

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held at The Memorial Hall, The Street, Frittenden on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024 at 7.30pm.

Present were: Cllr A Staples  
Cllr G Lawrence  
Cllr J Tuke  
Cllr M Viviers  
Cllr L Gosbee

In attendance: Mrs E Nightingale (Clerk)

## **PUBLIC FORUM:**

None

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr V Vernon, Cllr S Murray, Cllr Fairweather (Borough), Cllr Holden (County)

### **2. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

It was proposed by Cllr Staples, seconded by Cllr Tuke, and **RESOLVED** by all members present that Cllr Lawrence be appointed Chair. That being so, Cllr Lawrence will sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and the Clerk will countersign the same.

### **3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

It was proposed by Cllr Lawrence, seconded by Cllr Gosbee, and **RESOLVED** by all members present that Cllr Staples be appointed Vice-Chair.

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

None

### **5. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2024**

The Council was not quorate to vote on this item and it was therefore adjourned to the next meeting of the Council.

### **6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

#### *Proposal for cycle track on the Parish Field*

Cllrs Lawrence and Viviers, who were absent when this matter was discussed at the above meeting, agreed that it was likely that the cost would be prohibitive and that public consultation would be required. It was agreed that this proposal could be revisited in the future.

#### *Streetlights*

The Clerk is investigating whether the proposed changes to the streetlights would give rise to the sort of energy savings suggested by the contractor. In the meantime, she has reported the damage caused to the streetlight when the tree came down on The Street. Cllr Staples will speak with the

owner of the land from which the tree fell to see whether they will contribute to the cost of any repairs. The Clerk will advise Cllr Staples once she has details of that cost from the contractor.

Cllr Gosbee noted that a tree in the hedge of the Paddock had also come down. It had been removed, but the stump had not been cut back far enough so that it was protruding out of the hedge. This represented a hazard to vehicles and so Cllr Gosbee had reported it to Paul Catt of KCC. Cllr Lawrence kindly stated that he would arrange for someone to have a look and cut it back further if necessary.

#### Speed Survey Results

KCC has confirmed that these results can be published. Cllr Tuke will put them on the Parish Council's website and note this on the Community Facebook page.

#### Village Gateway

The Clerk confirmed that KCC were away that work on the new gateway on Headcorn Road had not been completed to a satisfactory standard. The relevant department has been asked to arrange for workmen to return to centre the new 30mph sign and cut back the ivy so the gateway can be seen more clearly. Cllr Viviers noted that the new 30mph sign was smaller than what had been there before. The Clerk noted that the Council had also asked for 30mph roundels to be added to the road at the gateway and this would be raised when she met with KCC to discuss the Highway Improvement Plan on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

### 7. POST OFFICE SERVICE

At the end of last year, the Post Office stopped paying rent for its use of the Memorial Hall for its outreach service and the Council had agreed to make a donation of £120 to cover the Hall's losses in that regard for a 3-month period from January 2024. The Hall Committee had asked whether the Council would be prepared to make a further donation following the expiry of that period. The Hall Committee had been asked to provide some data on the extent to which the outreach service was used, as well as the number of times the service was cancelled in the above period. It was suggested that only 1 or 2 residents were using the service per session and that at least 1 or 2 sessions had been cancelled due to staffing issues. The Council noted that attempts to advertise the service on a 'use it or lose it' basis had not encouraged more residents to attend the outreach sessions. In any event, it was understood by the Hall Committee that the whole of the Post Office's outreach service was currently under review and so it appeared likely that the service would be withdrawn at some point in the future regardless of how well used it was. In those circumstances, it was proposed by Cllr Lawrence, seconded by Cllr Viviers, and **RESOLVED** by all members present that the Council would offer to make a donation of £60 (being £20 per month) to the Hall in respect of the next 3 months lost revenue for hosting the outreach service on a rent-free basis.

### 8. BEACON LIGHTING

It was proposed by Cllr Staples, seconded by Cllr Gosbee, and **RESOLVED** by all members present to run the lighting of the village beacon at 9:15pm on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024 as a Parish Council event to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day landings, subject to an updated risk assessment being prepared and confirmation from the Clerk that the event would be covered by the Council's insurance.

### 9. COMMUNITY ASSETS

Cllr Staples noted that the Council had previously applied to list the Bell & Jorrocks as an asset of community value. That application had been successful and the Council would therefore be given prior notice of any proposed sale of that asset. The current listing expired on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2024 and

therefore needed to be renewed. It was proposed by Cllr Staples, seconded by Cllr Viviers, and **RESOLVED** by all members present that an application to renew that registration be submitted to TWBC. The Clerk will therefore liaise with Cllr Lawrence to prepare the necessary forms.

## 10. SPEEDWATCH

5 sessions had taken place with 22 offenders being logged out of 193 vehicles, being an offending rate of c.10%. 2 letters were being sent to repeat offenders and the highest speed recorded was 48 mph going past Chestnut Close.

