	3
Public Order	2
Criminal Damage & Arson	1

ii) **KALC (Cllr Hunt/Cllr Bizley)**

- iii) **Barbers, Car park and toilets (Clerk):** A quote of £300 for filling in the Pothole at the entrance to the car park has been received. This work will need to be carried out but as the tarmac must be ordered in a minimum quantity **it was agreed** to get a quote for filling in holes in the GJ car park.
- iv) **Tenterden Forum:** Nothing to report.
- v) **Village Hall Sports Committee:** Cllr Friend has informed VHSC of his resignation and a replacement for him will be sought in due course
- vi) **Health and Safety (Clerk):** A report was circulated.

## 20. Finance

- a) Payment List Proposed by: Cllr J Wright Seconded by: Cllr G Latter. **Unanimous**
- b) Note accounts to 1 July 2021
- c) Annual Return: Councillors went through the Annual Return and agreed Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR form and it was **agreed** and duly signed. Proposed by: Cllr T Bizley Seconded by: Cllr E Cansdale. **Unanimous**

## 21. Correspondence

There was no correspondence list due to the technical problems experienced with laptops.

## 22. Items for future consideration

- 23. Next meeting: **Parish Council meeting/Planning Meeting**, Tuesday 3 August 2021 – **All Welcome**

Alison Swannick                      07783 223450  
Parish Clerk