

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held at Frittenden Memorial Hall, Frittenden on Tuesday 21st February 2017 at 7.30pm.

Present were: Mr A Staples (Chairman)
Mrs J Croucher
Mrs H Cullingworth
Mr R Vernon
Mr L Gosbee
Mr J Tuke

In attendance: Mrs M Rumble (Clerk), Borough Cllr James Hannam

PUBLIC FORUM:

No members of the public requested to speak.

Before the start of the meeting the Chairman welcomed Mrs Michelle Rumble as the newly-appointed Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Ballantyne

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (in accordance with the Member's Code of Conduct, Part 2)

There were no declarations.

3. BOROUGH & COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Cllr Hannam reported that TWBC would be passing the Budget for the next Financial year on 22nd February. He also spoke on the development of the Theatre and Civic Centre and has asked for confirmation from TWBC that the cost of this project would not be passed onto ratepayers of this Parish. Cllr Hannam said that as yet he has had no confirmation of this. Cllr Hannam stated that TWBC were also looking at bringing in a charge for the removal of Garden waste. Cllr Hannam will continue to oppose this.

Item 6 was moved forward

4. AFFORDABLE HOUSING – Tessa O’Sullivan (ACRK) & Sarah Lewis (TWBC)

The Chairman introduced Tessa O’Sullivan from ACRK and Sarah Lewis from TWBC who was here to to speak to the Parish Council about Affordable Housing within the village and the outcome of the survey and the best way forward. Tessa O’Sullivan stated that the survey had been sent to all households 351 in all, of that 121 surveys were returned which was 34% response rate. All households were asked to complete section 1, only those with a housing need were asked to complete section 2. This was the need for affordable housing and for older people who want to downsize/move to more suitable housing for their needs. Sarah stated that she looked at properties for sale in the village at the time the report was written and this was a 2-bed cottage at £330,000. A 15% deposit of £49,500 and an income of £80,143 would be required to afford this property. They also looked at the Housing need, Affordable Housing – General needs and Housing for older households.

Sarah Lewis, who is from TWBC Housing department and maintains the housing needs register for TWBC, wishes to promote affordable housing and will work alongside the developers to get small projects off the ground. Recent projects she has worked on are at Iden Green and Brenchely, both these were small developments for local residents of those areas and were very well received. Sarah stated that she can guarantee that local schemes which are built are truly for local people and have to kept in perpetuity through a S106 agreement which is tied to the land and secures a planning obligation agreement.

Cllr Vernon asked if the housing association would be on board from the beginning of the development bearing in mind no site had yet been found in the village. There were originally several sites put forward but these and possible others would have to be viewed again and the landowners of these sites would have to be approached.

Cllr Staples suggested that they define the process and update the potential search for sites with ACRK, possibly a group of councillors could work with Tessa from ACRK on this, there would need to input

from the planners at some point to discuss the sites and whether or not planning could be sought on these sites. Once any sites have been put forward they would then need to write to the landowners of these sites to see if they would be willing to sell their site. At this point the housing association would become involved and continue with any planning permission required. If there were no sites available, then this would not be able to continue. Cllr Staples asked which councillors would like work with Tessa on this and all councillors expressed an interest. Tessa will contact the Clerk with some dates possibly a Wednesday or Friday.

5. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by Cllr Cullingworth, seconded by Cllr Vernon and agreed to approve the minutes of the January meeting.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

Speed Watch:

Cllr Croucher reported that volunteers had come across problems registering on-line for this but that they will continue to try, Cllr Staples asked if numbers of people speeding could be routinely reported to the Parish Council meetings.

Mill Lane Parking:

Cllr Vernon had spoken with Cllr Holden on this matter to gauge his feelings, unfortunately it was not the response he was hoping for. Cllr Vernon stated that there had been white lines in this area but had faded, he asked Councillors if they felt it would be worth asking KCC to reinstate all the white lines near Mill Lane. Councillors could see no reason why this was not worth pursuing and Cllr Vernon will now contact KCC on this matter

Village Sign:

Cllr Croucher had had spoken with Adrian Bone on this and was asked by the councillors to obtain a quote for this.

Parish Field Parking Area:

There was nothing further to report at this time.

Grounds Maintenance Contract:

The Clerk clarified that the previous Clerk had dealt with this before leaving.

Verge Maintenance:

Cllr Staples stated that the trees around the electricity cables had still not been cut, Cllr Staples will chase this.

Planning:

The Clerk had received the contract from BT for the adoption of the telephone box along with a request for £1 to do this. Cllr Staples felt that the contract should be read through first before signing. The Clerk will try and see if an electronic copy was available so that all members could read the contract.

School Crossing Safety

Cllr Gosbee and Cllr Cullingworth both spoke on this, it was discussed at the last meeting that it was felt the wording should be "Slow! Children crossing" and that possibly the sign could be placed on the gateways as you enter the village. Cllr Gosbee will contact Iden Signs for a quote on this.

Position of Speed Restriction Sign

Cllr Vernon had contacted Kent Highways to ask if the 30mph speed limit sign could be moved further out of the village to beyond Cherry Tree Cottage. Kent Highways would not be interested in doing this.

Fire Hydrant Review

Cllr Croucher states that Howard Lilley was prepared to check all the Hydrants in the Parish and to make sure that they are all visible and free from any vegetation. Cllr Croucher will speak with Howard on this.

