**PARISH COUNCIL OF BENENDEN**

**Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Monday 21st September 2015**

**at The Memorial Hall, Benenden, 7:30pm**

Present: Cllrs Thomas (Chair), Barker, Chorlton, Davies, J Ellis, P Ellis, Henning, Marshall

 Cllrs Dawlings, Hall and Holden

In Attendance: Caroline Levett – Clerk; 16 parishioners

**099/15 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Davies and Reynolds.

**100/15 Presentation Paul Leek, Village Website**

A paper had been circulated prior to the meeting and was available to parishioners at the meeting.

Paul explained the background to the development of a new village website, as a recommendation from the Parish Plan, as well as the statement of requirements, implementation, functionality, content and costs. Funding is being sought to help with set-up costs, and ongoing minimal annual charges. Populating and updating the website will be carried out by volunteers.

Cllr Barker thanked Paul for the work and effort regarding this project.

Questions were asked about the existence of a current website, and how this could be revamped, rather than expenditure of £1,000 to set up a new site.

It was agreed that Cllrs Barker and P Ellis would meet with Paul to discuss further.

**101/15 Parishioners Questions**

1. *Who is the parish footpath officer?*  Jim Hyde
2. *When will HMT accounts 2014/15 be published on PC website?* The Clerk will endeavour to do this within a week.
3. *Was the notice of accounts inspection placed on village noticeboards?* Yes
4. *There are rumours that the new school build will be on Green Meadow.*  There is no truth in this whatsoever.
5. *There are errors in the Village Hall accounts 2013/14.* To be corrected.
6. *Concerns were raised about the state of the roads around the village.*
7. *Draft minutes of meetings are not published on the Parish Council website.* These will be uploaded in future.

**101/15 Declaration of Interests and Alterations to Members Register of Interests**

Cllr Marshall declared an interest in item 10.3. There were no other declarations of a prejudicial or pecuniary interest.

**102/15 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 20th July 2015**

**It was resolved that the Chairman is authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 20th July 2015 as a correct record of the meeting.**

Cllr Barker requested that it is made clear that the Parish Council does not endorse any traders who advertise through the parish website.

**103/15 Reports by Cllrs Dawlings, Hall and Holden**

Cllr Holden reported the following:

* Benenden Shop has received £10,000 from Members’ Fund.
* Civic Amenity Vehicle Cllr Holden supports the view that Parish Councils should not be charged for the CAV as it is a necessary and much used service. Benenden is not a suburb of Tunbridge Wells and is a long way from any council tip.
* Speeding Group Meeting Police Officers are working with and supporting Speed Watch teams. Cllr Holden is happy to talk further with representatives from Benenden and he has written to the KCC Transport Member to try to enlist support from KCC. In Benenden there are both speed and volume of traffic issues, combined with a lack of pavements.
* Benenden Primary School A meeting is taking place with KCC this week. KCC is fully supportive of a new school.
* Broadband The Hard To Reach programme is rolling out across Kent. KCC, BT and central government have given additional funding.
* Refugees Forty 16 and 17 year old refugees have been housed locally. The KCC refugee policy is very good and has received a positive response.

Cllr Hall explained that the CAV had originally been provided to replace the tip at Cranbrook. Cllr Henning asked if there was any paper trail regarding the cost and provision of the CAV.

Cllr Hall also reported on the spending of council tax by TWBC.

Cllr Dawlings advised that he too will lobby to continue the current provision of the CAV. He also spoke about TWBC spending and the need to recover money previously received from central government and plan for the future.

Cllr Dawlings reported that the current borough council housing target may not be sufficient and may be increased to 600 new homes per year. Cllr Hall advised that being an area of AONB may not offer protection, and emphasised the usefulness of a Neighbourhood Plan.

**104/15 Matters Arising**

1. **Benenden Magazine**

Cllr Barker advised that the new Benenden Magazine, and, a joint PCC and Parish Council venture, will be distributed free to all households in October. The group working on this had to move quickly to take this on, and may need financial support from the Parish Council in the short term.

1. **Glass Recycling Facility**

There remain a number of concerns raised by parishioners regarding the use of the bins, the noise created and the times that people use them. Whilst the contractors have worked harder to keep the site clean and tidy it was agreed that there is nowhere else in the village to site the bins. Cllr Barker advised that a meeting is due to take place in October between the HMT and KCC to discuss the hall car park. It was agreed some discussion could take place about soundproofing an area where the bins could be housed. The situation will remain under review.

**105/15 Reports Chairman and Parish Council Representatives**

1. Primary school (Cllr Thomas) : A meeting is taking place this week with KCC
2. KALC : Minutes of the last meeting had been circulated.
3. Parish Chairmen’s Meeting : The main area for discussion was the CAV. **It was resolved that the Parish Council does not support the recommendations.** The Clerk to write to TWBC.
4. Youth (Grant Matthews) : KCC has requested an increase in the cost for the provision of its youth service to the parish. There is presently no leeway in the budget for this increase, although the Parish Council, in principal, supports. Grant suggested that the subscription of £1 per week to the Youth Club is formalised and this is returned to the Parish Council to help meet this cost. The Parish Finance Committee will meet and discuss further.

**106/15 Planning & Highways Matters**

1. The following applications had been considered by the Planning Committee at its meeting on 3rd September

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Application** | **Address** | **Proposal** | **Planning Committee Recommendation** |
| 15/504452Listed Building Consent | 1 Beech House Golford Road | Insertion of rooflight to interior hallway | Support |
| 15/506420Listed Building Consent | Yew Tree House Walkhurst Road | Reduction in height of three chimneys to 1.6m above eaves | Neutral |
| 15/505326Full | Hoads Brook Goddards Green Road | Conversion of barn to residential annexe, ancillary to the main dwelling | Support |
| 15/506160Full | Springhill OastStanden Street | Fit 2no. Velux windows to front and rear of new garage and fit external timber staircase with first floor side door so room can be used as an office and storage above garage | Support |

The following applications were considered:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Application** | **Address** | **Proposal** | **PC recommendation** |
| 15/507100FULL | The Oast, Walkhurst Road, | Extension to Existing Porch | Support |
| 15/506716FULL | Hartleys, Cranbrook Road | Demolition of existing dwelling Erection of replacement dwelling | To be considered further at next Planning Committee Meeting |
| 15/506557FULL | Tumbledown Cottage, Chapel Lane  | Two storey extension to rear and dormer window to south elevation | Support |
| 15/507122FULL | The Cowshed, Great Nineveh Farm, Nineveh Lane  | Installation of 5KW solar PV system to roof of outbuilding | Support |

**107/15 Financial Report**

1. Monthly Finance report. **Resolved that payment of the August 2015 cheque list is ratified and approved and the Chairman of the meeting signed the Bank reconciliation and Bank statement for July and August.**
2. Audit Report. The internal audit report 2014/15 had been circulated prior to the meeting. No comments were made.
3. Application for Support to a Sight Impaired Person. Details had been circulated prior to the meeting. A parishioner had made a request on behalf of another parishioner for financial support in meeting the need for a specific piece of equipment. The Parish Council felt that this request should come from a charitable institution, such as the RNIB.

**108/15 Correspondence**

 No items.

**109/15 Items for future consideration**

1. Cllr J Ellis raised concerns about parking connected with the school and non-compliances with the highway code, and how this may cause near misses with accidents.

**110/15 Date of Next Meeting**

Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council **Monday 19th October 2015 at Memorial Hall, Benenden at 7:30pm.**

**111/15** The meeting closed at 9:20pm