

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held at The Memorial Hall, The Street, Frittenden on Tuesday 3rd October 2023 at 7.30pm.

Present were: Cllr A Staples (Chairman)
Cllr M Viviers
Cllr G Lawrence
Cllr S Murray
Cllr J Tuke
Cllr L Gosbee

In attendance: Mrs E Nightingale (Clerk), Cllr S Holden (County)

PUBLIC FORUM:

None

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr R Vernon, Cllr A Fairweather (Borough)

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

Cllr Viviers declared an interest in planning application 23/025414/FULL.

3. BOROUGH & COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Cllr Holden reported that he has not yet made any progress in his efforts to get the configuration of the crossroads at the junction of Frittenden Road and the A274 changed. It was altered in an attempt to make the junction safer but the changes have had the opposite effect.

A proposal has been made that Kent applies under devolved powers to have a mayor. This is seen as a way of accessing additional funding from Central Government. Cllr Holden does not support that proposal because he believes that it would be detrimental and to have administrative powers focused on one person rather than exercised through a representative body such as the County Council.

KCC has recently lost a High Court case in which it was determined that accommodating unaccompanied children asylum seekers in hotels was unlawful. Cllr Holden agreed that this was unsafe but noted that Kent did not have anywhere else to put them. KCC continues to push for a national transfer scheme whereby minors are moved to, and cared for by the local authorities of, other parts of the UK to ease the pressure on Kent.

Cllr Holden confirmed that only 2 schools in Kent were affected by RAAC. In both cases, the relevant buildings had already been surveyed and the Government has accepted that urgent works are not required.

Cllr Holden is pressing for traffic lights to be used to manage the ongoing Golford Road roadworks, rather than road closures. In the meantime, KCC are recruiting for the new Inspectorate being set up to give better oversight to road closures countrywide and hopefully reduce them to a more appropriate level.

Cllrs Staples and Gosbee raised the issue of the ongoing and repeated damage to Bettenham Lane/Dig Dog Lane Bridge. Cllr Holden asked that they put their proposals on how this issue might be addressed in writing so he can take them to the appropriate officer.

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON THE 6TH JUNE 2023 & 4TH JULY 2023 AND THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING MEETING HELD ON THE 1ST AUGUST 2023

Approval of the Minutes from the Council meeting on 4th July 2023 was postponed to the next meeting, there not being the required quorum of members who were present on 4th July 2023.

It was proposed by Cllr Lawrence, seconded by Cllr Tuke, and **RESOLVED** (1 abstention) that the Minutes from the Council meeting on 5th September 2023 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

Bettenham Lane Bridge

This issue was discussed with Cllr Holden and will be followed up (see above).

Provision for Secondary Education in the High Weald

Cllr Staples confirmed that there would be 2 public meetings in the Vestry Hall, Cranbrook on 4th October 2023. One at 2pm and the other at 8pm. Cllr Staples urged as many as possible to attend and have their say on this important issue.

Dig Dog Lane Hedge

The Clerk has written to the company that owns the hedge and asked that it be cut back as a priority. As yet, no response had been received.

Road names for Four Acres development

Cllr Staples had received permission from the relatives of Rupert Inglis and Christopher Parish and the relevant correspondence had been passed on to the developer.

Laundry Lane Gatepost

The Council was grateful to Cllr Lawrence for replacing the rotten post.

Laundry Lane Hedge

The Clerk reported that the Grounds Maintenance Contractor had scheduled cutting back the Laundry Lane face of the Parish Field hedge for this week. If that didn't happen, the Clerk will chase again.

6. VILLAGE CLEAN UP

Cllr Lawrence reported that this event was a great success. Around 20 volunteers collected approximately 30 bags of rubbish. They had even had a volunteer from Marden who was interested to see how the event was organised after a similar event in Marden had attracted only 4 volunteers. There had been an administrative issue around the collection of the rubbish bags which Ivor Jauncy very kindly stores in his field but Cllr Lawrence was working to resolve this. The Council is extremely grateful to everyone who participated.

7. HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN (HIP)

The Clerk reported that she had been liaising with Michelle Morris, the Community Engagement Officer at KCC for HIPs, who was supportive of the Council's efforts to get at least some of the

proposals set out on the HIP it had submitted actioned. Ms Morris had proposed that the replacement of the rotten village gateways that were no longer fit for purpose take place on a phased basis, with the relevant design work for the scheme as a whole and the replacement of the Headcorn Road gateway being phase 1 and the replacement of the other 2 gateways being phase 2. Ms Morris had suggested that if the Council could commit £1,000 to phase 1, she would assign funds from her own budget to get that phase completed. It would then be for the Council to raise funds (c.£3,000 to £4,000 per gateway) and complete phase 2 as and when sufficient funds were available.

It was proposed by Cllr Staples, seconded by Cllr Gosbee, and **RESOLVED** by all members present that the Council commit £1,000 from its reserves to this project.

Ms Morris had also provided the technical specification for the siting of the mountings for a moveable Speed Indicator Device. The Clerk would circulate those details but was sceptical as to whether they could be met given the topography of the proposed sites.

