

*These minutes are subject to approval at the council meeting on September 11<sup>th</sup> 2007*

**Biddenden Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the meeting held in the Old Village Hall on**  
**August 14<sup>th</sup> 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**

Also present Cllr N Bell, Ashford BC and 17 parishioners

There were no apologies for absence

1 There were no alterations to members Register of Interests

**2 Items raised by parishioners present**

Mr Vane reported that he had formed a Youth Football Team (ages about 9) and was seeking financial support of about £277.

Cllr Conway proposed and Cllr Charlton seconded that the payment be made. All agreed but it was suggested that the Chairman should examine if it was more appropriate for the donation to come from the Recycling funds rather than any other fund.

Mr Linnett reported some vandalism at the tennis courts and also queried whether the Post Office Committee files were now with the Parish Council. *(They are readily available to the council but it is beneficial if ex Cllr Mrs Scott retains them whilst enquiries with BT and the PO continue over a refund sought by the council)*

Mr Willis queried progress on the Weavers parking problems. The Chairman said a KCC/ABC/P Council meeting was taking place this Saturday (18<sup>th</sup>)

The new owners of the Biddenden Garden Centre introduced themselves.

**2 Minutes of the meeting held on July 10<sup>th</sup> 2007**

These were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**3 Parish website**

Cllr Lupton said he had been discussing the content of the site with Mrs Bell (who runs it) and he would welcome views of councillors and parishioners as to how it could be improved in time for the October council meeting.

**4 New May 2007 Code of Conduct**

The Council agreed to adopt the Code with the addition of paragraph 12(2)

## 5 **Ashford BC report – Cllr N Bell**

Cllr Bell referred to the south side pavement and the Weavers parking both of which were awaiting KCC Highways response.

As regards the (Ashford) Local Development Framework a government inspector was examining the Core Strategy with particular reference to housing development – the pressure for new homes is now intense. Results from this examination are not expected before the Autumn.

## 6 **Reports from groups**

### Car park/toilets/Post Office (Cllr Daly)

Planning permission for the new disabled access ramp to the PO has been sought.

Construction cannot start until permission is granted.

The provision of a RADAR key for the disabled toilet needs checking by the Clerk.

### Millennium Field & Jubilee Meadow (Cllr Richards)

Minutes of meetings held on July 25<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> were circulated to councillors.

Cllr Richards proposed and Cllr Mrs Ashcroft seconded that a new “pram friendly” gate be provided between the Gordon Jones and Millennium Fields

All agreed at a price of about £200

Cllr Richards proposed and Cllr Daly seconded that a height barrier be installed at the entrance to the MF car park. All agreed at a price of about £1500.

Cllr Richards presented his plans for a new fence and repositioning of notice boards around the village car park. It was noted planning permission would be necessary. The new fence would probably be sponsored by British Gates.

All agreed the proposals were a good solution to tidying up the area.

### Traffic and Pedestrians (Cllr Friend)

A meeting had taken place with KCC Highways and the village priorities explained to them ie south side pavement; speed limit by Woodlands; review of (too many) road signs; Weavers parking; revised school path; volume of traffic survey.

The Speedwatch scheme is to be progressed.

Long term parking in the village car park is a problem and a “short term only” sign was suggested. In addition a “long term” sign to the MF car park should be provided.

It was suggested that the pavement from Old Mill Court to the Post Office should be brought up to a pram friendly condition.

Cllr Daly said he would progress a “cycle bar” by/on the wall in front of the Post Office.

### Gordon Jones Field (Cllr Charlton)

It was reported that the moles had been gassed.

A mower store was sought for the new football club – any ideas?

It was agreed that hedge cutting particularly around the childrens play area should be undertaken by a contractor – Cllr Richards agreed to speak with Mr Sowery.

Cllr Mrs Cansdale asked if there was any news on the (long missing) Sputnik!

### KAPC (Cllr Mrs Ashcroft)

The main issue was concurrent funding from ABC. Clerk to check the position.

### Youth (Cllr Charlton)

A meeting was being arranged with ABC’s youth officer.

Cllr Mrs Cansdale wondered whether the equipment from the previous Youth Club would be of interest to the John Mayne After School Club.

Cllr Daly was impressed with the Sports Week organised by Tom Swain and all councillors expressed their appreciation of the event. Cllr Richards suggested that for future years the council consider a bursary to help village participants with the cost involved.

Recycling (Cllr Rymer Jones)

Discussions are continuing about the possibility of the Ashford “blue box” scheme coming to Biddenden but at present it seems it would only apply to the core of the village. The Recycling Group will meet on August 28<sup>th</sup>.

Police Liaison and Housing

No reports this time

7 Committee or Group structure

Cllr Daly had attended a KAPC meeting where “committees” were favoured rather than “groups”. After discussion councillors were of the view that their new Group structure led to greater transparency as all substantive decisions were brought to the full council for approval.

8 Quality Parish Council status

At the present time there did not appear to be any financial benefit to this status but the council agreed the issue should be reviewed from time to time.

9 Finance (See attached for payments agreed)

Cllr Lupton had studied the April – July summary produced from the new accounts package and with a few presentational alterations it was agreed it would be circulated to councillors. It was agreed that in future the summary should be presented quarterly.

The Annual Return to the Audit Commission for 2006-7 had been completed by the internal auditor but before signature councillors wished to discuss some aspects. (*At a meeting arranged for August 23<sup>rd</sup>*)

It was agreed that councillors claiming expenses must do so within three months of incurring the expense.

10 Planning (See attached)

The Chairman said the proposed “Community Workshop” on village development would be unlikely to meet before October.

A suggestion for CCTV in the village car park would be held over for the 2008/9 Budget year.

11 Correspondence (See attached)

Replies to Ms Clark’s letters of July 25<sup>th</sup> would be discussed at the Extraordinary Meeting planned for August 23<sup>rd</sup>

Cllr Lupton felt it important that the council met Ms Clark to try and establish the root cause of her complaints so as to avoid this continuing correspondence which was a drain on the council’s resources both in terms of time and money. Cllr Daly asked if the time and expense involved could yet be quantified. (*The Clerk was keeping a log.*)

The meeting closed at 22.30

Graham Smith, Parish Clerk 01622 890596