

BIDDENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

APPROVED Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10 January 2012 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr T Lupton (Chair) Cllr P Harris
Cllr D Boulding Cllr B Hewitt
Cllr E Cansdale Cllr A Lidgett
Cllr N Hunt Cllr J Tydeman

Mrs A Swannick (Clerk)
Borough Cllr Neil Bell
PC Elaine Carroll
PCSO Paul Moorey

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Friend due to family commitments and Cllr Ruse due to work commitments.

2. Parishioners' Questions

There were no questions.

3. Any Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

4. Any changes to Register of Members Interest

There were no changes to the Register of Members Interest.

5. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13 December 2011

The Clerk read out the amendments made to the minutes (previously circulated). There being no further amendments **it was agreed** that the minutes were a true and proper record. Proposed by: Cllr B Hewitt Seconded by: Cllr E Cansdale. **Agreed.** (Note: Cllr Boulding did not vote because he was not at the meeting of 13 December, and Cllr Hunt did not vote because he was not a sitting councillor at the time).

6. Matters for information not on the agenda

PC Carroll introduced herself and referred to the police report already circulated. There are currently a lot of night time patrols taking place. Investigation is

currently taking place regarding youths knocking on windows and doors of elderly residents and then running away.

Note was made of the increase of Lamping and poaching taking place.

PC Carroll stated the need for local residents to report crimes so that action could be taken, otherwise the police could do nothing to either prevent or resolve it. The telephone numbers to call to report crimes are: Urgent crime reporting: 999; non urgent crime reporting: 101. These numbers would be sent to the Parish Magazine for publication.

7. Report by Cllr Bell, Ashford Borough Council

It was reported that there had been problems with the contractors building the new bungalows and several completion dates had been missed. It was reported to Cllr Bell that some residents in that area had received letters requesting payment for parking spaces. He said that he would look into this.

Cllr Bell stated that he would endorse the Council's application to ABC for a grant towards the Community Led Plan.

With regards to the business rates issue raised regarding the butchers, they were already receiving relief on the business rates. He would like to keep the shops in the High Street rather than letting them stay empty or turning into residential and would be happy to discuss the matter with BPC further. He agreed to find out who the landlords of empty properties were.

With regard to the recycling presentation, Cllr Bell agreed to arrange a recycling presentation for a future meeting.

8. High Street Southside Pavement

A report and map emanating from the meeting held with Cllrs Lupton, Friend and Kent Highways had previously been circulated to all councillors. The Chairman gave the background information and summarised the report.

This is a KCC project and it would appear that the Conservation Officers are on board. Cllr Hill has been clear that he wants the project to go ahead. However, nothing can happen until the project is fully costed. KCC will be carrying out a consultation exercise.

9. Business Continuity Plan

Circulated for comment. This provides a process for the Council to follow in should business be interrupted due to a number of situations. A number of amendments were made and **it was agreed** to accept the Plan with the agreed

amendments. Proposer: Cllr J Tydeman Seconder: Cllr A Lidgett.
Unanimous

10. Model Publication Scheme

The document had been circulated for comment. Several amendments were made and it was agreed that all policies and procedures should be available on the website.

It was agreed to approve the Model Publication Scheme with the amendments.
Proposer: Cllr D Boulding Seconder: Cllr B Hewitt. **Unanimous.**

11. Risk Assessment

Circulated to councillors for comment. It was RESOLVED to adopt the Risk Assessment document. Proposer: Cllr D Boulding Seconder: Cllr E Cansdale.
Unanimous

12. Reports by Clerk, Work Group Chairman and Parish Council Representatives

Car Park Toilets and Post Office: An email to ABC to ask for an explanation on the business rates has been sent.

The questionnaire relating to the subsidence quotation is being completed.

The lowest CCTV quotation was approved at the last meeting and the Clerk will instruct the contractors accordingly. A contractor was visiting the toilets to look at the security regarding the toilet doors on Thursday and would be reporting back.

Post Office: The Council's solicitor had been approached regarding procedure for the post office lease renewal on 27th June and the advice received and circulated to councillors. It was RESOLVED to ask the Clerk to write to the postmistress requesting confirmation she wishes to renew the lease and asking if there are any considerations that she wishes the Council to take into account. If there are considerations they should be put in writing so that the Council can consider the basis on which they wish to move forward. **Unanimously agreed.**

Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow: Prospective suppliers have been requested to re-quote for the removal of the Duck House. The hedge along the road needs cutting and the Clerk will arrange for this to be done.

