

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held at The Memorial Hall, The Street, Frittenden on Tuesday 4th April 2023 at 7.30pm.

Present were: Cllr A Staples (Chairman)
Cllr R Riley
Cllr J Tuke
Cllr L Gosbee
Cllr H Cullingworth
Cllr S Murray

In attendance: Mrs E Nightingale (Clerk)

PUBLIC FORUM:

None

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr R Vernon, Cllr S Holden (County), Cllr A Fairweather (Borough)

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

Cllr Gosbee declared an interest in agenda item 7.

3. BOROUGH & COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE

None.

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON THE 7TH MARCH 2023

It was proposed by Cllr Cullingworth, seconded by Cllr Riley, and **RESOLVED** (1 abstention) that the Minutes from the Council meeting on 7th March 2023 are a true and accurate record of that meeting, save for a small typographical error on page 2161 which was corrected by hand. That being so, the Chairman signed the said Minutes and initialled the above correction.

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

Lack of gritting by KCC during cold snap

No further response has been received from KCC.

Signage on Bettenham Lane

Cllr Staples will be raising this with KCC..

Stones outside Ferrers

Cllr Gosbee had spoken to the owner of the property immediately adjacent to where the stones had been placed. They were not happy with the stones being placed on the verge and will take action to remove them.

Dog Fouling

An order had been placed with Iden Signs for the agreed signage. Cllr Cullingworth will put the new signs up as soon as they are available.

KALC Community Awards

The Council's nomination had been submitted.

Parish Map

The Clerk was yet to receive an invoice for the cost of the film to be applied to protect the map from damage.

Elections

Cllr Staples reported that 7 nominations had been submitted. It would therefore appear that the election of those 7 nominees would proceed uncontested.

Fly Tipping on Bettenham Lane/Dig Dog Lane

This had now been cleared.

Enquiry re: use of Parish Field by Junior Football Club

The Clerk confirmed that she had responded to this enquiry as directed.

6. ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Cllr Staples will invite Michelle West to speak about the work of the Sam West Foundation. He will also make enquiries of another possible speaker.

7. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS 2023/24

The Clerk had received 4 quotes which were considered by the Council. It was proposed by Cllr Murray, seconded by Cllr Riley, and **RESOLVED** (with 1 abstention) to award the following contracts to Landscape Service, provided it was able to give a satisfactory explanation for why its quotes in respect of Contracts 4 and 5 were substantially lower than any other quotes received:

CONTRACT 1 – to mow the Parish Field grass (a maximum of 16 cuts per annum March to November, weather permitting) to include mowing the play area and strimming around the play equipment as necessary, with care being taken not to cause any strimmer damage to the play equipment; to trim under trees and surrounding areas including field edges as necessary, paying particular attention to removing any brambles under the weeping birch; to mow/cut the grass mounds within the Parish Field (a maximum of 8 cuts per annum March to November, weather permitting) at £1,188.34.

CONTRACT 3 – to cut the entire length of the Paddock hedges (vertical faces and tops), including the hedge on the road boundary and the hedge between the Paddock and Frittenden House. (a maximum of 2 cuts per annum to take place in May and September, weather permitting) at £223.54.

CONTRACT 4 - to cut the outer side of the hedge between the Parish Field & Laundry Lane, by hand, and to remove all cuttings, ensuring that the hedge is squared off with no overhang at the top. (2 cuts per annum to take place in May and September, weather permitting) at £112.28.

CONTRACT 5 – to cut all internal vertical faces and tops of hedges within the Parish Field, to include the hedge behind the tennis court, with all growth around telegraph poles being removed so that the hedges are maintained at a height of no more than 2.5m (measured from the Parish Field side), and to remove all cuttings. (1 cut per annum) at £148.46.

If Landscape Services is unable to provide a satisfactory explanation for that discrepancy, the said contracts will be awarded to Kent Grasslands Services as follows:

Contract 1 at £1,350.00
 Contract 3 at £177.00
 Contract 4 at £135.00
 Contract 5 at £470.00

It was proposed by Cllr Riley, seconded by Cllr Staples, and **RESOLVED** (with 1 abstention) to award the following contracts to Mr M Ashbee:

CONTRACT 2 – to mow the grass and cut the hedge at the War Memorial (a maximum of 16 cuts per annum March to November, weather permitting) at £120.

8. STREET CLEANSING CONTRACT 2023/24

This item was postponed to the next meeting of the Council because a quote was yet to be received from Urbaser Limited.

9. INSURANCE RENEWAL 2023/24

It was proposed by Cllr Staples, seconded by Cllr Tuke, and **RESOLVED** by all members present that the pre-renewal questionnaire circulated by the Clerk in advance of the meeting should be submitted and that renewal quotes for 2023/24 should be obtained on the basis of the information provided in 2022/23.

10. SPRING VILLAGE CLEAN UP

Cllr Cullingworth reported that this community event was a great success. There was a good turnout and over 40 bags had been filled with the rubbish collected. TWBC had been extremely efficient with the bags being collected on the first working day after the event. Cllr Cullingworth observed that more hoops were needed and it was agreed that Cllr Staples would price this up and report back at the next meeting of the Council.

11. CORONATION EVENTS UPDATE

Cllr Staples reported that there had been another meeting of the organisers and interest from the School and Pre-School's PTA. It was suggested that members of the PTA could bake scones so a cream tea could be provided at the lunch on Sunday 7th May 2023 and also that a small gift be provided to any children attending, for example a packet of wild flower seeds. It was proposed by Cllr Tuke, seconded by Cllr Cullingworth and **RESOLVED** by all members present that the Council provide funding of up to £400 for this event.

