

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held at St Mary's Church, The Street, Frittenden on Tuesday 17th May 2022 at 7.30pm.

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

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

PUBLIC FORUM:

None

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Riley, Cllr Holden (County)

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Staples was nominated by Cllr Cullingworth, seconded by Cllr Gosbee, and it was **RESOLVED** (Vote: 5 For, 0 Against) that he be appointed Chairman. Cllr Staples then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of the office of Chairman.

3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Cllr Tuke was nominated by Cllr Staples, seconded by Cllr Gosbee, and it was **RESOLVED** (Vote: 5 For, 0 Against) that he be appointed to the office of Vice-Chairman. Cllr Tuke then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of the office of Vice-Chairman.

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

Cllr Staples declared an interest in planning application 22/00402/FULL for consideration under agenda item 13.

5. BOROUGH & COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Cllr Fairweather reported that the Conservative Party had lost control of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council at the election on 5th May 2022 (Sissinghurst & Frittenden Ward was not included in that election as that seat will be contested in 2023). As a result, Tom Dawlings will be standing down as Leader of the Council and the cabinet will be reappointed. It is likely that the largest party, which is now the Liberal Democrats, will form a coalition and it has been made clear that Conservative councillors will not be appointed to the cabinet. This means that Cllr Fairweather will lose his current responsibilities and will go back to being a backbench member of the Council representing the interests of Sissinghurst & Frittenden.

Cllr Fairweather has been involved in organising Sissinghurst's celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee, but intended to also attend some of the events planned to take place in Frittenden, He had entered a team from Sissinghurst into the cricket tournament being organised by Frittenden CC.

Cllr Staples thanked Cllr Fairweather for his support over the last 3 years and for the good work he had done whilst on the cabinet. He commented that it was sad that political allegiances meant that the East end of the Borough would again be side lined without representation on the cabinet.

6. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 19th APRIL 2022

It was proposed by Cllr Vernon, seconded by Cllr Gosbee, and **RESOLVED** (1 abstention) that the Minutes from the Council meeting on 19th April 2022 are a true and accurate record of that meeting. That being so, the Chairman signed the Minutes.

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

Fun Run

The total sum of £1,036 had been raised from this event.

Private Event on the Parish Field

Nothing further had been heard in relation to this proposed event.

Sainsbury's Bus

Cllr Vernon will try to obtain the contact details of the person managing the new bus service so further enquiries could be made as to whether it will be coming to Frittenden village.

Annual Parish Assembly

Cllr Staples expressed his disappointment that, other than the representatives of the various clubs and societies who kindly agreed to speak, only 4 members of the public attended the Annual Parish Assembly, even though the event had been well publicised.

The Annual Parish Assembly provided an opportunity to learn more about the activities available within the Parish. Cllr Murray suggested that the Village Guide be updated to include details of all the clubs and activities on offer and that a system be put in place whereby a copy of the Guide was put through the letterbox of all new residents. Cllr Murray will work on updating the Guide and report back at the next meeting of the Council.

Dog Bags

Cllr Cullingworth noted that dog poo bags continued to be taken from the dispensers at an alarming rate. It was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with Cllr Tuke to create notices to go on the dispensers which made it clear that the provision of bags was funded entirely by residents' council tax payments and the dispensers should not therefore be treated as a source of free bags for dog owners who could and should be using their own.

8. TO APPROVE THE FINAL ACCOUNTS OF THE COVID-19 HARDSHIP FUND WHICH CLOSED ON 19TH APRIL 2022 AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE BALANCE HELD IN THE FUND

It was proposed by Cllr Vernon, seconded by Cllr Gosbee, and **RESOLVED** that the final accounts of the Covid-19 Hardship Fund be approved as drafted and that the balance held in that fund be distributed as set out therein. The designated bank account held by the Council to administer the fund would then be closed.

Those members of the Council who also sat on the Covid-19 Hardship Fund Authorising Committee did not participate in the consideration of, or vote in respect of, this item in the interests of impartiality.

9. QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

Cllr Staples confirmed that plans were well advanced and information on the activities, to include a timeline of events, would be inserted into the next edition of the Parish Magazine. Signs will be put up advertising the events which it was hoped would be well attended.

Residents and members of the public will be required to stand in the field behind the War Memorial when attending the beacon lighting. This is to avoid pedestrians gathering on the road.

10. SPEEDWATCH

Cllr Staples advised that a low offending rate had been recorded during the last two sessions. A further four sessions were planned for the next fortnight.

11. PLAYGROUND INSPECTIONS

Inspections are being undertaken by Cllr Murray this month and no issues had been noted. The bolt on the basketball hoop was yet to be replaced but this was to hand.

The Clerk advised that the Annual Inspection of the play equipment by RoSPA would take place in July.

12. COMMUNITY SHOP UPDATE

Cllr Murray has joined the Committee and would be the Parish Council's representative on that Committee going forward.

Cllr Murray noted that a site meeting had taken place to discuss how the designs for the shop could be changed to make costs savings given increases in the cost of materials. A grant application had been submitted and whether that application was successful or not would dictate the next steps.

13. ROAD REPORT

Cllr Gosbee noted that potholes had been marked for repair on Grandshore Lane but he did not know when that work would take place.

