

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held at St Mary's Church, The Street, Frittenden on Tuesday 19th April 2022 at 7.30pm.

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

In attendance: Mrs E Nightingale (Clerk), Cllr Fairweather (Borough) and 2 members of the public.

PUBLIC FORUM:

None

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Murray, Cllr Riley, Cllr Holden (County)

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

Cllrs Gosbee and Cullingworth declared an interest in planning application 22/00625/FULL for consideration under agenda item 12.

3. BOROUGH & COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Cllr Fairweather had attended a meeting of the Community Safety Partnership which undertook a strategic assessment of the crime figures for 2021. Cllr Fairweather was keenly aware that crime was an issue of concern to Frittenden residents, as it often felt as if this part of the borough was blighted by crime but resources were deployed in the more urban areas. Cllr Fairweather referred to the statistics set out during the course of the meeting and notes that Tunbridge Wells Borough had the lowest all round crime rates in the County. Covid had impacted on the figures with a % increase noted in incidents of domestic abuse but a sizable reduction in anti-social behaviour. Cllr Fairweather had undertaken a comparison review of the crime figures for Sissinghurst & Frittenden, Capel and Speldhurst, as he considered them to be comparable rural wards. Sissinghurst & Frittenden had the lowest numbers of recorded crimes in most cases. That was why the area did not get allocated a much of the police's resources as we may want.

Cllr Fairweather noted that the priorities for Tunbridge Wells Borough in the coming year were addressing:

- i. Domestic abuse;
- ii. Substance and alcohol abuse;
- iii. Anti-social behaviour;
- iv. Road Safety;
- v. Violence against women and girls.

Cllr Fairweather reported that Sissinghurst & Frittenden had the best record on road safety in the Borough. Four people had been killed or seriously injured on the ward's roads in 2021.

Cllr Fairweather reported that the weekly rubbish collection service was working well at the moment. Green waste collections had restarted and, on the whole, bins were being collected when scheduled. Where bins were missed, they were being collected the following day. Cllr Staples asked whether additional costs were being incurred to get the service functioning properly. Cllr Fairweather confirmed that it was costing an extra £14,000 per month to employ more drivers on slightly higher rates. Those funds came from reserves and were paid in arrears. Accordingly, if the contractor did not meet performance targets, the payments would not be made.

Cllr Staples noted that the crime statistics referred to by Cllr Fairweather only related to reported crime and commented that much of the crime which blighted the area did not go reported, largely because the feeling was that nothing would be done. Cllr Fairweather acknowledged this but stressed that the message from Kent Police was that all crimes should be reported, regardless of how petty. Cranbrook had seen an increase in Police activity following an increase in reported anti-social behaviour and therefore the only way to ensure that resources were assigned to this area.

Cllr Fairweather congratulated the organisers of the Fun Run for a fantastic event. Cllr Staples echoed those congratulations and thanked the organisers.

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON THE 15th MARCH 2022

It was proposed by Cllr Vernon, seconded by Cllr Gosbee, and **RESOLVED** (1 abstention) that the Minutes from the Council meeting on 15th March 2022 are a true and accurate record of that meeting. That being so, the Chairman signed the Minutes.

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

Memorial Bench

The memorial bench had been installed.

Fun Run

£971 had been raised so far with some more funds yet to come in. It was proposed by Cllr Staples, seconded by Cllr Cullingworth, and **RESOLVED** by all members present to pass the funds raised to the Memorial Hall Committee for them to distribute as agreed with the Community Shop, after it had deducted a small amount of expenses incurred (e.g., to print numbers, purchase stop watches etc.)

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Cllr Staples reported that the organising group had been making good progress. A timetable of events had been produced and Cllr Cullingworth had produced a poster which had been put outside the Bell & Jorrocks. Cllr Staples had notified TWBC of the events planned so they could be included in the spreadsheet of events it was compiling of all events being held in the Borough. He would also be producing a further risk assessment for the beacon lighting for the Clerk to pass on to the Council's insurance brokers.

Payment for damaged Fence

The goodwill payment had been made and gratefully received by the resident.

Private Event on the Parish Field

The Clerk had passed on the Council's requirements for the proposed event and the resident who had made the enquiry was looking into whether it could be run through the school so that its insurance cover could be utilised.

