

# PARISH COUNCIL OF BENENDEN

**Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2013 in the Memorial Hall at 20.00 hours, pursuant to notice**

Present: Cllr Reynolds, Cllr Beattie, Cllr Butler-Graham, Cllr Grant, Cllr Walden, Cllr Thomas, & Cllr Barker

In Attendance: Fiona Chalk – Clerk

**120/13 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr North, Cllr Cook, Cllr Hall, Cllr Holden and Cllr Rook. The Chair welcomed the new Councillor, Cllr Grant and advised that the Parish now has a full complement of Councillors.

The meeting was closed for parishioners questions.

**121/13 PARISIONERS QUESTIONS**

A Parishioner asked why Councillors had been co-opted, not elected. The Chairman advised that all Councillors had been elected, not co-opted. The Parishioner stated that Councillors had not been elected as there had been no vote. The Chairman advised that as only one person had stood for election each time, there had been no requirement for a vote, the persons took their place as a Councillor in an Uncontested Election. He advised that the Council had worked closely with Nicky Timms at Democratic Services and all Councillors had been elected to ensure complete transparency. A parishioner suggested an email is distributed to the village database to explain and reassure the community that all Councillors have been properly elected. Cllr Butler-Graham advised that she had not received any queries about the Council's status, in response to her email announcing the full complement of elected members, but offered to send an email and put an announcement on the Parish Council website.

A Parishioner asked whether it was true that the money allocated for the new Primary school at Benenden, has been withdrawn and used for another school in Harrietsham. The Chairman advised that he was not aware of this. He stated that a new tranche of money was being allocated for education but as yet, no decisions had been made regarding the allocation of these funds, as far as the Parish Council is aware. The meeting was re-opened.

**122/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**123/13 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 15<sup>th</sup> JULY 2013**

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting and were duly signed, subject to amendment of 118/13 The George PH is in Cranbrook, not Benenden.

**124/13**                    **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT COVERED BY ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**  
The meeting of Cllr Holden and KCC regarding the Primary School will be discussed under item 12.

**125/13**                    **REVIEW AND APPROVE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR PLANNING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
PLANNING – it was proposed by Cllr Barker that the planning committee membership will consist of Cllrs Grant, Ward, Barker, North, Thomas, Cook and the Chairman with an ex-officio role with voting rights. This motion was seconded by Cllr Grant and unanimously resolved they be adopted, subject to the above amendment.  
FINANCE – the Terms of Reference were proposed for adoption by Cllr Beattie and seconded by Cllr Thomas and unanimously resolved they be adopted

**126/13**                    **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**  
IDEN GREEN – it was unanimously agreed that this item be discussed under Matters Arising at the Harmsworth Trust meeting, directly after this meeting. The Clerk apologised for putting this item on the wrong agenda.  
3 HORTONS CLOSE – It was noted that a joint ownership property is available at Hortons Close.

**127/13**                    **SPEEDWATCH**  
Cllrs noted the following:  
The total start up cost is £460, of which £100 has been pledged by Cllr Rook  
The annual service charge is £120 + vat – confirmation is required as to whether this is per parish or for all parishes  
There are no maintenance charges expected  
Each Parish is to Insure the speed equipment when it is in it’s possession  
Persons operating the equipment are covered by the Police’s insurance as long as they have been on the necessary training course.  
The sites for the cameras can be chosen by Parishioners and then the police will visit the site and advise on safety  
The Council has no power to prosecute, however information can be passed to the police who can then send out warning letters  
The camera records registration numbers and data of speeds  
A diary is kept at Cranbrook to book the hire of the equipment  
Some parishioners have come forward to be trained  
An email and website plea will be sent out  
A group of parishioners will be set up before the money is sent to Cranbrook Parish Council.  
Cllr Butler-Graham proposed the Council proceed with purchase of the equipment, on the proviso that volunteers are identified to run the scheme. The Council will not fund the camera if volunteers do not come forward. Cllr Beattie seconded the proposal. It was unanimously resolved that subject to sufficient volunteers being recruited, the Council pay £360 for a part share in the purchase of the Camera equipment.

128/13

**FIRST AIDERS & DEFIBRILLATORS**

It was noted that two defibrillators have been sourced; one from BACs by Peter Ellis, free of charge and another is being confirmed. The Council thanked Peter Ellis for his assistance. It was suggested that one will be kept in the telephone box at Iden Green, the other at The Bull in Benenden, until an outside storage box is obtained and funded by BACS, at a cost of £1,000. It will probably then be kept outside the Community Office but this will be confirmed once a suitable site is located. Training on the use of the defibrillators will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> August at midday, by the SE Coastal Ambulance Service. It was advised that individual first aiders do not need insurance to use the equipment, but qualified Nurses who use it will need their own insurance.

