A Meeting of the Parish Council was held at Frittenden Memorial Hall, Frittenden on Tuesday 15th October 2019 at 7.30pm.

Present were:   Cllr A Staples (Chairman)
                Cllr J Tuke
                Cllr H Cullingworth
                Cllr R Riley
                Cllr L Gosbee
                Cllr Vernon

In attendance: Mrs E Nightingale (Clerk), Mrs H Gosbee, Cllr Holden (County) and Cllr Fairweather (Borough).

PUBLIC FORUM:

None.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

   None.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct Part 2)

   None. Cllr Tuke noted that one of the planning applications to be considered related to a site next door to his home. However, as he had no personal or financial interest in the application, that did not constitute a declarable interest pursuant to the Code of Conduct.

3. BOROUGH & COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE

   Cllr Fairweather reported that an Extraordinary Meeting of TWBC had been held on 8th October 2019 and, after much debate, it voted to cease the Calverly Square Project. 28 voted against continuing the Project, 12 voted for and 8 abstained. Cllr Fairweather felt that this result reflected the views of the majority of residents in Sissinghurst and Frittenden, particularly given the recent rise in total projected costs from £90m to c.£108m. It was not yet clear what would now happen to the Town Hall and Theatre as various options were being considered, to include refurbishing the existing buildings. A cross-party group would also look at what to do with the redundant office space that was to have formed part of the Project.

   Cllr Fairweather recognised that there had been huge problems with the roll out of the new waste collection and recycling service, particularly, but not exclusively, for rural addresses. He said that it was unacceptable that black bins had not yet been delivered and extremely unhelpful that the online reporting system did not accept reports of collections that had been missed for more than 2 days. He had spoken to the relevant officers at TWBC and encouraged residents to report any continuing problems to him by email (Andrew.Fairweather@tunbridgewells.gov.uk).

   Cllr Fairweather noted that the recently published Draft Local Plan (DLP) had only a limited impact on Frittenden, because only one site had been allocated in the Parish. However, it could experience a knock-on effect from the proposed development of 900 new houses in Sissinghurst & Cranbrook or, indeed, the development plans for the wider area. He therefore encouraged residents to submit comments on the DLP. The deadline for doing so had been extended to 5pm on 15th November 2019 and various workshops and advice sessions were being held to help
residents draft their responses. Workshops were to take place at the Vestry Hall in Cranbrook on 23 October (8pm), 25 October (3pm) and 30 October (8pm). Drop-in advice sessions were to take place at the Sissinghurst & Cranbrook Parish Office on 24 October (11am to 3pm) and at the Milk House on 21 October (4pm to 5pm) and 22 October (7pm to 8pm).

Cllr Fairweather reported that he continued to press for speed cameras to be deployed on the A229, particularly in light of the recent succession of accidents. Cllr Holden (County) noted that he and Helen Grant MP had set up a Speeding Committee in 2014 to try and address the problem of speeding and they had had some success in getting the Police to support Speedwatch. However, it appeared to him that there had been some back sliding and pressure now needed to be put on the Police again to prioritise anti-speeding measures.

Cllr Holden reported that Paul Carter had stood down as Leader of KCC. The newly elected leader of the Conservative Group was Roger Gough, who currently had the Education Portfolio. Cllr Holden continued with his struggle to get lorries off rural roads and hoped that there would soon be progress on the pilot scheme, whereby lorries would be banned from using routes other than the A229 or A274 in the area south of Maidstone except when delivering to local businesses. Cllr Holden confirmed that preparations for Brexit were well underway. KCC was comfortable that the arrangements made for lorries travelling to the Kent ports would keep the motorways open.

4. SAFETY RAILINGS AT FRITTENDEN SCHOOL

Cllr Cullingworth reported that she had made an urgent request to KCC for safety railings to be installed outside Frittenden Primary School. She had been told that the request needed the support of the Parish Council and Borough/County Councillors. Cllrs Fairweather and Holden confirmed their support and Cllr Holden agreed to follow the request up with the relevant officers at KCC. It was proposed by Cllr Riley, seconded by Cllr Vernon, and RESOLVED by all members present that the Council strongly urge KCC to provide railings as an urgent safety measure.

Cllrs Holden and Fairweather then left the meeting.

5. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

It was proposed by Cllr Gosbee, seconded by Cllr Tuke, and RESOLVED by all members present that the Minutes from the last Council meeting on 19th September 2019 are a true accurate record of that meeting. That being the case Cllr Staples signed them.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES:

*Telephone box*
Cllr Cullingworth is meeting with Mrs S Andrews to measure up and discuss the way forward.

*Parish Field – Area under weeping birch*
Some of the brambles have been cleared and a resident has very kindly offered to strim the rest.

*Paddock Hedge*
The hedge has now been cut.

7. COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Cllr Tuke is finalising the adverts and Councillor profiles that will be put on Facebook. The initial advert will explain the process that must be followed for a Councillor to be co-opted on to the Council and it is hoped that the Facebook campaign will encourage residents, particularly those from under-represented groups, to put their names forward for consideration.
8. **DRAFT LOCAL PLAN (DLP)**

Councillors had attended the recent exhibition in Cranbrook and expressed some concern at the level of housing allocated to some areas in light of the lack of infrastructure. Cllr Vernon noted that the DLP represented a long-term strategy which broadly made sense when considered against the number of new houses central government required the Borough to deliver by 2036. In his view, it made sense to focus development on larger more sustainable settlements such as Paddock Wood and Cranbrook, or the Garden Village, where new infrastructure would be built in to the development. However, he felt that Sissinghurst and Hawkhurst had come off badly, because the lack of infrastructure rendered those sites unsustainable. However, it was felt by all that the allocation of a single site of c.28 houses in Frittenden was fair. Cllr Vernon noted that TWBC had confirmed that 40% of any new homes built on that site would have to be affordable (i.e. c.11 of 28) and, of that 40%, 60% would have to be rented at 60-65% of open market rents (i.e. c.7 of 28). This would go some way towards meeting the Parish’s need for affordable housing. The DLP set out how financial contributions made by any developer of that site could be applied for the benefit of the Parish and it was therefore important that the community’s priorities were accurately reflected. As drafted, Cllr Vernon felt that the ‘wish list’ looked rather generic. Cllr Staples agreed that there were inaccuracies which needed to be corrected and that some of the items were clearly not relevant. For example, the Parish was reasonably well placed for primary education and residents went all over the Borough, and beyond, for secondary education. Further, the project spearheaded by Lance French meant that, when implemented, improvements to broadband connectivity would no longer be a priority for the Parish. However, the Memorial Hall and the provision of more parking and bus routes serving the Parish were clear priorities. Cllr Staples asked whether the Council should also consider commenting on the wider impact of the DLP as, whilst not directly impacting on Frittenden, the policies and themes set out in the DLP could concern residents, e.g. if the traffic routes they used to commute to work were overloaded by any new development. As a general point, Cllr Staples considered it inaccurate for the DLP to refer to Tunbridge Wells as a cultural centre given that the Calverly Square Project would not now be going ahead. He also felt that a Park and Ride scheme should be introduced for Tunbridge Wells.

It was proposed by Cllr Staples, seconded by Cllr Gosbee, and **RESOLVED** by all members present that Cllr Vernon would draw together the points discussed in relation to the proposals for Frittenden, draft the comments to be submitted on behalf of the Council and consider whether that response should also make wider comment.

9. **WEB ACCESSIBILITY REGULATIONS 2018 / WEBSITE**

Cllr Tuke commented that the use of personal email addresses by Parish Councillors was perceived as a risk in relation to GDPR. The Clerk will research ICO guidance in this regard and report back. Cllr Tuke noted that if a new website was created in order to meet the Council’s obligations under the above regulations, a domain could be set up to give Councillors designated Parish Council email addresses and thereby eliminate this risk. In the meantime, Councillors should ensure that any personal devices used to access emails relating to Parish Council business are password protected.

Given that the current website provider will be charging for its services from September 2020, Cllr Tuke considered it worth investigating the cost of designing a new website that would comply with the regulations. He will obtain three quotes and report back. In the meantime, the Clerk will investigate what providers are being used by other local parishes and whether grant funding could be available for the cost of updating the website.

10. **LITTER PICK**

Cllr Cullingworth reported that 43 volunteers attended the Village Clean Up and c.30 bags of rubbish were filled. This is an improvement on the number of bags filled in previous years. TWBC provided litter picking equipment but, sadly, not enough high visibility jackets were
included and TWBC failed to provide gloves. However, the bags of rubbish were cleared relatively quickly. The Council is extremely grateful to Ivor and Carol Jauncey, Rosie and Sean Croucher and the geocachers for their help and support in making the day a success.

