

BIDDENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

**Unapproved Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
held on Tuesday 10 May at 7.00 pm in the
Village Hall, Biddenden**

Present: Cllr T Lupton (Chair) Cllr C Friend
Cllr D Boulding Cllr H Ruse
Cllr Mrs E Cansdale Cllr J Tydeman
Cllr C Daly

County Cllr M Hill
Borough Cllr N Bell

Mrs A Swannick – Parish Clerk

16 Parishioners attended

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for lateness were received from Cllr Ruse who had to attend a School Governors meeting prior to the Annual Parish Meeting.

2. Approval of the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 28 April 2010

The Chairman stated that copies of the unapproved minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 28 April 2010 had been made available and therefore proposed that the minutes be taken as read. The Chairman asked if there were any amendments to the minutes, and the Clerk read out amendments made to the original draft and incorporated into the minutes distributed and displayed.

There being no further amendments it was proposed and agreed that the minutes be accepted as a true and proper record. Proposed by: Cllr C Friend Seconded by: Cllr Mrs E Cansdale.

3. Chairman's Report by Cllr T Lupton

The Chairman's report is attached.

4. Ashford Borough Council report by Cllr Neil Bell

The report is attached.

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5. **KCC report by Cllr Michael Hill**

The report is attached.

6. **Reports from other councillors**

There was nothing to report.

7. **Parishioners questions and discussion**

The Chairman asked for questions from the floor.

Parishioner A wanted to know the status of the access to the doctor's surgery. It was reported that the Parish Council owns the access to the Jubilee Meadow and there is also an access via the footpath down the side of the school. The school has access to the Jubilee Meadow for educational purposes. **Parishioner A** suggested that perhaps access might be granted via the entrance opposite Chulkhurst.

Parishioner B suggested that perhaps the Council ought to look to 2016 and perhaps have the Annual Parish Meeting in March so that parishioners could then thank outgoing councillors.

Parishioner C stated that last year Cllr Hill had mentioned the money lost when the Icelandic banks crashed. Cllr Hill reported that 25% of the money had been returned in terms of cash. KCC had now formally been established as a preferred creditor and it was forecast that 95% of the money is expected to be returned.

Parishioner D asked about why parishioner's names could not be recorded in the minutes and that if it was not possible to do so, other parish councils such as Pluckley and Headcorn closed the minute book during parishioner's questions and re-opened it afterwards, thereby not recording parishioner's questions. The Chairman responded that at the Annual Statutory meeting due to take place after this meeting the Parish Council would be considering a move to Resolution Minutes due to a series of problems caused by the current format, but this would need to be fully discussed by the council.

Parishioner E stated that like Woolpack Corner, Fosten Lane had a small green area on it which is being eroded because people are using it as a roundabout. He had noted that Woolpack Corner now had bollards put in to prevent parking etc on its green area, and would it be possible to do the same at Fosten Lane. Cllr Friend undertook to mention this to Kent Highways.

Parishioner F asked why over the last two or three year years it was taking much longer to put up the minutes. The Chairman noted the parishioner's concerns and stated that a decision had been taken by the Council to stop putting up draft

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minutes because it caused problems as these minutes changed between being put up and being approved and issued. Therefore, minutes of meetings are taken and approved at the following monthly meeting and then displayed on the website and notice board by the church.

Parishioner G also voiced concerns about library services being cut. Cllr Hill stated that Tenterden library will not be shut. Figures produced are encouraging but it was a shame that they hadn't known Woolworths was closing as that would have possibly been a better site for Tenterden Gateway.

Parishioner H asked if Biddenden's mobile library service was going to be cut. Cllr Hill said that there were no plans to cut it, in fact there were plans to increase mobile services.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting and stated that there would now be refreshments available.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm

Alison Swannick
Parish Clerk

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