

Biddenden Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held in the Old Village Hall on
June 12th 2007

Present

Cllr Mrs J Ashcroft

Cllr A Barfoot

Cllr Mrs E Cansdale

Cllr Mo Charlton

Cllr M Conway

Cllr C Daly

Cllr C Friend

Cllr T Lupton

Cllr H Richards

Cllr J Rymer Jones - **Chairman**

Cllr P Whapham – **Vice Chairman**

Apology for absence Cllr N Bell, Ashford BC. 8 parishioners were present.

1 There were no alterations to members Register of Interests.

2 Items raised by parishioners present

Mr Linnett thanked the Council for the copy of its reply to the Audit Commission. He also asked when copies of the minutes of the closed meetings held on April 23rd, May 11th, May 29th and June 4th would be published. (*They are now displayed on the village notice board*)

Sue Brown asked for approval to advertise the school fete by the Post Office fence and in the Jubilee Meadow. This was agreed.

A request for additional street lights in North St would be passed to KCC

3 Minutes of the meeting held on May 8th 2007

These were signed by the Chairman with the alteration in item 9, delete Cllr Richards insert Cllr Lupton

4 Minutes of the (closed) meeting on June 4th

Item 7 was amended to read “.....council business should be acknowledged, copied to all councillors and a draft reply prepared. This would then be copied to all councillors for consideration at the next scheduled meeting or if time was important at an Extraordinary meeting. A reply would then be sent as from the whole Council.”

The Clerk said he felt this would lead to unacceptable delays in replying to some correspondence.

5 Confirmation of Group structure

The Groups minuted at the May 8th meeting were approved with the following noted,

- The Chairman to be a member of the Finance Committee
- Cllr Mrs Cansdale to be added to the Gordon Jones Field Group
- KAPC and Parish Forum to be Cllr Conway (lead) & Cllrs Ashcroft & Richards
- WEB liaison to be Cllr Lupton

The Chairman asked that all Groups should prepare Terms of Reference, produce notes of their meetings and if necessary prepare a report for the Clerk to circulate prior to a full council meeting. Cllr Conway proposed and Cllr Whapham seconded that the above be formally approved. All agreed.

28/2007

6 NALC Standing Orders

The July 2003 NALC Standing Orders (with insertions) were formally adopted for use by the Council after the Chairman proposed this action. (*insertions are available from the Clerk*)

7 Ashford BC report

Cllr Bell had apologised for his absence on Borough business but would make every effort to attend the July meeting. The Chairman read Cllr Bell's brief report. Cllr Bell asked that it be minuted that he had no input into the Parish Council's reply to the Audit Commission of June 5th.

8 Post Office/toilets/car park

The following points were noted,

- The car park had been resurfaced. It was agreed this had been well done.
- A (local resident) toilet cleaner had been appointed at £200 per month.
- The soap dispensers and toilet roll holders needed better fixing.
- Vandalism (blocked toilets) cost the parish £150 to clear.
- Cllr Richards asked for a toilet consumables budget. Cllr Whapham said this could be done only after some experience of usage.
- Work on the disabled ramp was awaiting ABC approval. It had been agreed between the architect and builder.
- Cllr Richards said he would provide plans for the proposed new fencing around the car park and for the repositioning of the footpath map and Millennium Field sign. Planning permission would be required as minuted at the February 13th meeting.
- Cllr Bell would be asked to organise (by July 10th if possible) the formal closure of the BPOL Committee and the transfer of responsibility to the Post Office Group of Cllrs Daly and Whapham and ex councillor Gaertner.
- The Clerk was asked to check whether a RADA key was specified as part of the disabled toilet facility.
- Cllr Lupton suggested that a copy of the scheme expenses to date be attached to the minutes. (*Attached*) Cllr Richards again emphasised that the only costs mentioned when the scheme was approved on 10.01.06 were construction costs of £100k .

