

Biddenden Parish Council

APPROVED Minutes of the Paris Council meeting held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 7 September 2021 in the Old Village Hall, Biddenden.

Present: Cllr R Hunt (Chair) Cllr E Cansdale
Cllr T Aikman Cllr G Latter
Cllr T Bizley Cllr M Metcalfe
Cllr D Boulding Cllr J Wright

4 parishioners attended

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr G Latter due to personal commitments
Cllr J Montgomery due to personal commitments.

2. Declaration of interest in item on the agenda

Cllr D Boulding regarding a payment on the payment list.

3. Any alterations to Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

None

4. Approval of unapproved minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 11 August 2021 had been circulated. They were deemed to be a true and proper record of the meeting. Proposed by: Cllr T Bizley
Seconded by: Cllr J Wright **Unanimous.**

5. Matters arising from minutes of previous meeting

Benches: Both parishioners have been contacted about the benches. Fundraising for the bench in the High Street will not be starting until Spring 2022. The council's proposed siting of the bench by the Rectory fence is not where they would like to see the bench so there may need to be further discussion.

6. Matters for Information not on the agenda

There is a consultation in progress by KCC regarding the booking system to visit the Waste and Recycling Centre. Deadline: 30 September 2021. [Booking to visit a Kent Household Waste Recycling Centre | Let's talk Kent](#)

Cllrs Hunt and Wright will attend the Local Council Forum on 13 September

7. Co-option of councillor

This is the selection process for the co-option of a councillor to replace Cllr Friend. There were three applications. Only two applicants were able to attend, and each candidate addressed the meeting and were asked questions. Councillors selected Mr Alex Kadinopoulos as the co-opted councillor.

8. Report by ABC Cllr Neil Bell

Cllr Bell sent his apologies as he is unwell. He submitted the report detailed below.

With regards to Gladman, residents should be reassured that their comments will indeed be processed and noted in the planning process, but the large number of comments means that this is taking some time.

“The sheer volume of objections is hugely impressive, and I'd like my thanks to everyone in Biddenden be noted in the minutes.

With regards to the Cheeselands play area damage, the supplier has been contacted, who have already requested urgent work from their contractor. The cost is covered by warranty. Nonetheless ABC will also get a quote to prevent excessive delay.

With regards to the AT10 path from Fuller's Way into the village, I've again contacted the cabinet member for Highways at KCC and am actively chasing this.”

9. Parishioners' questions

A question was asked about Communication. A brief discussion about improving communications was had, but Communications was already an agenda item under item 13, so would be discussed more fully during the meeting.

The second question was regarding the village green. Vehicles continue to park on the cobble bits and on the green. The Parish Council is in touch with Kent Highways and is monitoring the situation with a view to looking at enforcement action. If any photos of such incidents have been taken, they should be sent to the Clerk as they are then passed on to Kent Highways as part of the monitoring process.

A parishioner brought some copies of an article relating to Gladman that he had read in a magazine. Copies were given to the Clerk for distribution and were received with thanks.

10. Planning

11. Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
21/01411/AS	Biddenden	Pullen Barn Farm, Headcorn Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8JA Erection of agricultural manure and straw storage building	Support
21/01412/AS	Biddenden	Land north east of Beacon Farm Oast, Benenden Road, Biddenden, Kent Erection of a New Detached Dwelling, together with associated Garaging, Parking, Landscaping and Biodiversity Enhancements	Support
21/01427/AS	Biddenden	Gorse Farm, Pook Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8JJ Proposed land change of use from agricultural/ paddock to residential (retrospective)	Support

