

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held at The Memorial Hall, The Street, Frittenden on Tuesday 6th June 2023 at 7.30pm.

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

In attendance: Mrs E Nightingale (Clerk), Cllr A Fairweather (Borough)

PUBLIC FORUM:

None

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr R Vernon, Cllr S Holden (County)

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

None

3. BOROUGH & COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Cllr Fairweather had little to report as there had not yet been a full meeting of the new Council following the elections in April. He continued to be available to address residents' concerns as and when they arose.

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON THE 16TH MAY 2023

It was proposed by Cllr Lawrence, seconded by Cllr Tuke, and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes from the Council meeting on 16th May 2023 are a true and accurate record of that meeting. That being so, the Chairman signed the said Minutes and initialled the above corrections.

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

Dog Fouling Signs

These had now been erected in the Parish Field.

Street Cleansing

The Clerk was continuing to chase Urbaser Ltd for the proposed terms under which the litterbins would be emptied in the 2023/24 contract year. In the meantime, the bins were being emptied.

Litter picking hoops

These were yet to be ordered but would be purchased in time for the next Village Clean Up.

Education in the Weald Action Group

Cllr Staples had passed Cllr Lawrence and Cllr Viviers' contact details to Kim Fletcher who is heading up this group.

6. PARISH FIELD HEDGES

Cllr Staples had looked at the part of the Parish Field hedge that faced onto Laundry Lane in response to residents' concerns that overgrown vegetation was preventing larger vehicles from accessing the properties served by Laundry Lane and causing damage to those vehicles that did use it. In this view, the main pinch point was not caused by the hedge for which the Parish Council had responsibility and other hedges were seen to extend right up to the tarmac. However, it was acknowledged that the Parish Field hedge was fast growing. The Clerk is obtaining quotes for the cost of substantially reducing the width of the hedge rather than simply cutting it back in September. That work cannot be done until September due to the need to avoid disturbing wild birds during the nesting season.

It had also been raised with Cllr Staples that a resident's fence had been damaged by ivy growing from a Parish Field hedge. Whilst it was noted that it was the responsibility of residents to maintain their own fences, the Council agreed to consider making a contribution to the cost of replacing that part of the fence that had been damaged by the ivy, on a good will basis, subject to receipt of details of the costs incurred.

Cllr Gosbee noted that the hedge at the top of Mill Lane needed to be cut back as it obscured the drivers' view of the road and another on Biddenden Road bowed out onto the pavement making it difficult for pedestrians pushing prams or wheelchairs, or those using mobility scooters, to pass by without having to go on the road. Cllr Gosbee will raise this with the relevant property owners.

Cllr Viviers noted that overgrown hedges/vegetation on the Cranbrook Road narrowed the road in one location to such an extent that it could be a hazard to road users. Cllr Gosbee will look into this.

7. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2022/23

- (a) It was proposed by Cllr Tuke, seconded by Cllr Gosbee, and **RESOLVED** by all members present to approve the Certificate of Exemption to be submitted in respect of the Council's Annual Governance & Accountability Return for 2022/23.
- (b) It was proposed by Cllr Viviers, seconded by Cllr Lawrence, and **RESOLVED** by all members present to approve the Annual Governance Statement included within the Council's Annual Governance & Accountability Return for 2022/23.
- (c) It was proposed by Cllr Lawrence, seconded by Cllr Gosbee, and **RESOLVED** by all members present to approve the Accounting Statements included within the Council's Annual Governance & Accounting Return for 2022/23.

The documents referred to above, and other relevant documents, will be published on the Council's website in accordance with the Transparency Rules.

8. HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Cllrs Staples and Gosbee had met with a resident who had expressed concerns about the lack of signage before the blind bends on Grandshore Lane. They believed that this contributed to drivers going too fast and vehicles being forced off the road, into the drainage ditch on at least one occasion, to a The resident was happy to fund the cost of the signage but required approval from KCC, who had suggested that they canvass the support of the Parish Council. It was agreed that this proposal could be incorporated into the Parish Council's Highway Improvement Plan if the resident provided further detail of the signage they believed was required and precisely where it should be placed. Cllr Staples will feed back to the resident and request that information.

