

BIDDENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12 January 2010 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Biddenden

Present: Cllr T Lupton (Chairman) Cllr C Daly
 Cllr Mrs J Ashcroft Cllr V Evason
 Cllr A Barfoot Cllr C Friend
 Cllr D Boulding Cllr H Richards
 Cllr Mrs E Cansdale Cllr H Ruse
 Cllr M Conway

5 Parishioners were present.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He stated that he would take item 14 Finance after item 11 followed by item 12 and then 13.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Borough Cllr Bell.

2. **Parishioners' Questions**

There were no parishioners' questions. PCSO Peel invited councillors to attend a further visit being arranged to the Police Force Control Centre on 6 February 2010. Cllrs Ruse, Friend, Ashcroft and Daly expressed an interest in attending and undertook to confirm their attendance to PCSO Peel.

3. **Any Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda**

The following Councillors declared interests:

Cllr Mrs Cansdale	Prejudicial interest in the Doctors Surgery
Cllr Conway	Doctors Surgery
Cllr Richards	Allotments
Cllr Evason	Planning application regarding Woodlands

4. **Any changes to the Register of Members Interests**

There were no changes to the Register of Members' Interests.

5. **Minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2009**

The Clerk read out the amendments made to the draft minutes. The Chairman asked if there were any further amendments that councillors wished to make. There being none it was, therefore **agreed** that the minutes were a true and proper record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr H Ruse and Seconded by Cllr D Boulding.

6. **Matters for information not on the agenda**

There were no matters for information not on the agenda.

7. **Report by Cllr Bell, Ashford Borough Council**

The Clerk read out Cllr Bell's report in his absence.

Biddenden Surgery

Cllr Bell understood that the details of a planning application for the surgery would be circulated at the Parish Council meeting and additionally a copy of pre-application advice given by ABC to the surgery.

He felt that the application would give the parish council and residents an important opportunity for comment on planning issues such as access, design and location which will be evaluated by the professional planning officers in the normal way.

Additionally, some concern has already been expressed to me about the proximity of the site to the rear of Old Mill Court and he understood this concern with a degree of sympathy.

Cllr Bell's understanding is that the current proposed site of the surgery is driven by standard planning rationale rather than by the needs of the surgery and consequently he is hopeful that it may be possible to site the surgery further into the meadow away from Old Mill Court.

Cllr Bell stated that he would be very much helped in achieving this if the parish council could supply him with some indication of the scope for an alternative location in the meadow. He undertook to talk to the surgery about their preference and would then hope to be able to persuade either the planning officers or the planning committee of the merits of an alternative site in granting the application.

Cllr Bell made a formal request for such an indication from the parish council.

Cllr Bell stated that achieving planning permission for the surgery would be a substantial step forwards for the project.

8. **Proposed Allotments**

The Clerk reported that a letter had been written to BTF (representing the owner) and that a reply had been received requesting clarification on access and other issues concerning preparation of a draft rental agreement. It was noted that a meeting on site with Tom French of BTF, Cllr Richards and Cllr Lupton had been arranged for 21 January to discuss the issues raised in the letter from BTF.

9. **Parish Plan**

The Clerk reported that letters had been sent out and a copy of the Parish Plan put on the notice board by Turners Stores. A sheet detailing recipients was circulated and councillors were asked to add further names of people to whom the Parish Plan should be sent for comment.

10. **Gordon Jones Playing Field**

A meeting to discuss the mowing requirements for the field has been organised for 2 February at 2pm with Ian Curteis of KCC Landscaping.

Cllrs Richards, Boulding and Cansdale have looked at the field and a meeting with AFC Biddenden and Biddenden Boys Football Club is to be arranged to discuss their future needs and schedules.

11. **High Street, South side pavement**

It was reported that nothing further had been heard from any parties. Cllr Friend undertook to chase this up.

14. **Finance**

- a) The draft Finance Committee minutes of 3 December 2009 were presented to the meeting. These were self-explanatory as they had mainly been superseded by the Budget.
- b) The list of payments had been circulated to councillors and was approved for payment. The cheques were signed accordingly.

12. **Proposed Drs Surgery**

The Clerk reported that a number of letters had been received from the Headcorn Surgery group including a copy of a letter from Martin Vink of ABC Planning and Development, and a set of plans for the proposed surgery. These had been circulated to councillors.

