

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held at The Memorial Hall, The Street, Frittenden on Tuesday 6th February 2024 at 7.30pm.

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

In attendance: Mrs E Nightingale (Clerk)

PUBLIC FORUM:

None.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Murray, Cllr Holden (County), Cllr 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 MEETING HELD ON THE 2ND JANUARY 2024

It was proposed by Cllr Vernon, seconded by Cllr Lawrence, and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes from the Council meeting on 2nd January 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 MEETING

Post Office Service – Memorial Hall

The Clerk confirmed that the Council's agreement to fund the Hall Hire charges for this service for the period January to March 2024 had been communicated to the Memorial Hall Committee. It was agreed that the Parish Council would publicise this service as, if it is to be continued by the Post Office, it needed to be used. Cllr Staples will put a piece in the Parish Magazine and on the Community Facebook page.

Parking at the junction of The Street, Mill Lane & Biddenden Road

Cllr Vernon has been following this up with Kent Fire & Rescue.

KALC Community Awards

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

Bettenham Bridge

The Bridge has been repaired but it remains to be seen how long it will be before it is damaged again in the absence of the signage requested by the Council.

6. ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Cllr Staples questioned whether Kent Police should again be invited to speak at the APA in light of concerns expressed over the perceived increase in crime in the local area. The Clerk noted that she had previously invited our PCSO to attend a Council Meeting to discuss this and had received the rather ambiguous response which she had circulated in advance of this meeting. It transpired that Frittenden no longer had a PCSO, but assurances were given that the local beat officer and others were active in the area. Cllr Viviers noted that he had spotted two vehicles which had been clamped due to not being taxed, but was unsure whether this was evidence of a Police presence.

Cllr Staples suggested that a representative of Canham Homes be invited to give a short presentation on the new development on Cranbrook Road. Work had recently commenced on site and this would give residents an opportunity to ask any questions or raise any concerns they had around this. It was agreed that the Clerk would invite Canham Homes to speak at the APA and report back at the next meeting. Concerns were raised about construction traffic using London Lane, which was unsuitable for that purpose. London Lane was part of the route set out in the documentation submitted to TWBC planners and the Council had commented to TWBC that the proposed route was unsuitable and impractical. It was not clear whether those comments had been taken on board and/or whether appropriate changes had been made to the approved construction route and so Cllr Vernon agreed to contact Canham Homes on this point.

7. SPEEDWATCH

Cllr Staples reported that 4 sessions had taken place since the last meeting. There were 14 offenders out of 176 vehicles with a maximum speed recorded of 46mph.

The crossing patrol for the school had reported a vehicle which had been driven dangerously and at speed through the village on a number of occasions, causing her to fear for her own safety and that of the children she guided across the road. After escalating her complaint, Kent Police had taken action. The driver of the vehicle had received a visit from officers and had been warned that action would be taken if further reports of dangerous/inconsiderate driving were received. This appeared to have had the desired effect as the vehicle had since been spotted driving through the village at an appropriate speed.

8. PLAYGROUND INSPECTIONS / EQUIPMENT

Cllrs Gosbee had carried out inspections of the equipment with no issues to report and filled the dog bag dispenser. Cllr Lawrence was liaising with Proludic to procure the parts needed to carry out the various maintenance tasks that were to be completed to address matters raised in the annual inspection report and he was also compiling a list of additional tasks to be completed by volunteers in the Spring once the weather had improved.

9. ROAD REPORT

Cllr Gosbee reported that Park Wood Lane had been repaired and new tarmac laid. The broken manhole cover on Headcorn Road had finally been replaced and the broken 30 mph sign post on Mill Lane had also been replaced.

The majority of the pot holes on Mill Lane had been filled but there were more near Dig Dog Lane that needed to be done. Cllr Gosbee was continuing in his efforts to get to pot holes on the far side of Buckhurst Bridge repaired, but there was currently a debate going on as to whether they were Ashford or Tunbridge Wells' responsibility.

Cllr Gosbee had been trying to get a salt bin for the bend by Brookwood but that request had been refused on the basis that all new bins had been allocated. He will therefore resubmit this request for next year's allocation.

Cllr Holden (County) had arranged for a KCC Drainage Engineer to call Cllr Gosbee to discuss the problem of run off water flowing down Satins Hill and creating a substantial danger to traffic when it froze. The upshot of that conversation was that there was little that could be done because there were not any drainage ditches. Cllr Staples noted that the drain covers / drains appeared to have been cleaned out which was at least something.