Cllr Viviers noted that Claas vans were often seen driving through the village at speed in the mornings. He will log the days and times the vans are observed speeding as far as possible so that information can be provided to Claas in Headcorn if necessary.

## 11. PLAYGROUND INSPECTIONS / EQUIPMENT

Cllr Lawrence noted that the playground looked much tidier since the Village Clean Up. The parts needed to undertake the repairs previously agreed upon had been ordered and were due to be delivered to Cllr Lawrence. He had also reached out to a local supplier to see whether they would be prepared to provide the materials needed to renovate the steps to the slide either free of charge or at a discount. The intention was to put together a work party of volunteers to complete that work when the weather allowed.

Cllr Gosbee had inspected the equipment and not noted any problems. The grass on the mound was getting long but this was likely to be a product of the wet weather preventing it from being cut.

The Clerk had been asked by Cllr Gosbee to order a new box of dog bags.

## 12. ROAD REPORT

Cllr Gosbee has reported the water leak by Buckhurst Cottages which was eroding the verge. He had also reported a number of potholes along Biddenden Road which were yet to be repaired and had been told that Biddenden Road was scheduled to be resurfaced in July 2024.

Cllr Gosbee noted that there was a nasty pothole by Pillar Box Cottage. He had also reported the fly tipping on Green Lane (between Bettenham Lane and Hareplain Road). The Clerk noted that there was also fly tipping on Dig Dog Lane.

Cllr Gosbee also noted that Buckhurst Bridge had been hit once again, causing the top course of bricks on one section of the bridge to be knocked off. He considered that this would continue to happen if KCC did not put concrete bollards on either side to protect the bridge.

## 13. PLANNING

### New Applications

24/00588/FULL	<p>Longmeadows, Biddenden Road, Frittenden          Install sewage treatment plant and digester, foul drainage to be linked with inspection chambers. Discharge to soakaway.          Existing septic tank back filled.  <b>Proposed by Cllr Gosbee, Seconded by Cllr Staples</b>  <b>RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL</b></p>
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24/00897/FULL	Tanyard Cottage, Cranbrook Road, Frittenden Erection of replacement garage <b>Proposed by Cllr Tule, Seconded by Cllr Viviers</b> <b>RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL subject to a planning condition that the use of the new building be ancillary to that of the main dwelling</b>
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### Outcome of Previous applications

24/00209/FULL	Little Bubhurst Farm, Bubhurst Lane, Frittenden Re-use and conversion of an existing atcost barn into residential accommodation (resubmission of application 22/00502/FULL) – increased footprint, increased ridge height, addition of covered walkway, proposed new access, internal and external alterations <b>PERMISSION GRANTED</b>
24/00613/FULL & 24/00614/LBC	Corner Farm, Biddenden Road, Frittenden Replacement of 10 non-historic windows <b>PERMISSION / CONSENT GRANTED</b>

### Planning appeals

- None

## 14. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

- The Trustees of the Idenden Charity had written inviting the Council to approve the reappointment of two of the existing trustees. It was duly proposed by Cllr Staples, seconded by Cllr Lawrence, and **RESOLVED** by all members present that Harold Worth and Philip Betts be reappointed trustees of the above charity.

## 15. FINANCE

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

FRITTENDEN PAYMENTS – MAY 2024					
Cheque Number	GROSS	VAT	NET	SUPPLIER	DETAILS
BACS	£15.00	Nil	£17.00	Frittenden Memorial Hall	Room Hire – Meeting Room (1 x session)
BACS	£50.40	£8.40	£42.00	Urbaser Ltd	Street Cleansing – April
BACS	£61.25	Nil	£61.25	Mrs E Nightingale	Clerk’s Expenses - May
BACS	£169.48	Nil	£169.48	Mrs E Nightingale	Clerk’s Salary – May
BACS	£42.20	Nil	£42.20	HMRC	PAYE
BACS	£441.95	£73.66	£368.29	KALC	KALC Subscription 2024/25
BACS	£1,171.90	Nil	£1,171.90	AJGIBL GBP CLIENT NST A/C	Insurance Premium 2024/25
BACS	£419.80	Nil	£419.80	Frittenden Primary School	£137 Donation – 50% of fun run proceeds
BACS	£419.80	Nil	£419.80	Frittenden Memorial Hall	£137 Donation – 50% of fun run proceeds

BACS	£2,200.00	Nil	£2,200.00	Frittenden Primary School	Tent Team Donation
BACS	£217.00	Nil	£217.00	The Friends of St Mary's Open Spaces	Tent Team Donation
BACS	£1,401.84	£233.64	£1,168.20	Proludic	Supply of parts for maintenance of playground
DD	£35.00	Nil	£35.00	Information Commissioner's Office	GDPR Fee
DD	£11.99	£2.00	£9.99	Hugo Fox	Website Hosting fee
DD	£77.26	£3.68	£73.58	Npower	Streetlighting Energy – April
<b>Total</b>	<b>£6,657.61</b>	<b>£317.70</b>	<b>£6,339.91</b>		

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:40 pm.

Chairman's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_