He was trying to establish whether Tunbridge Wells Borough Council would be cutting verges in May.

Cllr Gosbee reported that 36 tyres had been dumped in the gateway by Sandhurst Bridge. There had also been fly tipping on London Lane and where Dig Dog Lane passed through the woods.

Bettenden Brige had been repaired by the roadworks signs etc. were yet to be removed. The water leak close to Lake Farm had also been repaired.

A resident had enquired how often the Laundry Lane hedge was cut annually and when it was next scheduled to be cut. The clerk will check the grounds maintenance contract and revert.

14. PLANNING

New Applications

22/01058/FULL	Knoxbridge Farmhouse, Cranbrook Road, Frittenden Replace existing conservatory with two storey rear extension Proposed by Cllr Vernon, Seconded by Cllr Cullingworth RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL
22/00402/FULL	Park Cottage, Cranbrook Road, Frittenden Removal of existing oil tank, with replacement of new oil tank including a new concrete base Proposed by Cllr Vernon, Seconded by Cllr Cullingworth RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL (Cllr Staples did not participate in the consideration of or vote on this application having declared an interest)
22/01197/FULL	1 Bourner Cottage, Dig Dog Lane, Frittenden Retrospective planning application for demolition of a conservatory and build of a single storey extension Proposed by Cllr Vernon, Seconded by Cllr Cullingworth RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND REJECTION on the grounds of the negative impact on the residential amenity of neighbouring properties
22/01287/FULL	Windmill Lodge, Staplehurst Road, Frittenden Removal of garage, extension to front of house and new pitched roofs to existing flat roofed parts. Proposed by Cllr Vernon, Seconded by Cllr Cullingworth RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL

Outcome of Previous applications

22/00625/FULL	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. PERMISSION GRANTED
22/00626/FULL	Pillar Box Cottage, Staplehurst Road, Frittenden Single storey infill side extension PERMISSION GRANTED
22/00502/FULL	Building at Little 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 PERMISSION GRANTED
22/00812/TPO	Frittenden House, The Street, Frittenden Trees: ACER CAMPESTRE (T1) – Fell, leaving stump at appropriate level for natural regeneration and safe management of future regrowth CONSENT REFUSED
22/00622/FULL	The Forge Garage, The Street, Frittenden Conversion and extension to form a single 2 bed dwelling PERMISSION GRANTED
22/00694/FULL & 22/00688/LBC	Oasthouse South West of Cherry Tree Farmhouse, Mill Lane, Frittenden

	<p>FULL: Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) of 19/01826/FULL – Change of document list to include new plans to reflect newly uncovered work</p> <p>LBC: Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) of 19/01827/LBC – Change of document list to include new plans that reflect newly uncovered work</p> <p>PERMISSION / CONSENT GRANTED</p>
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Planning appeals

- None

15. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

- The Clerk reported that Urbasser Ltd had proposed an increase in costs from £35 plus VAT per month to £42 plus VAT per month to roll forward the street cleansing contract. The Clerk recommended that this increase be accepted given that no other contractors had quoted when the contract last went out to tender and the contract generally sat alongside the waste removal contract entered into by Tunbridge Wells Borough Contract which remained with Urbaser. It was therefore proposed by Cllr Staples, seconded by Cllr Tuke, and **RESOLVED** by all members present to enter into a new contract on those terms.
- The Clerk reported that the Council’s insurance broker had obtained a quote of £1,093.49 from Hiscox in respect of cover for 2022/23. That represented an increase on the premium paid for 2021/22 and an increase on the sum budgeted for 2022/23. However, it sat within the range of alternative quotes obtained in 2022/23. The Clerk was seeking to ascertain whether alternative quotes had been obtained but understood that the broker may have entered into an arrangement with a sole insurer to place this type of business, on the basis that such arrangements generally led to lower premiums for clients. The Clerk advised that there was an opportunity to fix the premium for three years by entering into a Long Term Arrangement with Hiscox. It was the Clerk’s view that premiums were unlikely to reduce over the next three years and could very well continue to increase. It was proposed by Cllr Staples, seconded by Cllr Vernon, and **RESOLVED** by all members present to accept the above quote upon receipt of a satisfactory explanation of the procurement process undertaken by the broker and enter into a Long Term Arrangement with Hiscox.

16. 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 – May 2022					
Cheque Number	GROSS	VAT	NET	SUPPLIER	DETAILS
BACS	£60.00	Nil	£60.00	PCC Frittenden	Hire Church & Upper Room
BACS	£390.00	£65.00	£325.00	Streetlights	Replacement of Lantern
BACS	£36.18	£6.03	£30.15	JRB Enterprises	Dog bags
BACS	£82.49	nil	£82.49	Mrs E Nightingale	Clerk’s Expenses - May
BACS	£120.40	Nil	£120.40	Mrs E Nightingale	Clerk’s Salary – May
BACS	£80.40	Nil	£80.40	HMRC	PAYE

BACS	£213.00	£35.50	£177.50	Kent Grassland Services Ltd	Grounds Maintenance – April
BACS	£1,093.49	Nil	£1,093.49	Gallagher	Insurance Premium
DD	£51.61	£2.46	£49.15	Npower	Street lighting energy – April
Total	£2,127.57	£133.11	£1,994.46		

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:55 pm.

Chairman's Signature: _____

Date: _____