

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held at The Memorial Hall, The Street, Frittenden on Tuesday 7th March 2023 at 7.30pm.

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

In attendance: Mrs E Nightingale (Clerk) & 1 member of the public

PUBLIC FORUM:

A member of the public commented on planning application 23/00461/FULL. In their view it represented a continuing overdevelopment of the site and they felt that the application documentation was slightly disingenuous because the block plan did not show the garage that is being built or the extension to the existing dwellinghouse for which permission has been granted. Further, it did not refer to the avenue of trees which ran alongside the nearby public footpath, which was also not mentioned.

The member of public also noted planning application 23/00267/FULL and stated that they would have no objection to the proposed development if the use of the new dwellings was tied to the existing dwelling by way of a planning condition.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr S Murray, Cllr S Holden (County), Cllr A Fairweather (Borough)

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

None.

3. BOROUGH & COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE

None.

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

It was proposed by Cllr Tuke, seconded by Cllr Gosbee, and **RESOLVED** (2 abstentions) that the Minutes from the Council meeting on 7th February 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

Weald Leisure Centre

The service being provided remained inadequate notwithstanding the huge amount of financial investment made by TWBC, primarily due to lack of staff and poor staff retention. It was noted that swim sessions were currently reduced, on some occasions to only one a day, due to a lack of lifeguards. Cllr Vernon suggested that the biggest problem was that local management at the Centre had no autonomy because everything was managed centrally by Fusion. The current

Centre Manager had commented that he wasn't able to provide details of who was responsible for the Centre at Fusion's central office as he didn't even know who his line manager was. The Council was extremely concerned that the area would be left with no leisure provision within a reasonable distance to travel, particularly in light of the growth of Cranbrook due to new housing developments and the ongoing closure of the pool at Tenterden Leisure Centre. Cllr Vernon agreed to take this up with Cllr Fairweather / TWBC.

Lack of gritting

AS had no update on this.

Signage on Bettenham Lane

Cllr Staples will be writing to KCC Highways to suggest that signage indicating that Bettenham Lane was not suitable for HGVs be placed at the junction with Hareplain Road.

Grant for Burial Ground Project

The grant had been received and the book had been launched.

Stones opposite Ferrers, Sand Lane

A resident had complained about the stones. Cllr Gosbee look again at whether this can be resolved.

Dog Fouling

Cllr Cullingworth had prepared a proof for the signage which had been proposed. Iden Signs had indicated that the cost would be £12-£17 plus VAT per sign. It was proposed by Cllr Cullingworth, seconded by Cllr Vernon, and **RESOLVED** by all members present that two signs be purchased for erection in the Parish Field.

Closure of ACRK

Cllr Staples reported that KALC were investigating whether something could be done to allow the services provided by ACRK to be continued. KALC would be asking Borough and Parish Councils to provide feedback on why they were concerned to lose this facility. Cllr Staples noted that ACRK had been particularly helpful to the CLT set up to try and provide affordable housing to Frittenden and also to the Memorial Hall. Cllr Riley noted that her experience had been that it was one of the few organisations that made a real effort to listen to and understand its members needs and gear its activities to those needs.

KALC Community Awards

The Clerk confirmed that the Council's nomination had been submitted.

Parish Map

The Clerk was awaiting receipt of an invoice in relation to the film that would be installed to protect the map.

Post Office

The Clerk had written to Headcorn Post Office and received a swift and positive response. Assurances had been made that Headcorn was committed to continuing the Post Office service from the Memorial Hall, if at all possible, but the decision in that regard would ultimately be taken higher up the Post Office's management structure.

6. PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Nominations must be received by TWBC by 4pm on 4th April 2023 and the relevant forms needed to be hand delivered to The Town Hall in Tunbridge Wells. Cllr Staples noted that this was onerous for those parts of the Borough that were furthest removed from Tunbridge Wells and emphasised the disconnect between the Town Hall and the rural periphery.

Those who wished to be nominated required two sponsors. If details of those sponsors' electoral addresses/numbers were required in order to complete the required forms, those details could be provided by the Clerk.

Cllrs Riley and Tuke will liaise to put something on the Community Facebook page to encourage anyone interested in serving on the Council to submit a nomination.

Cllr Staples noted that voters would be required to produce a form of photo ID at election in May. Information about this new requirement had been published on the Council's website and on the Community Facebook page. Cllr Tuke will repost this on Facebook as a reminder.

7. BOOK OF PARISH COUNCILLORS

The Register of Parish Councillors which had been kept from the Council's inception in 1894 had been completed and a new book was required to continue the register. Stationery Express had quoted £159.00 plus VAT for printing and binding a new book. It was proposed by Cllr Staples, seconded by Cllr Riley, and **RESOLVED** by all members present that the Clerk should place an order with Stationer Express for a new book in accordance with that quote.

8. ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Cllr Staples suggested that Cllrs Holden and Fairweather be invited to speak at the APA on 9th May 2023 to give an update on activities at County and Borough level. It was suggested that, rather than invite all local organisations to speak for a limited amount of time, those organisations be approached to see if any particular individuals wished to say a little more about what they were doing or what their plans were for the future.

9. SPRING LITTER PICK

Cllr Cullingworth confirmed that all arrangements were in hand for the Spring Clean up that was to take place on Saturday 25th March 2023.

10. TENT TEAM RATES 2023

It was proposed by Cllr Staples, seconded by Cllr Cullingworth, and **RESOLVED** by all members present that the following rates be approved for 2023:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Village Organisation</u>	<u>Individuals</u>
Large Marquee – 12m x6m	£100.00	£200.00
Half Marquee – 6m x 6m	£75.00	£125.00
Gas Barbeque	£20.00	£40.00

11. EASTER FUN RUN

The Clerk had circulated the Risk Assessment for this event prior to the meeting and Cllr Staples confirmed that the net proceeds of the Fun Run were to be split between the Memorial Hall and the Sam West Foundation.

The Council suggested that any cyclists be set off first to ensure that they were ahead of the runners. It was also suggested that if any dog walkers wanted to participate, they should be held at the back and set off once the runners were on their way to ensure that runners were not tripped up by excitable dogs, leads etc. Cllr Staples had been approached by a participant from previous years who suggested that a water station be provided part way around the course. This could be done by a marshal having a stock of water bottles etc. to give out to those who had not brought their own. The Clerk will feedback these suggestions to the event organiser.

12. SPEEDWATCH

Cllr Staples noted that there had been four sessions since the last Council meeting (2 more had been planned but were cancelled due to poor weather). They had recorded a 22% offending rate across all locations, with the offending rate being very high on Biddenden Road. Speedwatch now had 12 potentially active members.

13. PLAYGROUND INSPECTIONS

Cllr Gosbee will be doing the inspections this month.

The Clerk confirmed that the basketball hoop backboard will be replaced by the end of the month.

14. ROAD REPORT

Cllr Gosbee reported that the salt bins around the village had been refilled, however the bin at the end of London Lane was still full of water.

Cllr Gosbee had reported the pot holes by the Bell & Jorrocks, as well as those on Mill Lane.

Cllr Gosbee had heard that CCTV might be put in place on Mill Lane to combat fly tipping but he did not know by whom. The builders waste fly tipped on Bettenham Lane had been moved to the edge of the road by KCC Highways but it was yet to be collected.

Cllr Staples noted that there was a very deep pothole at the junction of Biddenden Road and Hareplain Road. That location was outside of the Parish but Cllr Gosbee will investigate.

15. PLANNING

New Applications

22/00267/FULL	The Twins, Staplehurst Road, Frittenden Conversion of two redundant agricultural barns to two dwellings Proposed by Cllr Vernon, Seconded by Cllr Riley RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL, subject to a planning condition requiring that the use of the new dwellings be ancillary to the existing dwelling
23/00350/FULL	Rose Cottage Farm, Knoxbridge, Frittenden Two storey side extension Proposed by Cllr Vernon, Seconded by Cllr Tuke RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL
22/00461/FULL	Junkyard Barn Cottages, Staplehurst Road, Frittenden Erection of proposed agricultural barn Proposed by Cllr Vernon, Seconded by Cllr Riley RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND REFUSAL (Votes: 3 For, 2 Against, 1 Abstention)

Outcome of Previous applications

23/03703/FULL	Tolhurst Farm, Cranbrook Road, Frittenden Three-year temporary consent for the retention of a mobile home for use as agricultural workers accommodation.
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	PERMISSION GRANTED
22/03660/FULL	Old Farm Cottage, Biddenden Road, Frittenden The erection of a detached oak framed annex PERMISSION GRANTED

Planning appeals

- None.

16. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

- An enquiry had been made by a local junior football club as to whether the Parish Field might be suitable for it to use as its home base. The Council did not feel that the Parish Field would be suitable for the club, which had successfully grown in recent years so that it now fielded c.10 teams across all age groups. This was because: there were no facilities (toilets, changing rooms etc) and little scope to provide them, either on a temporary or permanent basis; limited parking for club members and/or visiting teams; and no public transport for those club members who did not have access to their own transport.

17. FINANCE

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

FRITTENDEN PAYMENTS –March 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 – February
BACS	£50.40	£8.40	£42.00	Urbaser Ltd	Rubbish Collection – Litter Bins – February
BACS	£53.60	Nil	£53.60	Mrs Emma Nightingale	Clerk’s Expenses – March
BACS	£104.13	Nil	£104.13	Mrs Emma Nightingale	Clerk’s Salary – March
BACS	£69.60	Nil	£69.60	HMRC	PAYE
BACS	£120.00	Nil	£120.00	Mr M Ashbee	Grounds Maintenance – War Memorial 22/23
DD	£34.81	£1.66	£33.15	Npower	Streetlighting Energy - February
Total	£662.54	£45.56	£616.98		

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

Chairman’s Signature: _____

Date: _____