11. CIVIL AMENITY VEHICLE (CAV)

The Clerk reported that a number of Parish Councils are reconsidering the need for, or frequency of visits by, the CAV in light of the fact that the new waste collection regime has expanded the range of items which can be collected from the kerbside. Parish Councils are required to pay for this service and some are considering whether that cost can still be justified. There is a risk that TWBC could withdraw the CAV if it is felt that it is not being sufficiently well used. Councillors felt that the CAV is well used by Frittenden residents and the Council will therefore keep this matter under review.

12. SPEEDWATCH

Cllr Staples reported that there had been 4 sessions with 18 vehicles out of 198 being recorded at 10% above the 30mph speed limit. The level of offenders in Biddenden Road was 20% on one occasion with a top speed of 52 mph being recorded.

13. COMMUNITY SHOP UPDATE

Cllr Gosbee reported that c.35 people attended a meeting on 14th October 2019 to discuss plans for the community shop. It was felt that the meeting was positive and there have been some useful offers of help arising from it, but Cllr Gosbee would have liked to have seen more of the younger generation in attendance. The next step is to seek the involvement of the Plunkett Foundation, after which a further public meeting will be held.

14. COMMUNITY LAND TRUST UPDATE

The first meeting of the Frittenden Community Land Trust (FCLT) took place on 21st September 2019. They exceeded their target of getting 100 members of the FCLT signed up. There are currently 111 members and it is hoped that this will rise to 150 by Christmas. The next meeting will be to reappoint the Board and find new Board members. Details of that meeting will be publicised in due course.

15. PLAYGROUND INSPECTIONS

It was proposed by Cllr Staples, seconded by Cllr Vernon, and RESOLVED by all members present to accept the quote obtained by Cllr Cullingworth for the installation of paving slabs at the gateways, subject to possible reduction if suitable alternative slabs can be sourced. Cllr Cullingworth reported that she has pruned overhanging branches of the oak trees. Cllr Cullingworth also reported that she had recently been approached by a parent who said that, sometime before the summer holidays, their son had fallen off the monkey bars and broken his arm. Cllr Staples confirmed that he had not received any such report to date and the Clerk confirmed that she had not been notified of any incident either. Cllr Staples questioned whether anything could be done to mitigate such incidents in light of the fact that the playground is inspected weekly and the Annual Report undertaken by RoSPA did not raise any relevant concerns. The Clerk will review the guidance given by RoSPA on signage. In the meantime, the Clerk was instructed to notify insurers of a circumstance which could give rise to a claim in accordance with the Council’s obligations under the terms of its public liability insurance policy.
16. ICY ROADS

Cllr Staples questioned whether a salt bin was needed where water runs across the road by Ridgefield. Cllr Gosbee had already raised this with KCC and stated that, if a bin was to be installed, it would have to be provided by the Council as KCC would not fund this.

17. HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN (HIP)

Cllr Vernon reported that a first draft had been put together which asked for rumble strips to be installed and 30mph roundels to be painted on to the road surface at each of the village gateways. It also requested a sign that flashed up the speed of any vehicle exceeding 30 mph. That sign would be portable, powered by a rechargeable battery, and moved between three poles positioned around the village at least every two months. Once the HIP had been finalised with the proposed positions of the poles, it would be submitted to KCC who would cost the work and confirm whether it would meet any of those costs. It was proposed by Cllr Cullingworth, seconded by Cllr Gosbee, and RESOLVED by all members present that this be taken forward by Cllr Vernon.

18. ROAD REPORT - General

Cllr Gosbee reported that two trees had come down on to the road after being hit by high lorries. Those trees had been cleared. Potholes through the village and some of the potholes on Biddenden Road had been mended. Tree work had been done up Satin’s Hill. Paul Catt had advised Cllr Gosbee that the Inspector had looked at what had been done and would shortly report on whether that work was satisfactory. Fly tipping continued to be a serious problem with a large number of tyres being dumped on both Grandshore Lane and Staplehurst Road. Some of those tyres had been collected but not all. The reference number for this incident is 148987169. Unfortunately, online reports of fly tipping were still not getting through to the relevant officers. The new salt bin for Grandshore Lane would be arriving in November. There was still a problem with water on the road at Ridgefield and Cllr Gosbee would continue to follow this up. Cllr Cullingworth reported that the streetlight by Street Farm was not working. The Clerk confirmed that the contractor will be instructed to replace the lantern in accordance with the Council’s policy of replacing, rather than repairing, the streetlights which are now obsolete. The Clerk had received a report of blocked drains opposite the door to 2 Bakery Close and by the Parish Noticeboard. Cllr Gosbee would raise this with KCC.