Sainsbury's Bus

The Clerk reported that she was yet to confirm whether there would be a scheduled stop in Frittenden as she was having difficulty tracking down the contact details of the person responsible for the bus service.

Spring Litter Pick

Cllr Staples thanked Rosie & Sean Croucher, Ivor Jauncy and Dick Munton for their continued support of the Village litter picks. He also thanked Cllr Cullingworth for again organising the event.

6. ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Cllr Staples had written to 25 organisations inviting them to speak at the next Annual Assembly on 4th May 2022. 12 had said yes, 2 had said no and he was waiting for responses from the rest. Refreshments will be provided before the meeting and, after the usual business of the Annual Assembly, representatives of each organisation attending will be invited to say a little bit about what they do.

7. COVID-19 HARDSHIP FUND

Cllr Staples reported that the Fund had come to an end on 19th April 2022. The funds that remained would be donated to the Memorial Hall or returned to donors in accordance with their wishes. The Authorising Committee had met to discuss whether a new fund, raised by subscription and run along similar lines, could be set up to address hardship in the Parish, particularly for those affected by the cost of living crisis. It was felt that this would be best achieved outside of the Parish Council and the Idenden Charity was currently investigating whether this could be done under its charitable remit. It was agreed that the Parish Council endorsed that aim and would support the Idenden Charity in its endeavours in that regard.

8. SPEEDWATCH

Four sessions had taken place, including one session where 14 out of 27 vehicles were recorded doing 35mph or more on the Biddenden Road. That was an over 50% offending rate.

Cllr Staples reported that Speedwatch was still short of volunteers.

9. PLAYGROUND INSPECTIONS

Cllr Cullingworth did not have any maintenance issues to report. Steps were being taken to refix the fallen nut on the basketball net backboard.

Cllr Cullingworth noted that bags were still being taken from the two dispensers provided in the Village at an unacceptable rate. She had on three occasions added a whole pack of 25 bags only to find the dispensers empty the following day. The bags were provided to ensure that dog owners who had mistakenly gone out without a bag, or found that they had run out whilst on a walk, could still pick up after their dogs. The Parish Council's limited resources, which derived entirely from the Council tax paid by residents of the Parish, could not stretch to regularly supplying free bags to owners who could and should be using their own.

10. COMMUNITY SHOP UPDATE

There was nothing to report.

11. ROAD REPORT

Cllr Gosbee reported that patching work had been done on Biddenden Road and up Sand Lane, but the sunken bit in the middle of the road was yet to be done. He would continue to press for that work to be completed. He would also continue to press for repairs to Bettenham Bridge.

Cllr Gosbee noted that repairs were to be done on Grandshore Lane and that it had been scheduled for resurfacing, but not until 2023.

Cranbrook Road was to be closed on 28th April 2022 for one day.

The fly tipping on Dig Dog Lane had been cleared.

Cllr Gosbee also stated that he had attended a meeting of the Headcorn Aerodrome Consultative Committee last month. He reported that:

- A wind sock had been installed at Bettenham to assist in ensuring that aircraft kept to the correct circuit and did not overfly the village. However, Storm Eunice had brought it down.
- The red arrows will be appearing over the Aerodrome in June;
- The parachute plane had been revamped and should, therefore, be much quieter, although a number of Councillors suggested that this did not seem to be the case;
- Changes had been made to the car park with the installation of a new barrier;
- No events were planned for the Queen's Jubilee;
- A schedule of the events planned for the summer was circulated at the meeting;
- The aerobatic free days for 2022 had been published and would be put on the Council's website for resident's information.

12. PLANNING

New Applications

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 22/00502/FULL | <p>Building at Bubhurst Farm, Bubhurst Lane, Frittenden Re-use and conversion of an existing Atcost barn into residential accommodation, along with associated parking, garden land and landscaping</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Vernon, Seconded by Cllr Tuke RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL subject to consideration by the planning authority as to whether the current proposal provides sufficient off-street parking for both the adjacent existing residential property and the proposed new dwelling</p> |
| 22/00625/FULL | <p>1 & 2 Junkyard Barn Cottages, Staplehurst Road, Frittenden Proposed incidental outbuilding to form secure garaging / storage for both properties along with home office / games room associated to number 2 including removal of existing storage containers and change of use of land</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Vernon, Seconded by Cllr Tuke RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND REJECTION and comment that, should the planning authority be minded to grant permission, an appropriate planning conditions be applied to ensure that: (i) the use of the proposed building is strictly ancillary to the use of the existing properties; and (ii) all fenestration is positioned away from unconnected properties (Cllrs Cullingworth & Gosbee did not participate in</p> |