Ms Morris had also provided 30mph bin stickers, which Cllr Murray will arrange to be distributed, together with A4 posters which could be laminated and attached to lampposts etc. and a large banner which she had suggested be sited on the KCC owned verges outside Frittenden House and on the corner of Chestnut Close and The Street. The Clerk will, again, circulate details of the proposed sites.

8. TENT TEAM DONATION

It was proposed by Cllr Staples, seconded by Cllr Lawrence, and **RESOLVED** by all members present to pay £2,500 to Frittenden Pre-School by way of a donation from the Tent Team to its fund raising for an outside canopy.

9. SPEEDWATCH

Cllr Staples reported that 5 sessions had been planned but 1 had been cancelled due to bad weather. The highest speed recorded was 42mph. Of the 141 cars that passed by, only 15 were caught speeding and 1 letter was sent out to a repeat offender.

10. PLAYGROUND INSPECTIONS

Cllrs Lawrence, Cllr Viviers and Cllr Vernon had gone round the play equipment attending to whatever maintenance and repairs could be done by them. They felt that some further work needs to be done to replace parts that are getting worn or tired and so Cllr Lawrence is working up a proposal for what further work needs to be done.

Cllr Gosbee again raised the issue of certain parts of the equipment getting very hot when it was sunny. Cllr Lawrence will raise this with Proludic, the manufacturer of the equipment, as part of his investigations into the further remedial work required,

Cllr Staples thanked Cllrs Lawrence, Viviers and Vernon for giving up their time on a weekend to carry out repairs.

11. ROAD REPORT

Cllr Gosbee noted that there was a cracked manhole cover on Headcorn Road. He had put a cone on it and reported it.

The pothole by The Stables had been mended but Cllr Gosbee had not yet been able to get anything done about the broken-up road surface on Biddenden Road.

The flytipping on Sand Lane and Dig Dog Lane had been removed.

Cllr Viviers asked about whether there had been any progress on getting the hedges on Satins Hill cut back. Cllr Staples noted that Cllr Fairweather had been making enquiries, but he had been told that this would not be done until October. The Clerk will follow this up with Cllr Fairweather.

12. PLANNING

New Applications

23/02538/TCA	Frittenden Cemetery, Mill Lane, Frittenden Tree in Conservation Area Notification: Fell three cherry trees NOTED
23/02541/FULL	Old Farm Cottage, Biddenden Road, Frittenden Erection of proposed side extension Proposed by Cllr Staples, Seconded by Cllr Tuke RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL (1 Abstention) Having declared an interest Cllr Viviers did not take part in any discussion of, or vote on, this application.

Outcome of Previous applications

23/01841/FULL	Old Farm Cottages, Biddenden Road, Frittenden Removal of existing conservatory, proposed glazed link and dormer PERMISSION GRANTED
23/01911/FULL	3 The Limes, The Street, Frittenden Remodel existing conservatory to include new roof, fenestration, walls and side extension PERMISSION GRANTED
23/02246/FULL	Buckhurst Farm, Biddenden Road, Frittenden Variation of Condition 2 of Planning Permission 19/03080/FULL (Conversion of existing barn to residential use for 2 no. dwellings) – remove link element of roof between two buildings WITHDRAWN
23/02102/FULL	The Hatchin Tan, Grandshore Lane, Frittenden Stationing of one mobile home, one touring caravan and a utility unit for a gypsy family PERMISSION REFUSED

Planning appeals

- None.

13. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

- Kent Police will be running online engagement events with Parish Councils. All Councillors who wish to attend are invited to download the Microsoft Teams App.
- A consultation has been opened in relation to modifications made to the Maidstone District Council Local Plan by the Planning Inspector. It will be open until 13th November 2023.

14. FINANCE

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

FRITTENDEN PAYMENTS – October 2023					
Cheque Number	GROSS	VAT	NET	SUPPLIER	DETAILS
BACS	£10.00	Nil	£15.00	Frittenden Memorial Hall	Room Hire – Meeting Room (1 x session & winter surcharge less overpayment of £7)
BACS	£213.00	£35.50	£177.50	Kent Grassland Services	Grounds Maintenance – September
BACS	£50.40	£8.40	£42.00	Urbaser Ltd	Street Cleansing – September
BACS	£53.60	Nil	£53.60	Mrs E Nightingale	Clerk’s Expenses - October
BACS	£126.00	Nil	£126.00	Mrs E Nightingale	Clerk’s Salary - October
BACS	£83.60	Nil	£83.60	HMRC	PAYE
BACS	£2,500.00	Nil	£2,00.00	Frittenden Pre-School	Tent Team Donation
DD	£11.99	£2.00	£9.99	Hugo Fox	Website Hosting fee
DD	£67.83	£3.23	£64.60	Npower	Streetlighting Energy – September
Total	£3,116.42	£49.13	£3,067.29		

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Staples noted that a consultation had opened on the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Although the AONB did not encompass Frittenden, it did cover much of the local area and Cllr Staples therefore encouraged anyone who was interested to have a look at the consultation documentation.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:55 pm.

Chairman’s Signature: _____

Date: _____