Cllr Staples waived the Standing Order requiring meetings of the Council to last for no more than 2 hours to allow consideration of the remaining items on the agenda.

19. PLANNING

New Applications

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<th>Reference</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Proposed by</th>
<th>Seconded by</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
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</table>
| 19/02546/LDCEX | Beale Farmhouse, Sand Lane, Frittenden  
Lawful Development Certificate (Existing) Use of land as domestic garden in excess of 10 years | Cllr Vernon.                                                                                  | Cllr Tuke.                                                                 | RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL |
| 19/02490/FULL  | Sinksnorth Farmhouse, Staplehurst Road, Frittenden  
Construction of swimming pool outbuilding (Retrospective) | Cllr Vernon.                                                                                  | Cllr Cullingworth.                                                          | RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL |
| 19/02360/FULL  | The Stables, Great Hungerden Farm, Green Lane, Frittenden |                                                                                           |                                                                            |                                                                            |
Removal of Condition 16 (Use as Holiday Accommodation) of Planning Permission 15/503622/FULL
Cllr Vernon commented that, while this proposal was for a modest dwelling, it was remote from the village centre. The site was not considered sustainable when the planning condition was imposed and nothing had materially changed since that date.

Proposed by Cllr Vernon. Seconded by Cllr Riley
RESOLVED TO OBJECT (Vote: 2 in favour of objecting, 1 against, 3 abstentions)

19/02653/FULL
East Barn, Appleton Farm, Green Lane, Frittenden
Conversion of existing Dutch barn to create a single residential dwelling and change of use of land, together with new driveway and landscape/ecological enhancement.

Proposed by Cllr Vernon. Seconded by Cllr Cullingworth
RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL (Vote: 5 in favour of approval, 1 abstention)

19/02682/AGRIC
Brissenden Farm Land & Buildings, Sand Lane, Frittenden
Prior notification for new track/road to create a new stretch of farm/road linking both sides of a large farmyard complex for year round access, together with formation of hard access area.

Proposed by Cllr Vernon. Seconded by Cllr Gosbee.
RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL

Outcome of previous applications

19/01237/FULL
Whitsunden Farm Oast, Cranbrook Road, Frittenden
Erection of single storey extension and two storey extension.
PERMISSION GRANTED

Planning appeals

- None

Cllr Staples addressed comments made to TWBC in opposition to a planning application which the Council had recommended be approved. Some of those comments suggested that proper procedure had not been followed when the Council resolved to recommend approval. Cllr Staples wished to make it clear that the meeting was quorate and the issues were fully discussed before the matter was put to the vote. In particular, it had been pointed out that the proposal amounted to development of a green field site and, in his absence, Cllr Vernon’s comments on the application had been read out in full. Personal friendships were not relevant to the Council’s consideration of applications and did not amount to disclosable interests. Cllr Staples considered the comments made to be a slight on the Council and a slight on him personally as Chairman of the Council, which he took objection to. Cllr Riley commented that it had been a very difficult meeting, but that Councillors were required to set aside any personal feeling and consider what was in the interests of the Parish.

20. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

- The Clerk reported that TWBC had asked for details of any Christmas events taking place in the parishes so they could be publicised in the next edition of Local Magazine. It was noted that Frittenden Christmas Market would take place on the first Saturday in December.
21. FINANCE

- It was proposed by Cllr Vernon, seconded by Cllr Gosbee, and **RESOLVED** by all members present to pay the accounts as follows:

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<th>FRITTENDEN PAYMENTS – OCTOBER 2019</th>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
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- The Clerk reported TWBC’s response to her challenge to the printing costs claimed as part of the election costs payable by the Council. Those costs were incurred because polling cards are printed before it is known whether an election will be contested or not. It was proposed by Cllr Staples, seconded by Cllr Vernon, and **RESOLVED** by all members present to meet the costs claimed, because the Council is obliged to do so, but to notify TWBC that it is not happy about the above policy.

22. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Riley noted that an event was being planned for the Memorial Hall around VE Day as the Hall was established in memory of those lost in World War II. Further details will follow in due course.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.06 pm.

Chairman’s Signature:______________________________

Date:____________________