

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held at The Memorial Hall, The Street, Frittenden on Tuesday 3rd September 2024 at 7.30pm.

Present were: Cllr G Lawrence
Cllr A Staples
Cllr R Vernon
Cllr M Viviers
Cllr J Tuke
Cllr L Gosbee

In attendance: Mrs E Nightingale (Clerk), Cllr S Holden (County) & one member of the public

PUBLIC FORUM:

A member of the public urged the Parish Council to press Kent County Council for action to address the issue of vehicles parking on the staggered crossroads in the centre of the village. It was their view that the parking situation had deteriorated significantly in recent years to a point where the junction had become dangerous and an accident waiting to happen. They supported KCC's proposal to paint double yellow lines in the areas where it was unlawful to park but acknowledged that there were wider issues around parking which also needed to be addressed.

Cllr Lawrence noted that the Parish Council would be reporting to KCC the views expressed at the Public Meeting as well as those expressed in writing both before and after the meeting. It was also the Council's intention to set up a Working Group to look at how those wider issues of parking, speeding etc. could be addressed, particularly with reference to the Highway Improvement Plan which the Council submitted to KCC on an annual basis.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr S Murray, Cllr A Fairweather (Borough), Cllr N Warne (Borough)

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

None

3. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Cllr Holden reported that he was still waiting for a response from relevant officers to his request that the configuration of the Bounds Cross junction be changed as it was dangerous.

Cllr Holden noted that changes made by the new government meant that TWBC's housing target had been increased by 58%. KCC and four other County Councils had written to the government to express concerns at this change in policy given that it would be difficult to meet the new targets in areas such as Tunbridge Wells Borough which had a lack of infrastructure, large areas of green belt etc. It was also yet to be seen what would happen to the Household Support Fund following the change of government. Policy changes by the new government also meant that the proposed cap on adult social care costs would not go ahead and it was yet to be seen what impact this will have.

Further, the decision to make private schools subject to VAT had raised particular concerns in Kent where there are 95 independent schools educating c.19,000 children. An assessment by

KCC's Education Department has suggested that around half of those schools would be classed as small and so therefore vulnerable to closure if parents began withdrawing their children because they could not afford to meet increased fees. This would have a knock-on effect on the state school system.

KCC's SEND provision had been classified as inadequate but it has now been ruled satisfactory.

Work continued on preparing for the new EU entry/exit system at Kent's ports etc. and Operation Brock had been working well over the summer.

Cllr Gosbee raised the fact that we had been waiting for white lines to be painted down the sides of Cranbrook Road. He had been told that this work could only be done in the Summer but, to date, nothing had been done. Cllr Holden agreed to chase this up with the appropriate officer.

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 2ND JULY 2024 AND THE PLANNING MEETING HELD ON THE 25TH JULY 2024

It was proposed by Cllr Vernon, seconded by Cllr Staples, and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes from the Council meeting on 2nd July 2024 are a true and accurate record of that meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr Vernon, seconded by Cllr Tuke, and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes from the planning meeting on 25th July 2024 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 MEETINGS

Repair of damaged streetlight

It did not appear that we had received payment of the sum Stewart Hagerty had kindly agreed to refund to the Council. The Clerk will chase.

Asset of Community Value

This application to reregister the Bell & Jorrocks as an asset of community value had been submitted and was being dealt with by TWBC.

Poor Mobile Phone Coverage in the Parish

Cllr Lawrence asked that this issue be put on the agenda for the next meeting of the Council.

The Paddock

The Clerk reported that the school is unaware of the current status of any tenancy of the Paddock and any periodic tenancy historically granted to the Parish Council would have lapsed. Cllr Staples will make enquiries with the family of Christopher Parish.

6. CONSULTATION ON PARKING RESTRICTIONS AT THE BIDDENDEN ROAD/ HEADCORN ROAD/MILL LANE/THE STREET CORSSROADS

In advance of the meeting, the Clerk had prepared a report to the Council setting out a summary of the views raised at the Public Meeting on 25th July 2024 and in correspondence both before and after the meeting, together with the various suggestions that had been received about how the parking issues might be addressed. It was noted that if KCC were minded to go ahead with the proposed double yellow lines, it would first have to complete a formal public consultation

exercise. At this early stage, the Parish Council had simply been asked to canvass views so KCC could decide whether it wished to incur the not insubstantial cost of that consultation process. If there was little or no support for the proposed double yellow lines, it was unlikely to do so.

Cllr Lawrence noted that there was a general acceptance that there was a problem but disagreement as to how that problem should be resolved. The comments received from residents also raised issues that were wider than those that would be addressed by the proposed double yellow lines (e.g. speeding, inconsiderate parking elsewhere in the village etc.). Cllr Lawrence therefore suggested that a Working Group be set up to look at how those wide issues might be tackled through the Highway Improvement Plan the Council submitted to KCC and/or other measures. It was agreed that any Working Group should be made up of two members of the Parish Council and four residents.

It was therefore proposed by Cllr Lawrence, seconded by Cllr Vernon, and **RESOLVED** by all members present that the Clerk will report to KCC the views expressed by residents, both for and against the proposed double yellow lines, and that KCC be asked to move forward with a public consultation. In the meantime, a request will be made for volunteers to join the Working Group referred to above.

7. DESIGNS FOR REPLACEMENT GATEWAY ON BIDDENDEN ROAD

The Clerk had circulated the designs in advance of the meeting and members made no comment on them. The Clerk will therefore ask KCC to go ahead with replacing the gateway as proposed.