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
21/01466/AS	Biddenden	Spring Hill, Tenterden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8DP Change of Use of Land to Provide an Outdoor Riding Arena for Private Equestrian Use	Support
21/01474/AS	Biddenden	Froyden, Cloth Hall Gardens, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8AT Conversion of western garage into Granny Annexe	Support
21/01504/AS	Biddenden	Castweazel Manor, Fosten Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8EW Erection of an agricultural building and associated hardstanding	No Comment (BPC noted there were two lost footpaths on this land)
21/01472/AS	Biddenden	74 Cheeselands, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8HL Lawful Development Certificate - proposed - replacement window with door	Support
21/01467/AS	Biddenden	Old Dairy Cottage, Pook Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8JU Revision to planning permission 19/01618/AS (Proposed replacement of two existing prior approval buildings, kennels, mobile home & other buildings with two single-storey dwellings with detached garages and biodiversity enhancement) to change the design of plot 1, omit plot 2 and amend site layout to suit	Support
21/01470/AS	Biddenden	Old Dairy Cottage, Pook Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8JU Change of use of existing Atcost barn to garage and storage building	Support
21/01479/AS	Biddenden	Orchard Barn, Gribble Bridge Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8DH Reinstatement of wall structure to existing agricultural building, general repairs and reroofing and reconstruction of associated animal pens on existing concrete slab.	Support
21/01544/AS	Biddenden	Weavers Barn, Cot Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8JB Proposal: Erection of greenhouse and pole barn	Support

11. Traffic issues

– HIP & Working group updates: Cllr Wright updated the meeting. The Clerk has requested to know the name of the Highways Steward and District Manager. Meetings have been held with residents from different roads, but there are some where residents have not come forward to participate. The Highways Improvement Plan is now in its final stages and all the information is being pulled together.

Traffic, Footpaths, Cycling Working Group: Traffic issues: The new signs for the village green were put in by KCC contractors in the wrong place and are to be moved to the correct location. Parking is something that needs to be monitored in terms of parking on the village green. If this occurs, photos need to be taken and sent to the Clerk, and KCC can request

enforcement from ABC if monitoring shows there is a need.

An order for speed limit changes to 40 mph on points on the following roads has been received from KCC:

- Benenden road, from a point 7.5 metres north east of the south western boundary of the Timber Yard to a point in line with the boundary of Brass Tacks and Mannering Farmhouse.
- Cranbrook Road, from its junction with Benenden Road to a point 16 metres north west of the north western boundary of Birchwood House.
- Tenterden Road, from its junction with Benenden Road to a point 27 metres north of the northern kerb line of the driveway of The Mews.

A complaint has been received from a resident on North Street regarding the speed, the width of pavements, lack of traffic calming and problems that further development will bring. A reply has been sent assuring them of the parish council's efforts to resolve these issues. He has also written to Cllr Hill as advised by the Clerk.

There have been complaints about the vegetation at Castletons Oak which is obscuring vision. It was first reported at the end of July and again at the end of August. A reply has now been received but unless the vegetation is on the Highway, it is the responsibility of the owner to cut it back. The Clerk was asked to contact the resident.

The wooden bus stop by The Weavers needs some attention as the ivy is growing inside the shelter roof and given that it is the roof itself may be damaged. **Agreed.**

There has been a request for a bus shelter at Woodlands going towards Biddenden. The Clerk was asked to contact KCC/ABC/Arriva about this issue.

12. Millennium Field & Gordon Jones Playing Field

It has been reported that there is a scheme for the top pond on the MF Field. This was discussed but no formal decision taken. The pond report and the MF & JM Working Group minutes from June 2021 were discussed and **it was agreed** to sign up to the Natural England project. Proposed by: Cllr J Wright Seconded by: Cllr D Boulding.

Recommendations from the MF and JM Working Group were considered. **It was agreed** that work detailed should be carried out but that it should be prioritised.

The Tree Survey is complete, and a copy is in the shared Meeting Papers folder. The Living Forest have sent a quote for all the work to be done at a cost of £1,872 plus VAT. The costs include crippling or chipping to waste the brushwood and stacking wood in small, neat piles within the woodland areas for trees 0807 – 0816 and chipping and removing all arisings for trees NL1 and 0801 – 0806. **It was agreed** to get this work done. Proposed by: Cllr J Wright
Seconded by: Cllr T Aikman.

Reports were received of the matting in the play area coming up again. This has been fixed.

The hedge behind the play area needs to be cut along with the back of the hedge. The hedge running north/south by the tennis courts also needs tidying up. **It was agreed** that the Clerk arrange for this work.

