

PARISH COUNCIL OF BENENDEN

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Monday 20th January 2014 at The Memorial Hall at 20.00 hours, pursuant to notice

Present: Cllr Reynolds (Chairman), Cllr Barker, Cllr Butler-Graham, Cllr North & Cllr Thomas (Vice-Chair)

In Attendance: Fiona Chalk – Clerk, 9 members of the public

001/14 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Cook, his apologies were accepted. Cllr Waldren sent his resignation which stated his work commitments, particularly his shift patterns, were not conducive to being a parish councillor.

The meeting was closed for parishioners' questions.

002/14 Parishioners' questions

When The Street is to be resurfaced, will the cats eyes be replaced? It was agreed this matter will be looked into. The Chair advised that there are several outstanding issues relating to Highways such as replacement signage and a request for a 40mph speed limit throughout the parish. A meeting has been held with Graham White and will be followed up.

The Swattenden Centre is the location of a new tree planting programme and local groups are being encouraged by TWBC to be involved.

The date of the elections was queried. It was confirmed that 22nd May 2014 is the date TWBC have put aside for the Borough and European elections. It was requested that the Parish elections be held on the same day. The Clerk agreed to confirm this with TWBC.

The meeting was re-opened.

003/14 Declarations of Interest

None.

004/14 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th December 2013

There were no amendments, the PC resolved to accept the minutes and they were signed by the Chair.

005/14 Matters Arising that are not on the Agenda

- (i) It was noted that the majority of nearby residents are happy with the location of the recycling bins and therefore if was proposed by Cllr Thomas that the bins will remain in the car park, although moved further up the hedge into the corner. A concrete plinth, at a cost of £350 will be laid and the bins will be screened with wattle fencing. The motion was seconded by

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These minutes are not a verbatim record of the meeting, but a summary of discussion and decisions taken at the meeting.

Cllr North and all voted in favour. It was also agreed that a second green bin will be requested as it has been overflowing.

- (ii) The entrance to the playarea is very muddy. It was agreed to put down material to provide a dryer surface.
- (iii) A letter to Mr Gough has not been sent at this time as there is nothing new to say.
- (iv) The Commemoration of World War 2 is to take place in August. It was suggested that the Parish Council support, by way of a financial contribution, the Church Service, Evensong and following tea, in conjunction with the Church and the British Legion. This was agreed and it was suggested the WI and Women's Club be asked if they wished to support this event too. Vyvyan Harmsworth will also be contacted.

006/14

Parish Plan

There was nothing more to add to the last month's report, other than that all groups are proceeding with their duties and the first report will be in April and a full response is likely in the Autumn.

007/14

Transfer of Land at Cherryfields

The 3 plots of land are being transferred from TWBC to BPC for the sum of £1. It was suggested a residents meeting be held to advise them of the situation and agree a way forward on maintenance. As the Parish Council doesn't currently own and maintain any land, the Chairman proposed that the Harmsworth Memorial Trust take ownership of the land and manage it as part of its portfolio. Cllr North seconded and all voted in favour. The PC resolved to have the land transferred to the Harmsworth Memorial Trust.

008/14

Distribution of funds received by the Gybbon and Ginder Charity

The PC resolved that the funds of £402.50 be given to the Arnold Cole Trust for distribution in the village.

009/14

AGM Speaker

The PC resolved that the time usually given to a visiting speaker at the Annual Assembly meeting, be given to the Parish Plan group to give a report on their current activities.

010/14

Report by Cllr Rook, Holden and Hall

The Cllrs were not present. It was agreed that they be asked to provide a written response if unable to attend and also consult with the Clerk to attend on a rota basis.

011/14

Reports by Clerk/Chairman/Cllrs

- (i) Primary School -There is a meeting with Roger Gough at the school on 3rd February.
- (ii) KALC –no meeting.
- (iii) Highways – In contact with highways dept at KCC regarding replacement Benenden sign, many potholes have been repaired (still one by Nettleshall Farm on Nineveh Lane, Woodcock Lane needs resurfacing, No entry sign by the War Memorial has been knocked down

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- (iv) Speedwatch – The equipment will be used at Iden Green during the first week of February and again in March. There are enough volunteers for the Iden Green session but not Benenden session at present.
- (v) Streetcruizer – It was noted that the Memorial Hall could be used for future evenings and the Parish Council approved payment of Hall hire for Streetcruizer for up to 5 sessions a year. The Clerk advised that the invoice and agreement had been returned to WRAP with requested amendments and amended versions are awaited. Further discussion needs to take place about how to fund this provision going forward. Fundraising to be considered as charging of users on attendance could be hard to manage.
- (vi) Grants – nothing new to report

012/14

Planning Report

- (i) TWBC Planning Decisions to date and current appeals were noted
- (ii) The following applications were considered:

13/02888	Easton Farm	Retrospective Change of Use for housing for farm workers in mobile homes	Recommend approval
13/03831	Bankside Farm, Standen Street	Lawful development certificate for infill of land	Recommend for refusal, as previously
14/00049	Applegarth, Cranbrook Road	Underground garage	Remain neutral
13/03825	Papermill Cottage, Hinksden Road	2 storey extension	Recommend for approval

013/14

Financial Report

- (i) The monthly finance report and payment schedule were noted. The PC resolved to accept the finance report. The Clerk advised that the current balance of £38k will be reduced to approximately £30k by 31st March. This is in line with audit recommendations which state that the bank balance should equal the Precept.
- (ii) The Clerk was asked to confirm the total expense for maintaining The Green. It was also asked if The Green was insured. The Cricket Club has its own insurance for the Green. It was noted that The Green is a registered charity with 6 Trustees, 3 Cllrs and 3 Church members.
- (iii) The quote for £87 for repair to the Ladies toilet door from Ian Santer, were approved.
- (iv) It was agreed to seek a quote for changing the lights in the public toilets to sensor lights.

014/14 Documents for approval.
The Risk Assessment Plan, Business Continuity Plan and FOI publication schemes were updated and the PC resolved to accept the documents and they will be added to the website.

015/14 Correspondence Report
The report was noted.

016/14 KCC Legal Services
The Clerk was asked to see if this covers The Harmsworth Memorial Trust. It was agreed this could be a very useful service with subsidised charges.

017/14 Items for Future consideration
Steve Whitbread from TWBC will be invited to give a 30 minute presentation and the meeting will start 30 minutes early.

It was proposed that a Working Group be set up to take forward Highways issues. The PC resolved that Cllr Reynolds, Barker and Cook will form the group.

The next meeting will be moved to 10th February as the Clerk is unable to attend 17th February and will commence at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.15p.m.