8. POST OFFICE SERVICE FROM MEMORIAL HALL

It was noted that foot fall was still very low despite efforts made to advertise this service. It was therefore proposed by Cllr Lawrence, seconded by Cllr Vernon, and **RESOLVED** (1 abstention) that the Parish Council would not make any further donations to the Memorial Hall in this regard. It would be a matter for the Memorial Hall Committee to decide whether to continue to allow the Post Office to run the service from the hall free of charge and/or for the Post Office to decide whether it wished to continue the service.

9. VILLAGE CLEAN UP

This will take place on 14th September 2024 and reminders will be posted on the Community Facebook page.

10. SPEEDWATCH

5 sessions had taken place in August with 18 offenders being logged (an offending rate of c.10%). 5 letters had been sent with the highest speed recorded was being 51 mph on the approach to Chestnut Close. That driver will receive a letter hand delivered by Kent Police.

11. PLAYGROUND INSPECTIONS / EQUIPMENT

The Clerk had circulated the annual inspection report prepared by Playsafety Ltd in advance of the meeting and Cllr Lawrence noted that it did not raise any issues which the Council was not already aware of and/or working towards resolving. Cllr Lawrence is hoping to progress the replacement of the steps on the mound in advance of the next meeting.

Cllr Viviers asked whether the hedge behind the tennis court would be cut. The Clerk noted that this was included in one of the Grounds Maintenance contracts and that hedge cutting was due to take place this month. The Clerk had asked that the Paddock hedge be cut in July as it was starting

to obscure the view for the school crossing patrol but this was yet to be done. The Clerk was chasing the grounds maintenance contractor and had asked for urgent action on this.

12. ROAD REPORT

Cllr Gosbee reported that KCC had resurfaced Cranbrook Road and Biddenden Road and that he was now chasing for white lines to be painted along the edges as raised with Cllr Holden.

There had been little bits of fly tipping but nothing significant.

13. PLANNING

New Applications

24/01983/FULL	2 Weald View, Cranbrook Road, Frittenden Single storey rear extension Proposed by Cllr Vernon, Seconded by Cllr Viviers RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL
24/02181/AGRIC	Land adjacent to Shenlands Barn, Ayleswade Lane Prior Notification of Agricultural Development – Erection of agricultural barn NOTED

Outcome of Previous applications

24/01228/FULL	Land adjacent to Thrift Cottage, Knoxbridge, Frittenden Change of use of land to residential gypsy site including mobile home, tourer, dayroom & associated development including package treatment plant and landscaping (part-retrospective) PERMISSION GRANTED
24/01602/FULL	Ivy House, The Street, Frittenden Self-Build: Conversion and extension of garage/workshop to create a dwelling and associated works PERMISSION GRANTED
24/01487/FULL	1 The Twins, Staplehurst Road, Frittenden Demolition of redundant buildings & erection of garage PERMISSION GRANTED
24/01391/FULL	Lambourne Way, Mill Lane, Frittenden Self-Build: Demolition of garage & creation of dwelling PERMISSION GRANTED
24/01717/FULL & 24/01718/LBC	Old Hungerden, Green Lane, Frittenden Loft conversion including creation of rooflight & internal alterations including ground floor opening & loft bathroom PERMISSION GRANTED

Planning appeals

- None

14. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

- The Council had been approached by a resident who asked whether the litterbin adjacent to the noticeboard could be replaced with one that had more of a closed design. This was because the bin was regularly used for depositing bags of dog waste and a covered bin would be more effective at limiting the smell and less unsightly. Members agreed that this would be an improvement on the current situation and the Clerk was asked to look into the cost of doing this.
- Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust has issued a call for volunteers to undertake various tasks at its hospitals. An advertisement provided in relation to the call for volunteers would be put on the Community Facebook page.

15. FINANCE

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

FRITTENDEN PAYMENTS – AUGUST 2024					
Cheque Number	GROSS	VAT	NET	SUPPLIER	DETAILS
BACS	£30.00	Nil	£30.00	Frittenden Memorial Hall	Hall Hire – Public Meeting & Planning Meeting
BACS	£50.40	£8.40	£42.00	Urbaser Ltd	Street Cleansing – July
BACS	£132.00	£22.00	£110.00	Playsafety Ltd	Annual Playground Inspection
DD	£11.99	£2.00	£9.99	Hugo Fox	Website Hosting fee
DD	£68.25	£3.25	£65.00	Npower	Streetlighting Energy – July
Total	£292.64	£35.65	£256.99		

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

FRITTENDEN PAYMENTS – SEPTEMBER 2024					
Cheque Number	GROSS	VAT	NET	SUPPLIER	DETAILS
BACS	£15.00	Nil	£15.00	Frittenden Memorial Hall	Room Hire – Meeting Room
BACS	£50.40	£8.40	£42.00	Urbaser Ltd	Street Cleansing – August
BACS	£52.20	Nil	£52.20	Mr R Steele	Refund of Tent Team Expenses – refilling gas cylinder
BACS	£60.00	Nil	£Nil	Frittenden Memorial Hall	S137 Donation
BACS	£105.40	Nil	£105.40	Mrs E Nightingale	Clerk's Expenses – August & September
BACS	£209.26	Nil	£209.26	Mrs E Nightingale	Clerk's Salary – August & September
BACS	£52.40	Nil	£52.40	HMRC	PAYE
DD	£11.99	£2.00	£9.99	Hugo Fox	Website Hosting fee
DD	£69.04	£3.29	£65.75	Npower	Streetlighting Energy – August
Total	£625.69	£13.69	£612.00		

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:45 pm.

Chairman's Signature: _____

Date: _____