

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held at The Memorial Hall, The Street, Frittenden on Tuesday 18th October 2022 at 7.30pm.

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

In attendance: Mrs E Nightingale (Clerk), Cllr A Fairweather (Borough), 1 member of the public

PUBLIC FORUM:

Mrs B. Cooper attended on behalf of the Community Shop Committee to express its thanks to the Parish Council for its support of the project. The difficult decision had been made to end the project due to a number of factors to include: insufficient external funding; the cost of living crisis; escalating building costs; and, disappointingly, the lack of widespread support in the community. As part of the winding down process, external grants would not be drawn down, those that had been would be repaid and any shortfall would be absorbed. Mrs Cooper had had a long conversation with Cllr Holden (County) who had ringfenced a grant of £10,000 for the project. He was disappointed that the project would not be proceeding as he could see the value in it. The CBS would be wound up and the bank account opened in its name would be closed.

Cllr Staples thanked Mrs Cooper and the rest of the committee for the incredible amount of time they had put into the project. It was saddening to hear that it had not received the local support that had been hoped for.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Riley & Murray. 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 been happy to attend the opening of the refurbished Memorial Hall on 14th October 2022 and noted that a very good evening was enjoyed by all. Cllr Fairweather also reported that the new gym equipment had now been installed at the Weald Sports Centre.

Cllr Fairweather has been involved in the writing of a cross-party paper on how it could be made easier for people with connections to the Borough to come back and be given social housing. That paper would be going to Cabinet shortly.

Cllr Fairweather noted that the Parish Council had written on the proposed boundary changes. The former leader of TWBC, Tom Dawlings, had initiated an Extraordinary Council Meeting which was held last week at which he tabled a motion that the process should be halted to allow it to go back out to consultation. That motion was passed, albeit Cllr Fairweather was disappointed to note that 10 Councillors abstained, and a consultation would now be held. Frittenden was very

clear that it would like to remain part of a one-member ward. Cranbrook & Sissinghurst Parish Council would shortly be having a debate to ascertain its own stance. The only way to retain one-member wards would be for TWBC to reconsider the decision it previously made and agree to move to all out elections. Not only would this negate the need for those boundary changes which had proven most controversial, but it would be substantially less costly than voting by thirds as this would mean that elections would have to be held three years out of every four rather than once every four years. Cllr Fairweather noted that this was not a party-political issue but one which should be focused on what was best for the community. The consultation would be open until 23rd November 2022 and Cllrs Fairweather and Staples encouraged all residents to participate.

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON THE 19TH JULY 2022 and 27TH SEPTEMBER 2022 AND PLANNING MEETING HELD ON 16TH AUGUST 2022

It was proposed by Cllr Staples, seconded by Cllr Gosbee, and **RESOLVED** (2 abstentions) that the Minutes from the Council meeting on 19th July 2022 are a true and accurate record of that meeting. It was further proposed by Cllr Vernon, seconded by Cllr Tuke, and **RESOLVED** (1 abstention) that the Minutes from the Planning Meeting on 16th August 2022 are a true and accurate record of that meeting. That being so, the Chairman signed the said Minutes.

Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 27th September 2022 was postponed to the next meeting because there were only two Councillors who were at the above meeting in attendance and there needed to be three for a resolution to be voted upon.

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

Stones on the verge outside Ferrers, Sand Lane

Cllr Gosbee had not yet had an opportunity to speak with the new owner of Ferrers.

Local Government Boundary Consultation

Cllr Staples had circulated the details produced by TWBC in advance of the meeting. He was concerned that the explanation missed a number of key points that would assist those making submissions understanding of the practical implications for Frittenden of voting by thirds. It was agreed that Cllr Staples would produce a brief explanation of the key issues and why this mattered to Frittenden, as a rural community on the edge of the Borough. That explanation would then be put on the website and community Facebook page with residents being encouraged to have their say by making submissions. It was agreed that submissions should also be made on behalf of the Parish Council. Cllr Staples will put together a draft for approval at the next meeting of the Council.

Dog Fouling

Cllr Staples confirmed that this was work in progress. He was aiming to get something on Facebook and in the next edition of the Parish Magazine to increase awareness of the penalty for allowing dogs to foul in public spaces.

Parking in Biddenden Road

Nothing further had been said on this issue and it would remain under review.

Village Clean Up

Letters of thanks had been sent.

6. SANTA DASH FUN RUN

The Council had indicated its support for this proposed event when it last met. Since then detailed proposals on how the event would be run had been received, together with a completed risk assessment. It was proposed by Cllr Gosbee, seconded by Cllr Vernon, and **RESOLVED** by all members present to run the event under the auspices of the Parish Council, with responsibility for organising the event being delegated to Katie Cox in consultation with the Clerk.

7. PADDOCK

This agenda item was withdrawn.

