

PARISH COUNCIL OF BENENDEN

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Monday 16th September 2013 in the Memorial Hall at 20.00 hours, pursuant to notice

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

In Attendance: Fiona Chalk – Clerk
8 members of the public

136/13 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Waldren due to ill health and Cllr Rook. The apologies were accepted.

The meeting was closed for parishioners' questions.

137/13 Parishioners' questions

- (i) The Scouts asked for use of the Toilets at bonfire night. Cllrs agreed to this request and asked Rob Payne be contacted to discuss further.
- (ii) Can the public toilets be made available on Monday nights till 9pm for the StreetCruizer bus? Cllrs agreed to this request .
- (iii) The Council was advised that a new committee for the Scouts has been formed and there are over 20 scout members with a waiting list in place. It was noted that the facilities are rather cramped and discussions are being held with the hospital for possible use of their building. It was noted that the Parish Plan had some regard for this matter.

The meeting was opened.

138/13 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

139/13 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th July 2013

The minutes were noted as a true record of the meeting and the Chairman signed them.

140/13 Matters Arising that are not on the Agenda

- (i) Unwanted signs around the village – Section 3F of the Town and Country Planning Act allows temporary signs to be in place under Advertisement regulations. It was agreed that some signs for local events can be displayed for limited times. It was noted that there is no official place for posters to be attached and it was agreed no particular place should be designated at this time.
- (ii) Dog friendly stiles – it was noted that landowners consent is required and that metal kissing gates are preferred.
- (iii) Men of Kent Trees – Benenden has entered the competition which runs until the end of September – results will be advised after this date.

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These minutes are not a verbatim record of the meeting, but a summary of discussion and decisions taken at the meeting.

- 141/13 Cherryfields & Leybourne Dell**
 The Council noted that TWBC are disposing of land and the above two sites are available for the Parish Council/Harmsworth Trust to acquire. TWBC will require a clawback clause should the Parish Council sell the above sites for profit in the future. A Business Plan drawn up by the Clerk and its submission was approved by the Cllrs and is to be submitted to TWBC to register its interest in the land. (A copy is filed with these minutes). Cllrs noted that the sites are not being bought for a sum of money, but will have associated costs for upkeep and maintenance.
- 142/13 To consider provision for recycling**
 TWBC Street Scene employees have met with Cllr Butler-Graham in the village to discuss suitable sites for 3 bottle banks, a green, white and brown one. It is recommended that they be sited at the top end of the car park by the bowling green. Cllrs noted that the bottle banks can easily be moved if the site is deemed not suitable, either by TWBC, the Council or local residents who may be affected by noise. The front car park could be considered but may not be so accessible for the refuse lorries. TWBC appreciate that cars may at times block access for emptying the bins, and this was deemed usual practice and acceptable. The bins will be collected during working hours Monday to Friday and time restriction signs can be placed on the bins to limit when the public can put glass in them. Cllrs agreed to investigate if some temporary screening should be put in place i.e. wattle fencing. It was agreed that if this is successful, further recycling such as clothes, will be considered. It was noted that the desire for recycling in the village was strong, according to the Parish Plan.
- 143/13 To receive an update on Speedwatch**
 It was noted that approximately 30 volunteers are available to help with implementing and running this scheme. A meeting is to be held in the pavilion on 30th September for volunteers, hopefully KCC Police representatives will be there also. It was agreed that the Council would meet the hall hire costs of £11 for this meeting.
- 144/13 Kent Police Country Eye Scheme**
 In view of the recent high numbers of break-ins, the possibility of joining the above scheme, which is the rural equivalent to Neighbourhood Watch, was considered. Further information will be sought and a response is awaited from Kent Police.
- 145/13 Cllr Reports**
 None.
- 146/13 Reports by the Clerk, Chairman and Parish Council Representatives**
 (i) KALC. Issues with TWBC planning department were discussed and a meeting will take place to try to resolve the issues. Some areas reported difficulties in finding local people for affordable housing. It was noted that affordable housing works well in Benenden village.

- (ii) Highways. A meeting is to be arranged with KCC regarding speeding through Iden Green. Cllrs Barker and Reynolds to attend. The Water Board have finished their repairs to Mount's Hill and it will be resurfaced.
- (iii) Streetcruizer. This has had very positive feedback over the summer. There have been lots of activities organised free of charge. Cllrs noted concerns for this facility during the winter months and Cllrs considered making the Village Hall available. Cllrs asked the Village Hall Management Committee representatives to raise this at the Village Hall Management Committee meeting to see what availability could be found between 6 and 9pm. It was noted that the invoice has still not been received.
- (iv) Website. Over 3000 hits and regular news updates given and facebook also up and running.
- (v) Office. New Wifi router sent free of charge from John Lewis (supplier) is now installed and working well. There has been some PAT testing carried out by the Caretaker at a charge of £2 per item. Some items have failed and these are being repaired.

147/13

PLANNING REPORT

- (i) Minutes of the planning committee September 5th were noted.
- (ii) Current planning applications were noted with the Committee's recommendations
- (iii) Planning decisions since the last meeting were noted
- (iv) Cllrs agreed the Committee's recommendations in regard to the DCLG consultation. This recommendation is to oppose any further extension to permitted development rights.
- (v) Birch House, Biddenden – application for side extension was discussed and Cllr Barker proposed it be approved, Cllr Cook seconded, unanimously approved.

148/13

FINANCIAL REPORT

- (i) The monthly transaction and bank reconciliations were noted and cheques approved for payment. It was agreed to set up a standing order to pay Mr Payne, who cleans the toilets.
- (ii) It was agreed a copy of the Good Councillors Guide be bought for all Councillors.
- (iii) It was noted that the invoice for the rent for the office is outstanding
- (iv) The recommendations from the Finance Committee were approved and the minutes noted. It was resolved that:
 - The Clerk have 'view only' access to online-banking
 - That Cllr Thomas be added as a signatory on the account
 - That Fiona Chalk be added as named contact on the account to replace Karen Bell.

Cllr Thomas joined the meeting.

149/13

CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

- (i) The report was noted
- (ii) There have been a number of complaints regarding dogs worrying sheep and livestock in the Benenden area and a request has been requested for a Dog Control Order. Cllrs agreed that it would not request a Dog Control Order as it would not be appropriate and proportionate. Cllrs noted that the Local Authority would not implement such an order as they are considered almost impossible to enforce and police. It was agreed the livestock must be protected but dog walkers must have freedoms too. Notices advising dog walkers of their responsibilities will be posted on the website and in the parish magazine.

150/13

ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

Cllr Grant has resigned due to relocation. The new vacancy is being advertised.