Village Clean Up

Cllr Croucher states that a date of the 18th March had been agreed and was awaiting the booking forms. They might also need an extra person to drive the vehicle on the day. Cllr Croucher informed members that all volunteers must first sign in on the day at the Bell and Jorrocks Public House and can do this from 9.45am when they will be allocated equipment. There will be lunch at the Bell and Jorrocks which will be available at a reduced rate for all volunteers.

The Scouts have also offered to help clean the playing field the previous week so the Parish Council would like to thank them for this.

7. HIGHWAY CODE, SPEEDING & PARKING – SCHOOL PROJECT

Cllr Vernon has spoken with Rosie Croucher on this and the suggestion was perhaps this could be a project for the school where a poster could possibly be designed by the school and at the same time raising awareness of speeding through the village. Cllr Cullingworth has offered to speak with the school on this. Perhaps there could be the possibility of a prize and the winning poster could be placed in the Parish magazine.

8. Idenden Charity “Appointment of Trustee”

Cllr Staples had received a letter from the Idenden Trust asking for a representative from the Parish Council to sit on their committee. The trust has nominated Cllr Cullingworth and she has accepted. It was RESOLVED by all members to agree this nomination. The Clerk will inform the Trust.

9. Play equipment Repairs

The Clerk had spoken to the manufacturer and obtained a quote from Proludic for a new bearing and brake on the Gyrospiral. The Clerk had received three quotes to carry out the repairs and they were as followed

Proludic - £250.00

Barge - £255.00

Ard - £210.00

The Councillors were concerned that if they used any company other than Proludic to fit the part would the warranty become invalid. The Clerk would go back to Proludic and check this with them and also ask if there was a discount for using them to supply and fit the part.

10. Rural Kent Coffee & Information Project

Cllr Staples stated that he had received correspondence on this, they are offering to come along to rural areas and offer coffee and information to local parishioners. Cllr Staples felt that this is something that could be combined with the coffee morning.

11. Weekend Refuse Truck (CAV)

This service is due for review, there could also possibly be a charge for the fortnightly removal of garden waste but as yet no definite decision on this has been made. Cllr Staples stated that the Parish Council should maintain what they have now and should certainly not be charged for the emptying of garden waste. Cllr Staples will speak on this item at the next Chairman’s meeting. If any councillor has any particular points to raise on this matter, then let him know before the next meeting. Cllr Staples has also requested statistics from TWBC on fly tipping statistics for a 3-year basis.

12. ROAD REPORT

Cllr Gosbee read out his report. The leak on Bell View Lane had been repaired. There was a blocked culvert near Park Farm which was under investigation. The pot hole in Biddenden Road outside Long Meadows will be repaired soon. Sand Lane is closed from Brissenden Farm to Dig Dog Lane for drainage repairs, but the pot holes will not be repaired until at least April. The Gateways signs could really do with being filled in and painted. Emma Pavitt the Highways officer has now left and has been replaced by Paul Catt, as yet Cllr Gosbee does not have any contact details for Paul Catt.

13. PLANNINGApplications:

- 17/00353 *East Barn, Appleton Farm, Green Lane
Frittenden, Cranbrook, TN17 2EG*
Prior Notification for the Change of use
Of a building and land within its curtilage from an Agricultural use to a
Use falling within Class C3 (Dwelling house) and building operations
Reasonably necessary to convert the building
- 17/00354 *West Barn, Appleton Farm, Green Lane,
Frittenden, Cranbrook. TN17 2EG*
Prior Notification for the change of use of a building and lane within
Its curtilage from an Agricultural use to a use falling within Class C3 (Dwellinghouse)
and building operations necessary to convert the building

Cllr Staples suggested that the Parish Council put in a statement regarding both of these applications expressing reservations about access and impact on utilities. This was proposed by Cllr Staples, seconded by Cllr Croucher VOTE FOR 5 ABSTENTION 1 Cllr Vernon will prepare this and inform the Clerk

Decisions:

- 16/07634 *Weald Business Park, Dig Dog Lane, Frittenden*
GRANTED
- 16/07516 *Redundant Agricultural building, Ayleswade Lane,
Biddenden.*
GRANTED
- 16/07763 2 Gordon Cottages, Knoxbridge, Frittenden
GRANTED

Correspondence:

There was none.

14 CORRESPONDENCE

The Mayor of Tunbridge Wells will be visiting the monthly CAMEO coffee morning which is held at the Memorial Hall on Tuesday the 11th April.

15 FINANCE

It was proposed by Cllr Croucher, seconded by Cllr Cullingworth and agreed unanimously to pay the accounts as follows:

	<u>Incl. VAT</u>	<u>Excl. VAT</u>
Kent Grassland Services (grounds maintenance)	£147.00	£122.50
Biffa Environmental Municipal (refuse collection)	£41.60	£34.66
Frittenden Memorial Hall (hall hire)	£15.00	N/A
D A Jenkins (Clerk's Salary & Expenses)	£272.99	N/A
M M Rumble (Clerk's Salary & Expenses)	£303.53	N/A
KALC	£72.00	£60.00

E-on DD (street light energy)	£23.80	£22.67
BT Phone box	£1.00	N/A

Bank Mandate

The Clerk presented a Bank Mandate to the Parish Council which needed to be updated, the previous Clerk Deborah Jenkins needed to be removed and the new Clerk Michelle Rumble to be added as a signatory. The correspondence address also needed to be updated. RESOLVED by all members to complete the form.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45 pm.