Cllr Gosbee noted that there had been a huge amount of fly tipping on Green Lane (between Bettenham Lane and Hareplain Road). This had been reported to Ashford Borough Council. All other fly tipping had been collected by TWBC. Cllr Staples noted that there had also been some fly tipping at the farm entrance on Satins Hill which was yet to be collected.

10. PLANNING

New Applications

23/03422/FULL	3 The Limes, The Street, Frittenden Replacement roof on the existing conservatory Proposed by Cllr Vernon, Seconded by Cllr Viviers RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL
24/00012/FULL	Lambourne Waye, Mill Lane, Frittenden Conversion and extension of building into dwellinghouse with garden land and associated works Proposed by Cllr Lawrence, Seconded by Cllr Vernon RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL
24/00181/FULL	Broadlake, Mill Lane, Frittenden Erection of a double car port; change of use and increase of residential/garden land; regularisation of the positioning of the replacement dwelling approved under reference 21/00188/FULL Proposed by Cllr Vernon, Seconded by Cllr Lawrence RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL
24/00061/SUB	Gould Farm, Mill Lane, Frittenden Submission of Details in relation to Condition 4 - (watching brief) of 23/02122/FULL NOTED
24/00234/SUM	Four Acres, Cranbrook Road, Frittenden Submission of Details in relation to Condition 4 - (Hard Landscaping Only); Condition 12 - (Levels); Condition 20 - (Drainage Scheme); Condition 22 - (Sewage Disposal) of 21/01638/FULL NOTED

Outcome of Previous applications

23/03033/FULL	Little Manor, Staplehurst Road, Frittenden Erection of single storey dwelling including a ground source heat pump and integrated solar panels PERMISSION REFUSED
23/02973/FULL	Peach Tree Cottage, Headcorn Road, Frittenden

	Erection of 6ft wooden closeboard fence at front of property from edge of shared drive with Jubilee Cottage to boundary with Hepplewhite PERMISSION GRANTED
23/03407/FULL	1 Kenwards Cottages, Bubhurst Lane, Frittenden Erection of a single storey extension to rear (south) and side (west) of existing house PERMISSION GRANTED

Planning appeals

- APP/M2270/W/23/3332797 – The Hatchin Tan, Grandshore Farm, Grandshore Lane, Frittenden - Appeal against refusal of application 23/02102/FULL: Stationing of one mobile home, one touring caravan and a utility room for a gypsy family – **APPEAL ALLOWED & PERMISSION GRANTED**

11. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

- The Parish Council had again been invited to sponsor the annual Easter Monday Fun Run, which will be raising money for both the Memorial Hall and Frittenden Primary School. Cllr Staples had asked that the organisers provide an updated Risk Assessment and it was agreed that, upon receipt, the Clerk would contact the Council's insurance broker to confirm that cover would be provided for the event under the Council's insurance arrangements.
- Cllr Staples noted that a date needed to be fixed for the Spring Litter Pick. Cllr Lawrence kindly agreed to organise this event again and it was agreed that it would take place on Saturday 23 March 2024.

12. FINANCE

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

FRITTENDEN PAYMENTS – February 2024					
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 – January
BACS	£50.40	£8.40	£42.00	Urbaser Ltd	Street Cleansing – January
BACS	£67.09	Nil	£67.09	Mrs E Nightingale	Clerk's Expenses - February
BACS	£84.72	Nil	£84.72	Mrs E Nightingale	Clerk's Salary – February
BACS	£56.40	Nil	£56.40	HMRC	PAYE
BACS	£420.00	£70.00	£350.00	Streetlights	Replacement of faulty lantern
BACS	£221.97	£36.99	£184.98	TWBC	Election expenses – May 2023
BACS	£120.00	NIL	£120.00	Frittenden Memorial Hall	s.137 Donation – Hall hire re: Post office service
DD	£11.99	£2.00	£9.99	Hugo Fox	Website Hosting fee
DD	£95.27	£4.54	£90.73	Npower	Streetlighting Energy – January
Total	£1,357.84	£157.43	£1,200.41		

- Cllr Staples asked the Clerk to find out from the Council's contractor what it would cost to have the village streetlights on timers, where they would be switched off at an agreed time rather than being left on until sunrise, as this might assist in addressing the escalating energy costs which were the highest they had ever been.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:32 pm.

Chairman's Signature: _____

Date: _____