The Clerk reported that she had been invited to a meeting with Michelle Norris, a Community & Engagement Officer and Road Safety Engineer at KCC, to discuss the Highway Improvement Plan the Council had submitted some years ago. The response to the suggested improvements received at the time was that any works would have to be funded by the Parish Council, which was considerably beyond its means. The Clerk will report back on the matters discussed when the Council next meets.

9. LARCHMERE SUMMER FAYRE

It was proposed by Cllr Staples, seconded by Cllr Tuke, and **RESOLVED** by all members present to permit Larchmere House to use the corner of the Parish Field adjacent to it for the purposes of its Summer Fayre and also to allow vehicles to drive across the field to service that event.

10. VILLAGE CLEAN UP

Cllr Lawrence very kindly agreed to take on responsibility for organising this event. It was agreed that it would next take place on 9th September 2023.

11. SPEEDWATCH

Cllr Staples reported that there had been 4 sessions since the last meeting. The roads had been relatively quiet but they recorded 19 offenders exceeding the 30mph speed limit, which was a 12% offending rate.

12. PLAYGROUND INSPECTIONS

Cllr Gosbee has inspected the play equipment and found no faults. However, he did observe people allowing their dogs to run loose on the Parish Field. Dogs should be kept on leads, particularly given the fact that the Parish Field was used by young children. Dogs were not permitted within the fenced off playground area.

13. ROAD REPORT

Cllr Gosbee reported that Buckhurst Bridge had been hit once again causing substantial damage. He believed that there should be a sign informing drivers of the width of the bridge so vehicles that were too wide would know not to attempt to cross it. The bridge on Bettenham Lane/Dig Dog Lane had also been hit and damaged once again.

The potholes by Place Farm on the Headcorn Road had been marked but not yet repaired.

Fly tipping on Green Lane had been collected and the bags of straw dumped at Manor Farm had been removed. The fly tipping on London Lane has been reported but not yet collected.

14. PLANNING

New Applications

23/01140/FULL	1 Coach Gate Cottages, The Street, Frittenden Single storey rear extension, New entrance porch, Fenestration, Internal alteration, Repointing & re-rendering window heads Proposed by Cllr Murray, Seconded by Cllr Lawrence RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND REFUSAL (Vote: 5 For, 1 Abstention) on the grounds that:
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The proposed porch would negatively impact on the character and appearance of the conservation area. It would unbalance the two cottages and mask the 4-pointed star over the doorway. - The proposed extension is overbearing and out of scale in its size and ridge height and would dominate the existing cottage. - The proposed extension would result in an overdevelopment of the site. - The proposed roofing material for the extension is not in keeping with the conservation area
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Outcome of Previous applications

23/00011/FULL	Brissenden Farm, Sand Lane, Frittenden Proposed conversion of two existing barns into new dwelling, Change of use of the land to form associated garden land, parking, landscaping and biodiversity enhancements PERMISSION GRANTED
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Planning appeals

- None.

15. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

- None

16. FINANCE

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

FRITTENDEN PAYMENTS – June 2023					
Cheque Number	GROSS	VAT	NET	SUPPLIER	DETAILS
BACS	£15.00	Nil	£15.00	Frittenden Memorial Hall	Room Hire – Meeting Room (1 x session)
BACS	£213.00	£35.50	£177.50	Kent Grassland Services	Grounds Maintenance – May
BACS	£55.40	Nil	£55.40	Mrs Emma Nightingale	Clerk’s Expenses – June
BACS	£84.10	Nil	£84.10	Mrs Emma Nightingale	Clerk’s Salary – June
BACS	£56.00	Nil	£56.00	HMRC	PAYE
BACS	£50.00	Nil	£50.00	Mr B Millard	Honorarium
BACS	£47.46	Nil	£47.46	Ms V Millard	Reimbursement of cost of UV protective film for Parish Map
BACS	£81.00	Nil	£81.00	The Prince’s Countryside Fund	S137 Donation – Proceeds of Coronation Lunch table booking fees
DD	£49.72	£2.37	£47.35	Npower	Streetlighting Energy – May

Total	£651.68	£37.87	£613.81		
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There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:05 pm.

Chairman's Signature: _____

Date: _____