The contractor has come back with costs. However, the Parish Council wished to explore using a different surface other than the tarmac in the quote. The Clerk was asked to pursue the matter.

The football club has made a request to have Ball Stop Netting put in. A diagram of what is proposed had been circulated and it was noted that they are looking for permission and funding. It is proposed that a meeting be held with the Football Club and a new rental agreement to be put in place so that everything is completely transparent, like that already in place with VHSC.

The rope on the slide will need replacing and needs monitoring. The end has been cut off as a metal core was visible where it had frayed.

13. Communications

- CCTV: Work on the he CCTV system in the High Street Car Park started on 2nd September. The Millennium Field and GJ car park cameras are held up whilst a licencing agreement is signed with the Squash Club/VHSC, and a meeting to discuss this will take place shortly. The contractor needs to purchase the equipment prior to the end of September as there will be a price rise of approximately 10%. **It was agreed** to do this as the licence issue was straight forward. Proposed by: Cllr J Wright Seconded by: Cllr M Metcalfe. **Unanimous.**

- A Working Group is to be set up to discuss the issue of Communications. Membership of the Working Group is: Cllr J Wright; Cllr D Boulding; Cllr M Metcalfe; Cllr S Newman.

Cllr Wright circulated a paper at the July meeting for used as a discussion paper and this had been circulated.

Any Social Media Policy will need to be looked at in the context of whatever is decided regarding communications.

- Noticeboards: A replacement for the small noticeboard is being sourced. The issue is getting the right size and fit. A couple have been identified as suitable replacements. The large noticeboard is more difficult. A couple of companies have been contacted but they don't do noticeboards. There are a number still to contact.

The meeting was closed whilst discussion took place with parishioners wishing to put forward their views and ideas on communication.

A Community Library has been set up in the Church. The parish council supports this, and the Friends have asked to apply to the Community Project Fund and it will be considered in due course as it is a community facility.

14. Open Spaces strategy.

The Open Spaces Strategy document was discussed. Proposed by: Cllr T Bizley Seconded by: Cllr D Boulding. **Unanimous.**

15. Cheeslands & Conservation

A petition had been received from residents regarding the mowing of the Cheeslands Playing Field.

It was noted that no-one from Cheeselands had volunteered to help with the Highways Improvement Plan. It was agreed that Cllr Write could speak to some residents.

A consultation is likely to be held in January/February regarding Cheeselands.

Cllr Wright proposed Mr R Wayre as a member of the Conservation Working Group. **Agreed.**

16. S106 agreement re Fullers Way

ABC has been asked the status regarding the S106 money relating to Fullers Way. No reply has been received but the original S106 Agreement for the Millwood Development was circulated. The document explains when payments should be made. If the Parish Council prefers to deviate from the original plan of a trail around the playing field to a path from the Sissinghurst Rd gate on the Millennium Field along the bottom of the Millennium Field to the gate into the Millennium Field car park, then a request and a costed proposal needs to be submitted to ABC. **It was agreed** that Cllr Wright should investigate costings

17. Working Group Reports

- **Health & Safety:** The report had been circulated and was noted.

- **Police Liaison:** The 10 most commonly reported crimes reported in Biddenden during July 2021 were:

Anti-Social Behaviour	4
Violence & Sexual Offences	3
Burglary	2
Public Order	1

The wetpour surface in the Cheeselands play area has been ripped up. Unfortunately, the Parish Council only became aware of it via Facebook and the "first wave" had taken place a couple of weeks ago prior to the breaking up of the surface a few days ago. The PCSO has been informed.

- **Other Working Group reports as necessary** – None.

18. Finance

The Payment List was presented and agreed. Proposed by: Cllr M Metcalfe Seconded by: Cllr T Aikman. **Unanimous.**

19. Any other business

- Correspondence: Noted

The ABC Corporate Plan consultation was noted. If councillors have comments they should submit them to the Clerk for submission by the deadline of 1 October 2021.

20. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 5 October 2021 at 7.30 pm in Old Hall, Biddenden.

The meeting closed at 21:47.

Parish Clerk
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