Traffic Pedestrians and Footpaths: It will be necessary to close **Cranbrook Road, Biddenden** from **16 January 2012** for up to **1 week**.

The road will be closed to the west of the junction with Mockbeggar Lane.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Chapel Lane and Mockbeggar Lane.

The alternative route is via Chapel Lane, A262 Sissinghurst Road, Tenterden Road, Benenden Road and Cranbrook Road.

The closure is to enable works to carry out a new water connection to be carried out by Clancy Docwra working with South East Water. Details have been put on the website.

Salt bins: Two black bins were being purchased but the Clerk asked if someone in Biddenden could take delivery as they would not both fit in her car. Cllr Hewitt undertook to see if the Red Lion would be prepared to take delivery as it was in the centre of the village.

Footpaths: It was noted that the first stile on the footpath in Goose Cottage Lane was too high, the second broken. Would kissing gates be a solution? The Clerk was asked to contact Peter Whitestone.

Gordon Jones Playing Field and Play Area: A meeting had been held with Bridglands regarding the refurbishment work for the play area on Monday 9th January 2012 as a pre-commencement check. The meeting had gone well, and work would commencement shortly.

Cllr Hunt is to join the Gordon Jones Playing Field working group and will join Cllrs Boulding, Cansdale and Friend.

A meeting is still to be arranged with Biddenden Juniors to discuss their plans for the playing field and someone tasked with organising it. Cllr Cansdale agreed to arrange a meeting.

Squash Club Embankment: A note on specifications is awaited so that quotations can be sought.

Police Liaison: This item was covered by the Police Report at item 6 above.

KALC and Parish Forum: The Chairman stated that he had attended a training day and it covered the Localism Act, but that the detail was still awaited so it was difficult to know how it would work until this was announced.

Planning and Local Housing: Nothing to report

Recycling: Notification has been received from ABC that ABC, Maidstone and Swale have gone out to joint tender for the provision of waste collection and

related services for 2013. ABC will keep us informed. Any questions are to be directed the Head of Environmental Services.

The next round of Recycling Applications is now due and the deadline is 5 February. A notice has already gone in the Parish Magazine.

Jubilee Celebrations: The next meeting is to be held on 11 January at 7pm. BEST will also be attending.

Village Hall Management Committee: It has been reported that the Youth Club has been closed. The £200 which BPC had put down as a deposit against hall bookings had been returned by VHMC. Ian Brooks (ABC Youth Officer) would be collecting his equipment. Cllrs Boulding and Cansdale agreed to inspect the remaining old equipment and to see if any was worth keeping.

It was noted that a Community Led Plan meeting would take place at 8pm on Thursday in the New Hall. Cllr Hunt should be added to the list as a council representative.

13. Finance

It was noted that a reply to the Audit Commission's recent request for further information regarding the objection to the 2010/11 accounts was ongoing.

The schedule of cheques for approval was presented and **agreed**. Proposer: Cllr J Tydeman Seconder: Cllr A Lidgett

14. Planning

Case No	Parish	Location and Description	Decision
11/01449/AS	Biddenden	White House Farm, Hareplain Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8LN Erection of a replacement dwelling	Support

An application had been notified for a farm shop at Little Davlis Farm. The property was on the border with Biddenden and the consultation had gone to High Halden. Concern was expressed regarding the parking arrangements and the Clerk was asked to submit these concerns.

Surprise was expressed at the refusal of planning permission for the alterations at Frogs Hall Farm.

15. Correspondence

The List of Correspondence was presented. Items for Action were noted:

14/12/11 Mini PAG1 (Working With Local Communities. ABC is committed to strengthening community governance arrangements. As part of this they will be reviewing parish boundaries and considering whether they should be changed in light of Ashford's housing group and the impact it has on the parishes on the periphery of the urban area. A meeting is being held on 7 February at 6.30 pm in the Civic Centre. Once place per local council. **Cllr Lidgett to attend.**

16. Items for future consideration

The Community Led Plan should be added to the Reports by Clerk, Group Chairmen and Parish Council Representatives section on future agendas.

17. Date of Next Meeting: Parish Council Meeting, Tuesday 14 February 2012, 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. All Welcome

It was reported that a letter had been received from the Biddenden Horticultural Society asking for permission to place a raised flower bed on the village green for the Jubilee celebrations. This was **agreed**. Cllr Lidgett was asked to inform the Biddenden Horticultural Society of the Council's approval.

The meeting closed at 22:10.

Alison Swannick 07783 223450
Parish Clerk