

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held at The Memorial Hall, The Street, Frittenden on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 at 7.30pm.

Present were: Cllr A Staples (Chairman)  
Cllr J Tuke  
Cllr R Vernon  
Cllr S Murray

In attendance: Mrs E Nightingale (Clerk), Cllr Fairweather (Borough), Cllr Warne (Borough) & 1 member of the public

### **PUBLIC FORUM:**

A member of public spoke about a proposal currently under consideration by the Parish Council for the installation of a children's cycle path around the Parish Field. They had kindly provided their comments in writing in advance of the meeting and those comments had been circulated to and read by the members present.

The member of public summarised their key objections to the above proposal being:

- Safety – it was felt having a cycle track on a multi-use field was inappropriate and that mixing children playing and dog walkers etc. with bicycles would make high speed collisions inevitable. Having cyclists and footballers sharing the same space was also a safety concern.
- Anti-Social Behaviour – The cycle path could attract antisocial behaviour through the inappropriate use of mini motorbikes, e-bikes, e-scooters etc. It was noted that Kent Police were concerned about increased incidents of “bike storming”.
- Land not suitable – the field is extremely boggy in places and can become waterlogged due to the very high water table in the area. This would undoubtedly give rise to very high construction and maintenance costs.
- Environmental Issues – it was not appropriate to tarmac over part of a green space.
- Changing nature of the Parish Field – it was felt that the Parish Field was in danger of becoming a sports ground rather than a green space to be enjoyed by all.

Cllr Staples thanked the member of public for their comments and noted that the feasibility of the proposal was under consideration at present and that no decisions effecting the use of the Parish Field would be made without community consultation by way of a public meeting.

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

Cllr L Gosbee, Cllr Viviers, Cllr Lawrence, Cllr Holden (County)

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

Cllr Vernon declared an interest in the planning applications 24/000613/FULL & 24/000614/LBC to be considered under agenda item 16.

### **3. BOROUGH & COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE**

The Clerk read a brief update from Cllr Holden which he had provided by email in advance of the meeting.

Cllr Fairweather attended and provided an update.

#### 4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024

It was proposed by Cllr Tuke, seconded by Cllr Murray, and **RESOLVED** (1 Abstention) that the Minutes from the Council meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 are a true and accurate record of that meeting. That being so, the Chairman signed the said Minutes.

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

##### Parking at the junction of The Street, Mill Lane & Biddenden Road

The Fire Service could not assist with providing any further information about the incident involving a medical emergency on Mill Lane until it was given the date on which it occurred. The Clerk had requested this information but had not had a response from the person who reported the incident.

##### Annual Parish Assembly

Tony Iren from Canham Homes has kindly agreed to attend to speak about the ongoing development at Four Acres, Cranbrook Road and answer questions from the floor.

##### Four Acres Development

Cllr Vernon had spoken to Canham Homes about cement lorries driving through the village to access the Four Acres site. Canham confirmed that it had issued instructions not to do so, but those instructions were, on occasion, ignored by contractors. It will again ask its contractors not to drive through the village.

#### 6. STREET CLEANSING CONTRACT 2024/25

It was proposed by Cllr Staples, seconded by Cllr Vernon, and **RESOLVED** by all members present to renew the current contract with Urbaser Limited for a further 12 months on the same terms.

#### 7. INSURANCE RENEWAL

The Council had entered into a three-year long-term contract with its current insurer, which was coming into its final year. It was acknowledged that some of its assets might be underinsured due to the fact that updated valuations had not been obtained for some time. However, any adjustments to the value insured at this renewal would fall outside of the above agreement and trigger an increased premium. It was therefore proposed by Cllr Staples, seconded by Cllr Tuke, and **RESOLVED** by all members present to renew on the same terms and to undertake a formal review of the Council's insurance requirements, both in respect of sums insured and the basis / scope of cover, in or around September 2024, in preparation for procuring quotes for the 2025/26 policy year.