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| | the consideration of or vote on this application having declared an interest) |
| 22/00626/FULL | Pillar Box Cottage, Staplehurst Road, Frittenden Single storey infill side extension Proposed by Cllr Vernon, Seconded by Cllr Cullingworth RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL |
| 22/00622/FULL | The Forge Garage, The Street, Frittenden Conversion and extension of existing building to form a single 2 bedroom dwelling Proposed by Cllr Vernon, Seconded by Cllr Gosbee RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL |
| 22/00694/FULL & 22/00688/LBC | Oasthouse South West of Cherry Tree Farmhouse, Mill Lane, Frittenden FULL: Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) of 19/01826/FULL – Change of document list to include new plans to reflect newly uncovered work LBC: Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) of 19/01827/LBC – Change of document list to include new plans that reflect newly uncovered work Proposed by Cllr Vernon, Seconded by Cllr Tuke RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL |

Outcome of Previous applications

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 22/00743/TCA | Ivy House, The Street, Frittenden Trees in Conservation Area Notification: ASH(T1)- Reduce by 3m NO OBJECTIONS |
| 22/00482/FULL | Poundlands Farm, Biddenden Road, Frittenden Demolition of former barracks building; erection of single storey outbuilding (containing garage, pool room and stable), outdoor swimming pool, tennis court with 2.75m high upvc covered black or green chain link fence, associated landscaping PERMISSION GRANTED |

Planning appeals

- None

13. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

- The Clerk reported that she had been asked whether the Council could do anything to address a problem with inconsiderate parking in Chestnut Close. Vehicles were being parked in such a way that residents and other road users were being blocked in. The Council did not know whether the area in question was public or private land. In the first instance, it was proposed by Cllr Vernon, seconded by Cllr Staples, and **RESOLVED** by all members present that the Clerk write to Town & Country and ask it to investigate inconsiderate parking which was restricting access. The Council would then reconsider whether it could take any further action upon receipt of Town & Country's reply.

- Cllr Staples reported that he had been asked whether the Council could do anything to address the deteriorating state of the garden to 6 Weald View. Whilst it was accepted that building works were ongoing, it was felt that the owners should be asked to take steps to tidy up the garden as far as possible and the Clerk was instructed to write accordingly.

14. FINANCE

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

| FRITTENDEN PAYMENTS – April 2022 | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Cheque Number | GROSS | VAT | NET | SUPPLIER | DETAILS |
| BACS | £20.00 | Nil | £20.00 | PCC Frittenden | Hire Church Upper Room – April |
| DD | £18.00 | Nil | £18.00 | Unity Trust Bank | Bank Charges – General Fund |
| BACS | £18.00 | Nil | £18.00 | Frittenden Parish Council | Refund of Bank Charges – Hardship Fund |
| BACS | £1,784.97 | £297.50 | £1,487.47 | Gale Tent Ltd | Tent Team Equipment |
| BACS | £63.94 | £10.66 | £53.28 | Cleaning Supplies 4U | Refuge Sacks x 300 |
| BACS | £413.02 | £68.84 | £344.18 | KALC | Membership Fee 2022/23 |
| BACS | £67.99 | NIL | £67.99 | Mrs E Nightingale | Clerk's Expenses – April |
| BACS | £133.32 | Nil | £133.32 | Mrs E Nightingale | Clerk's Salary – April |
| BACS | £88.40 | Nil | £88.40 | HMRC | PAYE |
| BACS | £42.00 | £7.00 | £35.00 | Urbaser Ltd | Litter Bins – March |
| BACS | £160.00 | £26.67 | £133.00 | Kent Grassland Services Ltd | Grounds Maintenance – March |
| DD | £35.00 | Nil | £35.00 | Information Commissioners Office | GDPR Fee |
| BACS/DD | £176.90 | £8.43 | £168.47 | Npower | Street lighting energy – January, February & March |
| Total | £3,021.54 | £419.10 | £2,602.44 | | |

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:17 pm.

Chairman's Signature: _____

Date: _____