

**Biddenden Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the meeting held in the Old Village Hall on**  
**January 9<sup>th</sup> 2007**

Present

Cllr Mrs J Ashcroft  
Cllr Mrs E Cansdale  
Cllr M Conway  
Cllr C Friend – **Chairman**

Cllr B Gaertner  
Cllr H Richards  
Cllr Mrs G Scott  
Cllr P Whapham

Also present – Cllr N Bell, Ashford BC and 9 parishioners.  
Apologies for absence – Cllr R Brown and Cllr J Rymer Jones

- 1 There were no alterations to members Register of Interests.
- 2 **Items raised by parishioners present.** (Meeting closed)  
There was some discussion about the parking problems and possible solutions at “The Weavers.” The Chairman said it would be beneficial if the residents formed a Committee and then came to the Parish Council with their ideas which could then be discussed further before involving Ashford Borough Council. Those present agreed.
- 3 (Council meeting reopened).  
**Minutes of the meeting held on December 12<sup>th</sup> 2006.**  
These were approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 4 **Matters for update.**  
CCTV of sports club and car park areas.  
It was noted that the KCC grant of £1500 had been agreed and should be received shortly. The Clerk reported that the work was expected to start at the end of January.  
It would not be possible to include the Post Office/toilets/car park in the present scheme but a separate scheme could be developed at a notional cost of £3500.  
This would be considered in due course.  
Youth matters.  
Cllr Gaertner tabled a proposed leaflet to encourage the village youth to say “what they wanted” in the village. Councillors largely approved the draft and on receipt of the final copy the Clerk would arrange production and distribution via the Postmen.  
Litter bins.  
The Clerk reported that “insides” were no longer available for old type bins. Cllr Mrs Cansdale said she would see exactly how many replacement new type bins were required. Ashford Borough Council would then supply and fit.

## 5 **Post Office/toilets/car park update**

Cllr Bell said the new Post Office was working well and was much appreciated. It was noted that £4466.13 had been paid to BT to allow them to realign the BT cable from under the new toilet. Cable access to the Post Office was not acceptable under another building. It seems the problem had been caused by a misunderstanding between BT and the Post Office and therefore the Council would try and reclaim some or all of this expense. It had been necessary to “pay up front” otherwise the toilet construction would have been delayed.

Cllr Bell said the whole PO project had a £5000 contingency built into the budget for just such eventualities but nevertheless he agreed the Council should seek a refund.

It was noted that so far no applications for a toilet cleaner had been received. An advert would be placed in the Wealden Advertiser and the Parish Magazine. Cllrs Gaertner and Whapham said they would initiate the PO/toilets/car park Management Group shortly.

As the building of the new toilets should be completed in about a months time the Clerk was asked to seek formal tenders for resurfacing the car park. Cllr Conway said he would see if any grants were available.

## 6 **Ashford Borough Council report**

Cllr Bell reported that construction of a new Ashford ring road had just started and that the exiting ring road would become two way and more cycle and pedestrian friendly.

A £200m regeneration of the Stanhope Estate had been approved.

Regarding the south side village pavement he was pleased to say Kent Highways would allocate £20,000 and along with the £22,500 in the Parish Council’s budget (£12,500 from Mill Court developer and £10,000 from the precept) this should kick start the project. More discussion would take place on exactly the work to be undertaken.

## 7 **Traffic and Pedestrians Committee**

Cllr Friend said items he would report had already been covered by reference to the “The Weavers” in 2 above and the south side pavement in 6 above.

Ashford Borough Council had agreed to surface the footpath between Mansion House Close and The Meadows and alter the gates to meet current legislation.

“Speedwatch” training will take place on a Saturday in February. If any other parishioner would like to be involved please contact the Clerk on 01622 890596

Attention was drawn to the excess of signs advertising a car wash at Heartsay Garage and the Clerk was asked to report this to Ashford BC. *(Ashford BC already have this in hand)*

## 8 **Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow Committee**

Cllr Richards passed all councillors a copy of the Committee minutes of January 5<sup>th</sup>. He particularly drew attention to the fact it was proposed to relocate the Millennium Field sign board, and add further signs explaining flora and fauna, along the boundary of the village car park when all resurfacing work was completed. It was also agreed a new hedge should be planted to replace the existing poor hedge. Cllrs Richards and Conway agreed to present firm proposals to the February or March council meeting. The Clerk would check whether any planning permission is required.

Cllr Conway proposed and Cllr Whapham seconded that a £200 pa honorarium be paid to J Wheadon for all his (unpaid) work on maintaining the two fields. All agreed.

**9 Other reports from councillors.**

Cllr Mrs Cansdale reported a street light out by The Teasels.

Cllr Conway mentioned the flooding/sewerage problem in the Mill Court/ Tenterden Road vicinity and asked the Clerk to write again to Southern Water. *(The Clerk confirmed he had already written and it was important that all parishioners experiencing problems should write individually to bring pressure on Southern Water)*

Cllr Gaertner said we should write to ABC drawing attention to the lack of final surfacing on Old Mill Court – as required by the Planning Permission.

Cllrs Conway and Richards asked that the Recycling Committee look at the possible relocation of the recycling bins.

Cllr Richards was pleased to report that our previous councillor, Brenda Swain, was at last showing signs of improvement from her serious illness. Councillors were very pleased to hear this.

**10 Planning** – see attached

**11 Finance** – see attached

**12 Correspondence** – See attached

**13 Matters for future consideration**

Cllr Whapham asked that the new surgery scheme be on the February agenda.

He also drew attention to the various emails (circulated to all councillors) between Dr Winch and Cllr Richards and felt Cllr Richards now had a prejudicial interest in any proposals.

**14 Next meeting** – February 13<sup>th</sup> 2007