#### 8. CONSULTATION ON DRAFT ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS TOWN CENTRE PLAN – VISION 2040

It was agreed that, having reviewed the consultation documentation provided by TWBC, that the Council would not submit any comment given the proposals did not directly impact on Frittenden.

#### 9. STREETLIGHTS QUOTE

The Clerk had consulted with the Council's streetlighting contractor and had been advised that it would cost £508.50 + VAT to replace the SS6 photocells in the 9 streetlights that had been ungraded to modern LED lanterns to date with SS9 photocells, which would come on at dusk, then turn off after several hours before coming on again before dawn in order to provide lighting in the evenings and early mornings but throughout the night. The contractor believed that this would reduce the energy consumption of the streetlighting by c.47%.

The streetlight opposite the old shop on The Street was yet to be upgraded and the Council was advised that this would also lead to a substantial saving because it is currently controlled by an old time-switch which attracted an additional MPAN at a cost of c.£15 per month in administration fees added to the Council's energy bill. It would cost an additional £350 + VAT to upgrade that lantern.

The Clerk was instructed to make enquiries of Npower to try to obtain confirmation that it would adjust the way it estimated the Council's energy usage if the streetlights were to no longer be on throughout the night and obtain an estimate of what saving might be made to see if this accorded with the contractor's view before the above proposed expenditure could be considered further.

## 10. PROPOSAL FOR CYCLE PATH ON PARISH FIELD

It was noted that there were significant objections to this proposal from some residents. Concerns were also raised by the members present about the potential cost of both installing and maintaining a cycle path given the unfavourable ground conditions in certain parts of the Parish Field. Cllr Vernon also noted that planning permission might be required and raised concerns about how a cycle path might impact on risk and how that risk might be viewed by insurers.

It was agreed that no further action would be taken pending further discussion when all members were in attendance.

## 11. SCHOOL SPORTS DAY

It was proposed by Cllr Staples, seconded by Cllr Vernon, and **RESOLVED** by all members present to allow Frittenden School's Sports Day to take place on the Parish Field on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2024. That permission included the erection of such marquees / gazebos as may be required and also the use of a bouncy castle provided that, in advance of the event, the Clerk was provided with (i) evidence that the PTA's own insurance covered the erection and operation of that equipment and (ii) an up-to-date risk assessment.

The Clerk will notify the Council's grounds maintenance contractor of the above and ask that the grass on the field be cut shortly before that event.

## 12. SPRING CLEAN UP

In the absence of Cllr Lawrence who organised this event, Cllr Staples noted that it was well attended and that the volunteers did a very good job on Staplehurst Road. The litter collected included a double mattress removed from Park Wood Lane. Unfortunately, volunteers were unable to get all the way up Headcorn Road because there were a lot of young families and it was not safe for children to be on that stretch of road.

## 13. SPEEDWATCH

5 sessions had taken place, with a further session having to be abandoned due to bad weather. 28 offenders had been logged with 2 letters being sent to repeat offenders. The highest speed recorded was 45 mph.

#### 14. PLAYGROUND INSPECTIONS / EQUIPMENT

This item was postponed to the next meeting of the Council due to the absence of Cllrs Gosbee and Lawrence.

#### 15. ROAD REPORT

Cllr Gosbee has sent his apologies due to ill health but had provided the Clerk with the following written report, which was read out to the meeting:

I have reported the potholes again at Frittenden crossroads, and at Lambourne Way, Mill Lane as well as the deep pothole opposite the Tanyard. I have also reported where the road is breaking up outside Chanceford Cottage, Sand Lane.

I have tried to report the fly tipping down Green Lane which branches off from Bettenham Lane, but Ashford Borough Council don't answer their phones.