Councillors agreed that a HeartStart and First Aider course will be run in the village with Benenden Hospital being involved.

129/13

**WARD COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

There were none as all Cllrs had given their apologies.

130/13

**CLERKS/CHAIRMAN/COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS**

*Benenden Recreation Ground and Village Hall* – It was noted that the Football Club don't pay for the hire of the pitch but do pay £15 for the hire of the Village Hall changing rooms. The Football Club have offered to reseed the pitch at their own cost. It was unanimously resolved that the Football Club be asked to proceed.

*Benenden Primary School* – There is a HMI inspection taking place this week as a follow up to Ofsted. A governors meeting is taking place on Wednesday.

It was noted that a meeting with Paul Carter and Robin ?? had taken place at which the primary school was discussed. It was resolved that the Chair will write to Helen Grant, Roger Gough and Chris Gabriel at KCC to get further clarification on where the process of building the new school is at. Cllrs asked if the recent Ofsted report could be used to strengthen the case for the new school to be built. It was noted however that the most recent Ofsted report did not mention the overcrowding issue, as previous reports had done.

*Iden Green Pavilion* – No report

*KALC* – No report

*Highways* – The Chair stated that a meeting is to be convened regarding signage in Iden Green. It was also noted that the weather had caused pipes to burst on the B2086 at Mounts Hill, Cheque Tree, Prickle Gate and Tilsden Lane. **Clerk to Action** Councillors noted that a Parishioner has advised that a 4x4 club is planning to use the Green Lane WC362/AT64, expressing concern over it being damaged.

Councillors unanimously agreed to refer this issue to the organiser of this event at Hole Park. **Clerk to Action**

Councillors noted a Freedom of Information request has been received regarding the above Green Lane. It was unanimously agreed to accept the legal advice given by SLCC in respect of not making the Clerk's notes taken at any meeting, available to the public. **Clerk to Action**

*Streetcruizer bus*- It was noted that the bus is operating tonight with two youth workers and over 20 children present. It was noted that KCC have requested volunteer Youth workers be made available by the Council. Cllrs unanimously agreed that Youth workers need to be properly qualified and trained and volunteer parents are not appropriate as the children are unlikely to speak to them on issues

such as family planning etc. in the way they would with qualified workers. The Council has provided 3 volunteer drivers. It was agreed that Cllr Holden should be contacted to try to resolve this issue. It was noted that the contract has not yet been signed with WRAP. Cllrs expressed their thanks again to Cllr Butler-Graham for organising the bus facility.

*Website/Communications* – The website went live on 1<sup>st</sup> July. Cllr Butler-Graham asked for news items to be sent in for updating on the website. She advised that the Chairman’s letter and 2 adverts are going in August’s magazine, 1 advertising the website and 1 with E-watch details.

*Office Furniture* – It was unanimously agreed that the photocopier contract be transferred from Village Hall Management Committee to Benenden Village Hall. The Contract is on a 5 year agreement, from July 2012. The internet account has remained with John Lewis as the connection issues have been resolved and the monthly charged has been reduced from £18.99 to £11 per month. The download limit is to be confirmed. **Clerk to Action**

The Clerk advised that she has purchased 1 x 4 drawer filing unit at a cost of £135 including hanging files.

Cllr Barker advised that the Central Heating unit is to have a wireless control put on the Village Hall side of the Community Office.

The Clerk advised that the Caretaker has been given a key to the Community Office and another key will be made available to all Councillors, kept at a remote location. The Chair advised that the exact details of the £500 rent paid by the Parish Council to the Village Hall Management Committee for use of the Community Office, needs to be agreed and a written agreement drawn up. **Clerk to Action**

*Footpaths* – The issue of dog access at stiles on some village footpaths needs to be followed up with Jim Hyde the Council’s footpaths volunteer. It was noted that the footpath 324/323 needs to be maintained by Highways as this land was sold by the Farmer to TWBC to install the footpath. **Clerk to Action**

**131/13**

**PLANNING REPORT**

The notes from the TWBC Democratic and Planning Service meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup> were noted.

The Planning Decisions Report and Applications Report was noted and the following recommendations were unanimously agreed:

13/01763 Diprose Bungalow (replacement dwelling) – Approve

13/01706 Sarden Farmhouse (garage storage and recreation building) – Approve

13/01845 6 Walkhurst Cottages (single-storey rear extension)– Approve

13/01843 Parsonage Farm (extension and alterations)- Approve

**Clerk to Action**

**132/13**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

The monthly bank reconciliations, transactions list and cheques payable for June were unanimously approved. **Clerk to Action**

**133/13**

**CORRESPONDENCE LIST**

Cllrs noted the list.

It was resolved that the contract with Landscape Services for Gang Mowing, be signed by the Chair.