The Chairman referred to the Information Commissioners letter concerning Ms Clark's PO complaint and clarified that the council need only provide documents. Cllr Richards wished to formally record the Council's appreciation of Cllr Lupton's work in preparing the June 5th reply to the Audit Commission. All agreed. Cllr Lupton suggested that in future contentious items should be dealt with by hard copy rather than emails – all agreed to this suggestion.

9 Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow

Cllr Richards said there was livestock on the Meadow and various minor works were taking place on the Field. The MF & JM Committee would be formally wound up to become a council Group. Cllr Charlton drew attention to a problem with moles and mole hills. He was asked to get firm costs for removal.

10 Traffic and Pedestrians

This Committee too would be wound up to become a Group.

Cllr Friend reported that "Speedwatch" was on hold until after the Tour de France event in July.

11 Gordon Jones Field

The parking problem that arose when Tenterden Tigers had an event was discussed at length. It was agreed Cllrs Charlton, Daly and Lupton would request a meeting with the Tigers. The Chairman briefly closed the meeting to allow Mr Linnett to comment that in his recent experience parking had been well organised and controlled by the Tigers and in his view there was not a serious problem.

It was noted that the hedge along the road to the GJ car park had been cut.

Cllr Daly expressed pleasure at the success of the new Biddenden (adult) FC in their first match in Maidstone. He proposed a £500 grant towards their equipment.

Councillors said that if they could see a breakdown of exactly what was required they would be sympathetic. It would be on the July agenda. The Clerk was asked to press Ashford BC for the long promised additional rubbish bins.

The Clerk was also asked to organise the re erection of the GJ Field sign.

12 Youth

Cllr Charlton requested that a "Youth" item be included in future agendas.

13 Police

Cllrs Mrs Cansdale and Daly had attended a recent Police Forum. Biddenden had 30 reported crimes from 20.02.07 to 20.05.07 and two anti social incidents.

If we do not choose to have our own PCSO (see 18 below) we will have to share with other villages and consequently only have limited cover.

The mobile Police Station would be in the village from 11.00 to 11.45 on July 31st

14 Village Green

Cllr Mrs Cansdale suggested the flower beds be replanted with low growing shrubs to reduce maintenance. All agreed. A replacement tree for the snapped one would be planted in the Autumn.

It was agreed the ivy and low branches be trimmed from the tree on the Turners Stores corner of the Green to improve sightlines.

15 KAPC

Cllr Conway had attended the Ashford Area meeting on June 6th. Items covered included concurrent functions and the possible development of part of Wye College for housing.

- 16 Village School
Cllr Mrs Ashcroft asked if a “to the school” sign could be fixed to the MF gate to the school footpath. All agreed Cllr Ashcroft could arrange.
It was noted the school would be closing their current footpath entrance from the High Street and creating a new one.
- 17 Planning (See attached)
The Chairman reported that Ashford’s Local Development Framework is being finalised. Biddenden is seen as a sustainable village for possible housing development.
The Bishop proposal for development of the Rose Cottage area has not proceeded to Planning Application stage and the Council felt it was inappropriate to seek a public presentation at this time.
- 18 Finance (See attached)
After some discussion it was decided to ask the Finance Committee to urgently review the proposal for a PCSO and if necessary an Extraordinary Meeting would be called for the council to make its decision. Time was urgent otherwise the possibility of our own dedicated Biddenden PCSO would be lost.
The Clerk was asked to check whether a stolen gate was covered by our insurance, allowing for any insurance excess.
- 19 Correspondence (See attached)
The Chairman reported thanks from the Squash Club for marking out a reserved parking bay and from Mr Churton for some spare filling for the lane outside the car park entrance.
- 20 Informal Meeting May 11th
Cllr Lupton asked that the following items be noted in these minutes as they were only raised as items for future consideration at the above meeting.
PCSO; Possible new surgery; High Street pavement; Local Development Framework; Recycling; Maintenance of CCTV; Tenterden Tigers; NALC Standing Orders; Parish Plan; Audit Commission. Many of these items have now been progressed as part of normal council business.
- 21 Next meeting
July 10th.