#### 16. PLANNING

##### New Applications

24/00613/FULL & 24/000614/LBC	Corner Farm, Biddenden Road, Frittenden Replacement of 10 non-historic windows <b>Proposed by Cllr Staples, Seconded by Cllr Murray</b> <b>RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL</b> <b>[Having declared an interest as an owner of the subject property, Cllr Vernon left the room while these applications were discussed and voted upon]</b>
24/00715/MOD106	Four Acres, Cranbrook Road, Frittenden Modification of Planning Obligation - Application to modify the s106 agreement under reference 21/01638/FULL regarding amendments to housing mix <b>Proposed by Cllr Vernon, Seconded by Cllr Tuke</b> <b>RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL</b>
24/00728/FULL	Land North of Grandshore Farm, Grandshore Lane, Frittenden Change of use of land to a travellers' caravan site consisting of 1no. mobile home, 1no. touring caravan, 1no. utility day room, package treatment plant & associated development <b>Proposed by Cllr Vernon, Seconded by Cllr Murray</b> <b>RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND REFUSAL on the same grounds as previously submitted with reference to 21/02959/FULL</b>
24/00825/SUB	Pound Hill Field, Biddenden Road, Frittenden Submission of Details in relation to Condition 4 - Landscape Scheme, Condition 5 - Biodiversity Enhancement Scheme of 23/01109/FULL <b>NOTED</b>
24/00795/NMAMD	Four Acres, Cranbrook Road, Frittenden Non-material amendment in relation to 21/01638/FULL - Updated house types on plots 5 & 8, orientation of plots 7 & 9, removal of car ports between 17-18 & 20-21. <b>NOTED</b>
24/00681/PNQCLA	Wellwood Park Farm, Cranbrook Road, Frittenden

	Prior Notification for change of use of a building and land within curtilage to Class C3 (dwellinghouse) <b>NOTED</b>
24/00702/PNQCLA	Park Farm Land & Buildings, Cranbrook Road, Frittenden Prior Notification for change of use of a building and land within curtilage from an agricultural use to Class C3 (3 dwellinghouses) and associated building operations <b>NOTED</b>

### Outcome of Previous applications

- None

### Planning appeals

- None

## 17. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

- The Clerk had received the results of the speed surveys recently undertaken by KCC at The Street, Headcorn Road and Biddenden Road and had circulated the same in advance of the meeting. The Clerk will ascertain from KCC whether the Council is permitted to publish the results.
- The Clerk had received a bundle of flyers publishing the petition being compiled by the action group Support Weald Schooling, who are campaigning for a new non-selective secondary school in Cranbrook. The flyer will be published on the Council's website and noticeboard. Cllr Staples also took a bundle for distribution by Frittenden School.
- Cllr Staples reported that Frittenden School is updating its playground equipment and had kindly offered the existing equipment to the Parish Council. The members were grateful for this offer but felt that there was not sufficient space for it to be erected within the fenced off area of the playground, particularly in light of the rules and guidance on the amount of clear space that must be available around pieces of play equipment for safety reasons. It was not felt appropriate for play equipment to be placed outside of the fenced off area.
- Cllr Staples noted that the Council meeting currently scheduled to take place on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024 would need to be moved because it would serve at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and such meeting were required to take place in May. The Clerk confirmed that this was correct and so it was agreed that the meeting would be moved to 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024 provided sufficient members were able to attend to make the meeting quorate. The Clerk will make the necessary arrangements.

## 18. FINANCE

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

FRITTENDEN PAYMENTS – April 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	£213.00	£35.50	£177.50	Kent Grassland Services	Grounds Maintenance – March
BACS	£50.40	£8.40	£42.00	Urbaser Ltd	Street Cleansing – March
BACS	£53.60	Nil	£53.60	Mrs E Nightingale	Clerk’s Expenses - April
BACS	£102.12	Nil	£102.12	Mrs E Nightingale	Clerk’s Salary – April
BACS	£68.40	Nil	£68.40	HMRC	PAYE
DD	£11.99	£2.00	£9.99	Hugo Fox	Website Hosting fee
DD	tbc	tbc	tbc	Npower	Streetlighting Energy – March
<b>Total</b>	<b>£699.74</b>	<b>£45.90</b>	<b>£653.84</b>		

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:46 pm.

Chairman’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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