8. TENT TEAM TRAILER

Cllr Staples had spoken with Mike Cooper of the Tent Team about his trailer which was used to transport the A frames. It needed to be refurbished at a cost of c.£300 and Mr Cooper had proposed that, if that work was funded from the Equipment Fund, he was happy for the trailer to become the property of the Parish Council. It was proposed by Cllr Staples, seconded by Cllr Cullingworth, and **RESOLVED** by all members present that funds be released for the refurbishment of the trailer and, thereafter, that it be accepted and recorded as an asset of the Parish Council. The Council expressed its thanks to Mr Cooper for this kind gesture.

9. SPEEDWATCH

There had been 4 sessions since the last meeting with an offending rate of 16%. The highest speed recorded was 53mph coming into the Street from Cranbrook Road. Cllr Staples thanked Janet Croucher who had stepped in to coordinate the Speedwatch team while he was away on holiday.

10. PLAYGROUND INSPECTIONS

Cllr Cullingworth had circulated the latest regular inspection report. The Annual Inspection report produced by RoSPA Playsafety had been considered in light of those inspections and Cllr Cullingworth felt that the only issue which required attention at this time was the small ladder to the side of the climbing frame which had come loose from its clamp. It did this during periods of dry weather due to ground shrinkage and she had taped it up as a temporary measure. She would also fill some of the larger cracks to the ground in front of the football goals which were also caused by ground shrinkage. These problems should resolve once we had had a period of wet weather, but they would be kept under careful review to ensure that was the case.

The Clerk had obtained a quote for the cost of attending to the maintenance issues flagged in the Annual Inspection Report. They were considered by the Council to be relatively minor in nature and none had been considered high risk by RoSPA Playsafety. It was therefore felt that the cost (in excess of £600) of the proposed works could not be justified at this time and the issues identified would therefore be kept under careful review.

11. ROAD REPORT

Cllr Gosbee reported that the fir trees dumped on London Lane had been removed, together with the rubbish dumped on Satins Hill.

Part of Green Lane (between Bettenham Lane and Hareplain Road) had been refurbished but he had been told by Paul Catt that no further works would be undertaken until April because the budget had now been fully expended.

A large bag of builders' waste had also been dumped on that lane. It had been reported to TWBC but they were refusing to remove it because they claimed that it was on that part of the lane which was the responsibility of Ashford BC. Cllr Gosbee had asked TWBC to deal with it.

Cllr Cullingworth raised a problem with traffic through The Street at school drop off / pick up. People parking across driveways not only caused inconvenience for those residents who were prevented from exiting / accessing their properties by those parked cars, it also caused grid lock on The Street. This was because there was nowhere for traffic to pull in and allow traffic coming in the opposite direction to pass. This had already caused chaos on a number of occasions, to include unpleasant altercations. Cllr Cullingworth therefore asked whether the Parish Council would fund the erection of a sign, at or close to the school entrance, which reminded parents of the need to keep driveways clear and park considerately. It was agreed that Cllr Cullingworth would circulate some proposed wording and check that the school was happy for such a sign to be erected on its property.

12. PLANNING

New Applications

22/02927/FULL	Chanceford Cottage, Sand Lane, Frittenden Erection of two garages Proposed by Cllr Vernon, Seconded by Cllr Tuke (Vote: 4 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstention) RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL
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Outcome of Previous applications

- None

Planning appeals

- None

13. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

- KALC AGM – 19th November 2022 – The agenda had now been received and circulated by the Clerk

14. FINANCE

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

FRITTENDEN PAYMENTS – October 2022					
Cheque Number	GROSS	VAT	NET	SUPPLIER	DETAILS
BACS	£27.00	nil	£27.00	Memorial Hall	Room Hire – Main Hall (1 x session + winter surcharge)
BACS	£50.40	£8.40	£42.00	Urbaser Ltd	Rubbish Collection – Litter Bins – September
BACS	£57.20	nil	£57.20	Mrs Emma Nightingale	Clerk's Expenses – October

BACS	£126.86	nil	£126.86	Mrs Emma Nightingale	Clerk's Salary – October
BACS	£84.40	nil	£84.40	HMRC	PAYE
BACS	£133.00	nil	£133.00	Mr Michael Fitzgerald	Tent Team Donation – Refund re: equipment purchased for Memorial Hall
BACS	£500.00	nil	£500.00	St Mary's Church – Frittenden PCC	Tent Team Donation
BACS	£50.00	nil	£50.00	Mr Bernard Millard	Honarium
BACS	£88.33	nil	£88.33	Frittenden Memorial Hall	Balance of £500 donation for QPJ
BACS	£213.00	£35.50	£177.50	Kent Grassland Services Ltd	Grounds Maintenance – September
DD	£47.31	£2.25	£45.06	Npower	Streetlighting Energy - August
Total	£1,377.50	£46.15	£1,331.35		

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:04 pm.

Chairman's Signature: _____

Date: _____