

BIDDENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Open Meeting held on Tuesday 16 November 2010 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall to discuss the Diamond Jubilee 2012

Present: Cllr T Lupton (Chair)
Cllr M Conway
Cllr C Daly
Cllr H Richards
Mrs A Swannick (Clerk)

Apologies received from: Cllr A Barfoot, Cllr Mrs E Cansdale, WI, Homemakers, PCC, School Governors

13 Parishioners attended the meeting: Christina Harry, Katherine Wright, Sue Brown, Sally Giles, Mailo Giles, Richard Greensted, Tony Churton, Becca Swain, Pat Vallas, Sue Boon, Julie Tester, Michael Sainsbury, Jenny Danczak.

1. Welcome by the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. The aim of the meeting is to discuss what the Village would like to do to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee.

2. Outline the reason for the meeting and the role of the Parish Council

The Chairman reiterated that this was a Village meeting. The Parish Council had discussed the Diamond Jubilee at recent meetings. However, the Parish Council felt that it should not take the lead rather as this was a Village celebration, and therefore the role of the Parish Council was to facilitate not to lead.

3. Suggestions for activities from the Floor

The Chairman asked for ideas for how the village might celebrate and commemorate the Diamond Jubilee. A list of events emerged as follows:

Celebrations:

- a) Light up the Beacon (done for Millennium spectacular)
- b) Street Party/Big Party, either on the High Street or on the Rec/ Millennium Field

- c) Expanded Church Flower Festival
- d) Resurrect the Arts and Crafts Fair for one year only
- e) History Exhibition by Biddenden Local History Society
- f) Tethered Balloon
- g) Biddenden Olympics
- h) Sports Clubs open days
- i) Send the Queen a congratulatory card with a picture of a group of people born in each year of her reign ranging from a baby to older residents.
- j) Disco in the evening, perhaps on the day of the street party, involving the beacon being lit and a marquee in the field.
- k) Re-institute the Village Fete
- l) Tableau portraying various stages of the Queen's reign involving as many people as possible.

Commemorate:

- m) Raise money for a specific project eg the playground
- n) Jubilee pavement
- o) Engrave the free face on the Jubilee Stone
- q) Build a Moot Hall (shelter for young people in the village to meet in) on the Recreation Ground or possibly on the Millennium Field near Chulkhurst.

4. **Discussion**

Discussion took place regarding the above ideas. The meeting was unsure whether holding an Arts and Crafts festival would be feasible as many of those making things would also be involved in other events, so this needed to be discussed further. It was also considered that both the Friends of John Mayne and the Church already hold fetes, and that the idea of tableaux could be incorporated into the them for the Bonfire Night Floats.

Funding was discussed. It was felt important that the village celebrations should be accessible to all villagers, and costs kept to a minimum. For example people be expected to bring their own refreshments to the street party.

Concern was expressed about raising money, as each event needed to be budgeted for.

The Parish Council Recycling fund was mentioned as a possible source of finance, perhaps for one year using the recycling credits money only to fund the Jubilee events as it is Village focused.

It was felt that the Parish Council should finance the engraving of the Jubilee Stone, and that there should be some additional tangible development to commemorate the Jubilee Year. However, it was agreed that responsibility for this

would sit more comfortably with the Parish Council, who would in the longer term be responsible for maintenance of any project, and also had access to grant funding.

It was felt that a small Village Jubilee Committee (independent of the Parish Council) should be set up to oversee the organisation of events and that various events should be held throughout the Jubilee year rather than all at once. Other village activities need to be factored into the programme to ensure that there is no “over kill”. It was also hoped that wherever possible organisation of events should be through organisations within the village, incorporating as many people as possible.

5. **Summary**

Richard Greensted’s kind offer to chair an inaugural Jubilee Committee Meeting was accepted and it was suggested that representatives be invited to join the committee as follows:

Event	Organisation
Big Party/Street Party	WI/Homemakers
Biddenden Olympics	BEST
Sports Clubs open day	Mr Sainsbury/VHMC
Church Flower Festival	PCC
History Exhibition	Biddenden Local History Society
Tethered Balloon, Music and Beacon & Card for Queen	Friends of John Mayne and Governing Body
Village Commemorations	Parish Council Member

The idea of a one off Arts and Crafts Festival would also need to be considered.

6. **Close the meeting**

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The meeting closed at 2040

Alison Swannick
Parish Clerk

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