

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held at The Memorial Hall, The Street, Frittenden on Wednesday 4th June 2024 at 7.30pm.

Present were: Cllr G Lawrence
Cllr A Staples
Cllr M Viviers
Cllr R Vernon
Cllr S Murray
Cllr J Tuke

In attendance: Mrs E Nightingale (Clerk), Cllr S Holden (County)

PUBLIC FORUM:

None

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr L Gosbee, Cllr Fairweather (Borough), Cllr Warne (Borough)

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

Cllr Vernon declared an interest in planning applications 24/01385/FULL & 24/01386/LBC

COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Cllr Holden advised that the calling of the General Election had caused legislation about the Lower Thames Crossing to be deferred.

The new entry and exit system required by the EU was scheduled to go live in October but, as yet, there was no real understanding of how large queues for vehicles waiting to be processed by that system were going to be prevented. One possibility suggested was to have a system of pre-registration but it was unclear whether this would be accepted by the EU.

The number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children was up 59% on last year with 842 having arrived this year. 663 had been dispersed to other authorities but this was still only a voluntary scheme and it remained KCC's view that it should become mandatory.

Cllr Holden reported that 3,000 potholes had been fixed since March under a "Pothole Blitz" with a further 2,000 being fixed under the regular system of maintenance, but he recognised that there was more to do on this. It would cost £1bn to put Kent's roads into a proper state and funding was an issue because Central Government provided grants and allowances for road maintenance on a per mile basis rather than a usage basis. This disadvantaged more populated areas or this with more freight traffic.

The cost of KCC's bus travel pass for young people (aged up to 16) had increased from £450 to £550 p.a. to reflect the increased fares charged by the bus companies, but it was still better value than the schemes operated by those companies.

There had been an increase in the number of applications for EHCP's for children with special educational needs and this was causing delays in the processing of those applications.

All road works inspectors were now in role.

Cllr Holden had attended a meeting about the provision of non-selective secondary schooling in the Weald. He was not optimistic that this issue would be resolved any time soon as the formula applied by the Education Department did not currently produce pupil numbers that met the required threshold. One option would be for a Free School to be set up but this was a difficult and lengthy process.

Cllr Hoden noted that he had a budget to support local projects and encouraged the Council to come forward with funding requests.

3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 1st MAY 2024

It was proposed by Cllr Tuke, seconded by Cllr Viviers, and **RESOLVED** (1 Abstention) that the Minutes from the Council meeting on 1st May 2024 are a true and accurate record of that meeting. That being so, the Chairman signed the said Minutes.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Repair of damaged streetlight

Cllr Staples had spoken to the landowner, who had kindly agreed to pay for the damage caused by the fallen tree.

Beacon Lighting

A Risk Assessment had been prepared which complied with the requirements of the Council's insurers. Cllr Staples requested that the official tribute be read before the beacon was lit and it was agreed by all members present that Howard Lilley should be invited to do this.

Asset of Community Value

The Clerk had received the relevant form from TWBC and reviewed the applications previously submitted. She would prepare the application to renew the Bell & Jorrock's listing as an Asset of Community Value and forward the draft to Cllr Lawrence for approval.

5. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTIBILITY RETURN 2023/24

- (i) The Annual Internal Audit Report was received and noted.
- (ii) It was proposed by Cllr Vernon, seconded by Cllr Murray, and **RESOLVED** by all members present to approve the Council's Annual Governance Statement.
- (iii) It was proposed by Cllr Staples, seconded by Cllr Murray, and **RESOLVED** by all members present to approve the Council's Accounting Statements.
- (iv) It was proposed by Cllr Viviers, seconded by Cllr Tuke, and **RESOLVED** by all members present to approve the Council's Declaration of exemption from Limited Assurance Review

The documents referred to above, and other supporting documents, will be published on the Council's website in accordance with the Transparency Rules.

6. HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

- (i) **Double yellow lines at Biddenden Road/Headcorn Road/The Street/Mill Lane junction**

The Clerk reported that KCC was willing to fund the installation of double yellow lines because it had been accepted that the current situation, with multiple vehicles parking within 10m of the junction in contravention of the Highway Code, was dangerous. However, before it incurred the cost of commissioning the required statutory consultation process, KCC had asked the Council to canvass local opinion. It was agreed that the situation as it currently stood was clearly dangerous, particularly in circumstances where emergency vehicles had been delayed in attending an incident in Mill Lane due to inconsiderate parking on the junction, and it was encouraging that KCC was willing to fund measures to improve the situation after many years of effort by the Council to persuade it to do so. However, it was recognised that double yellow lines would not themselves deter those determined to park illegally and would only be as effective as the enforcement put in place, over which the Council would have no control. Further, the issue of inadequate parking in the Village would remain. However, it was agreed that the opportunity to try to tackle this problem with the current engagement of KCC should not be missed. It was further agreed that the best way to gauge opinion would be by way of a public meeting.

(ii) Village Gateways

KCC had indicated that if Canham Homes funded the replacement of the Village Gateway on Cranbrook Road, and the Council were able to commit funds towards the replacement of the Village Gateway on Biddenden Road, it would pay £1,000 towards the latter. Cllr Vernon will speak with Canham Homes.