12. PARISH CHAIRMEN'S MEETING

Cllr Staples was disappointed that only 7 Parish Chairmen had attended the last meeting, even though it was conducted by Microsoft Teams. He felt that the quality of the meetings had deteriorated over time.

TWBC provided an update on the Local Plan but this didn't really serve to move matters forward. The Inspector had asked TWBC to look again at the proposals for the Tudeley Garden Village and there would be a further focused hearing in November. Cllr Staples noted that further delays in the implementation of the Local Plan meant that the Borough remained vulnerable to developers using the argument that there was not a provable supply of housing to push through their proposals.

TWBC's Head of Enforcement attended the meeting but did not speak. He delegated a presentation of TWBC's draft Enforcement Plan to a colleague. The Council will consider that draft Plan when it next meets.

13. EDUCATION IN THE WEALD

Kim Fletcher, Chairman of Cranbrook & Sissinghurst Parish Council, is setting up an action group to address the lack of non-selective education facilities in this part of Kent. This would be a matter of concern to Frittenden residents and it was agreed that the Council would consider who might be interested in joining that group when it next meets.

14. SPEEDWATCH

Cllr Staples reported that only 3 out of the planned 6 sessions had taken place due to bad weather. 8 offenders were recorded, but one of those was doing 60mph in a 30mph zone, which is the highest speed recorded in a 6-week period. That offender will receive an advisory visit from Kent Police.

15. PLAYGROUND INSPECTIONS

Cllr Cullingworth will be doing the regular inspection in April before handing over to Cllr Gosbee.

The Clerk reported that the basketball hoop backboard had now been replaced. The backboard obtained by the contractor came with a new hoop and net attached and so the old hoop has also been removed.

16. ROAD REPORT

Cllr Gosbee reported that potholes in Biddenden Road had been filled in. The manhole cover outside Park Cottage and the bridge on Bettenham Lane had also been repaired.

Cllr Gosbee was having a battle with KCC Highways to try and get potholes by Place Farm mended. KCC was arguing that these were the responsibility of the landowner, not Highways, but Cllr Gosbee disagreed.

There had been a lot of fly tipping, with more manure being left on Sand Lane and Park Wood Lane being blocked at the Mill Lane end. Waste had also been dumped on Staplehurst Road, but the fly tipping on Green Lane (between Bettenham Lane and Hareplain Road) had now been cleared

Cllr Gosbee had previously reported that the gateway signs would be replaced but he has been told that this will not now happen due to a lack of funds.

17. PLANNING

New Applications

23/00691/FULL	Rock Farm Oast, Grandshore Lane, Frittenden Erection of new garage with store above Proposed by Cllr Tuke, Seconded by Cllr Cullingworth RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL
23/00692/FULL	Rock Farm Oast, Grandshore Lane, Frittenden Erection of outbuilding in garden for use as a home office

	Proposed by Cllr Gosbee, Seconded by Cllr Murray RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL, subject to a planning condition requiring the use of the outbuilding to be solely ancillary to the main dwelling
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Outcome of Previous applications

22/03574/FULL	Redundant Agricultural Building, Ayleswade Lane, Biddenden Change of use and extension to agricultural building to create 1No. dwelling PERMISSION GRANTED
23/00168/FULL	Whitsunden Farmhouse, Cranbrook Road, Frittenden Erection of a single storey oak framed three bay garage PERMISSION GRANTED

Planning appeals

- None.

18. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

- Cllr Staples had received an email suggesting that the patch of ground in Valence View be used as a community vegetable garden. As the Council had no proprietary interest in the land in question it was agreed that this was not a Council matter and that permission would need to be sought from TWBC.

19. FINANCE

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

FRITTENDEN PAYMENTS –April 2023					
Cheque Number	GROSS	VAT	NET	SUPPLIER	DETAILS
BACS	£17.00	Nil	£17.00	Frittenden Memorial Hall	Room Hire – Meeting Room (1 x session + winter surcharge)
BACS	£213.00	£35.50	£177.50	Kent Grassland Services	Grounds Maintenance – March
BACS	£53.60	Nil	£53.60	Mrs Emma Nightingale	Clerk’s Expenses – April
BACS	£65.84	Nil	£65.84	Mrs Emma Nightingale	Clerk’s Salary – April
BACS	£44.00	Nil	£44.00	HMRC	PAYE
BACS	£360.00	£60.00	£300.00	Everything Outside	Replacement of basketball hoop & backboard
DD	£37.98	£1.81	£36.17	Npower	Streetlighting Energy - April
Total	£791.42	£97.31	£692.11		

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Gosbee reported on the last meeting of the Headcorn Aerodrome Consultative Committee which took place on 4th March 2023.

There had been a number of complaints arising from the events that took place last summer and residents of Bletchenden had reported overflying of their properties, notwithstanding that this should not happen if approved flightpaths are followed. Those residents had been invited to attend at the aerodrome to observe how aircraft approached and came into land at the airfield.

Cllr Gosbee had not yet received the dates of this season's aerobatic days, which would be circulated as soon as they were to hand. An air show would take place on 30th June to 1st July 2023, which would include a flight by a Lancaster Bomber and the Red Arrows.

The next meeting would take place on 13th June 2023.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:07 pm.

Chairman's Signature: _____

Date: _____