7. SPEEDWATCH

5 sessions had taken place with 28 offenders being logged out of 189 vehicles. On one occasion, over one third of all vehicles travelling along Biddenden Road between 4:30pm and 5:30pm were going in excess of 34mph well inside the 30mph zone. It was the fourth time one driver was recorded exceeding the speed limit and they therefore received a letter hand delivered by the Police.

8. PLAYGROUND INSPECTIONS / EQUIPMENT

Cllr Viviers reported that the equipment was sound, save that a picnic table which had been put within the fenced of area was a bit wobbly.

The Clerk will chase Proludic as the parts ordered for maintenance works to be carried out were yet to be received.

9. ROAD REPORT

Cllr Gosbee had provided the Clerk with the following report, which was read out:

“The stolen manhole covers stolen from outside Sunnyside Cottages on Biddenden Road have been replaced.

Sand Lane has been patched and is improved but a few potholes remain close to the Staplehurst turning and at the crossroads which I will report tomorrow.

Fly tipping- Dig Dog Lane was cleared after it was totally blocked”.

Cllr Gosbee had also raised his concerns over the manner in which the Grounds Maintenance Contractor had cut the grass at the War Memorial. This appeared to have been done with no care for the tributes left in remembrance as some of the wooden crosses had been damaged by either a

mower or strimmer and the shards left strewn about. The Clerk will raise this as a complaint with the Contractor.

10. PLANNING

New Applications

24/01228/FULL	<p>Land adjacent to Thrift Cottages, Knoxbridge, Frittenden Change of use of land to residential gypsy site including mobile home, tourer, dayroom & associated development including package treatment plant (Part-retrospective) Proposed by Cllr Vernon, Seconded by Cllr Murray RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND REFUSAL for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The site is classified as highly vulnerable for flood risk and not suitable for development with additional concerns regarding the increase of flood risk for neighbouring properties. 2. Unlawful development has already taken place on the site which is a material consideration for refusing this application. 3. The proposal is not sustainable development as none of the objectives of economic, social and environmental are met so the proposal is contrary to Planning Policy for Traveller Sites. 4. Unlawful development already carried out and the proposals are having and will have a material adverse impact on the open countryside and will cause significant harm to the landscape contrary to policy EN25 and H4 of the Local Plan. 5. The proposals will materially adversely affect the residential amenity of neighbours.
24/01391/FULL	<p>Lambourne Waye, Mill Lane, Frittenden Demolition of garage & creation of dwelling Proposed by Cllr Vernon, Seconded by Cllr Staples RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL</p>
24/01385/FULL & 24/01386/LBC	<p>Corner Farm, Biddenden Road, Frittenden Replacement of rear ground floor window Proposed by Cllr Staples, Seconded by Cllr Viviers RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL (Having declared an interest, Cllr Vernon left the room while this application was being considered and voted upon)</p>

Outcome of Previous 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. PERMISSION GRANTED</p>
24/00897/FULL	<p>Tanyard Cottage, Cranbrook Road, Frittenden Erection of replacement garage PERMISSION GRANTED</p>

Planning appeals

- **Appeal** - Ref: APP/M2270/W/24/3340554 – Appeal against refusal of planning application 23/03033/FULL – Little Manor, Staplehurst Road, Frittenden – Erection of single-storey dwelling including a ground source heat pump and integrated solar panels – Noted, no further comments to be submitted
- **Decision** – Ref: APP/M2770/W/22/3302329 – Appeal against refusal of planning application 21/02959/FULL – Land North of Grandshore Farm, Grandshore Lane, Frittenden - siting of mobile home, touring caravan, utility dayroom and septic tank installation – **APPEAL ALLOWED & PERMISSION GRANTED**

11. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

- The Clerk noted that the Annual Inspection of the playground would be undertaken by Playsafety RoSPA in July.
- Cllr Lawrence will be attending the Parish Chairs' Meeting on 11th June 2024.
- Cllr Staples noted that the Historical Society was launching its Purple Plaque Scheme at 11:30am on 16th June 2024. This scheme was supported by the Council.
- The Clerk drew the Council's attention to the correspondence passing between a resident, TWBC and the Kent Police & Crime Commissioner's office following the fly tipping incident in Dig Dog Lane referred to in Cllr Gosbee's Road Report.

12. FINANCE

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

FRITTENDEN PAYMENTS – JUNE 2024					
Cheque Number	GROSS	VAT	NET	SUPPLIER	DETAILS
BACS	£15.00	Nil	£15.00	Frittenden Memorial Hall	Room Hire – Meeting Room (1 x session)
BACS	£50.40	£8.40	£42.00	Urbaser Ltd	Street Cleansing – May
BACS	£56.30	Nil	£56.30	Mrs E Nightingale	Clerk's Expenses - June
BACS	£182.25	Nil	£182.25	Mrs E Nightingale	Clerk's Salary – June
BACS	£45.60	Nil	£45.60	HMRC	PAYE
BACS	£50.00	Nil	£50.00	Mr B Millard	Honorarium – Internal Audit
BACS	£247.50	£41.25	£206.25	Streetlights	Repair of streetlight damaged by fallen tree
BACS	£38.88	£6.48	£32.40	JRB Enterprise Ltd	Dog Bags
DD	£11.99	£2.00	£9.99	Hugo Fox	Website Hosting fee
DD	£73.36	£3.49	£69.87	Npower	Streetlighting Energy – May
Total	£771.28	£61.62	£709.66		

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:50 pm.

Chairman's Signature: _____

Date: _____

