

PARISH COUNCIL OF BENENDEN

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Monday 20th October 2014 at The Memorial Hall at 19.30 hours, pursuant to notice

Present: Cllr Reynolds (Chairman), Cllr Chorlton, Cllr Henning, Cllr Barker, Cllr Ellis, Cllr Davies & Cllr Thomas (Vice-Chair), Cllr Henning, Cllr Mitchell.

In Attendance: Fiona Chalk – Clerk, 7 members of the public, Cllr Dawlings, Cllr Hall.

112/14 Apologies and Welcome

Apologies were received from Cllr Holden.

113/14 Parishioners Questions

The village shop is for sale, does the Parish Council have a plan for the loss of a shop? The Parish Plan are looking into the subject, although no conclusion has been reached. It was noted that although there is planning permission to turn the residential part into 2 properties, the shop remains in place – no change of use has been granted.

Robin Dalton Holmes advised that the Parish Plan is near finalisation and every house will receive a printed booklet containing its findings. The main finding is the need for closer working relations between many groups in Benenden i.e Parish Council, BACS, Schools, Church etc. A meeting is to be held on 22nd November to discuss this further.

114/14 Declaration of Interests and Alterations to Members Register of Interests

Cllr Chorlton declared her interest in item 5 (ii) and 11 (i) and Cllr Barker in item 5 (v). No changes were made to members Register of Interests.

115/14 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 17th September 2014

It was resolved that the Chairman is authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 17th September 2014 as a correct record of the meeting.

116/14 Matters Arising

- Public Toilet Lighting – the work has now been completed.
- Defibrillator – it was noted that one is now installed on the wall of Wheelwrights, The Street, Benenden. A quote for £90 has been received to install one in the Iden Green phone box as the correct equipment to install it can be obtained. It was noted that the cost of the box is approximately £500, of which £200 has been received from the Iden Green Pavilion by donation. **The Council resolved that a storage box should be purchased to store the defibrillator in the Iden Green phone box and installed as per the quote.**
- Policy for using Social Media at Parish Council meetings – The legal advice was noted. **It was resolved that a sentence be added to the policy stating ‘anyone wishing to broadcast, record or use social media at the meeting, is requested to make themselves known to the Clerk, prior to the meeting’.**
- Co-option of Parish Councillor – Peter Ellis spoke of his reasons for wishing to join the Parish Council, he then left the room. Concerns for having

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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.

husband and wife on the same Council were expressed but it was noted this is quite common in Local Government. **It was resolved that Peter Ellis be co-opted onto the Parish Council.** It was noted that the Parish Council now has a full complement of Councillors.

- Marquee – Cllr Barker advised that the Marquee had been damaged when in use at the Apple Orchard Festival. He has received a quote for repair of £60. **It was resolved that the repair be made and that the Girl Guides be contacted to see if they have one, as they have now disbanded. Also to see if Jubilee Hire have any second hand ones to sell.**
- Projector Quote – The Clerk advised she had received a quote of £125 for a projector and £40 for a screen. **It was resolved to circulate the details to all Councillors for further consideration**

117/14 To agree parish council’s vision and aims.

It was noted that the Chair and Vice-Chair will be holding an open surgery on Saturday mornings, probably the first Saturday of the month, in the Parish Office. It was also suggested that the Parish Council meet up with all the village Clubs to work together more. **It was resolved that the Council meet at 7pm before the next meeting to discuss this item further.**

118/14 Standing Orders

It was noted that the Standing Orders are required to be amended in view of the policy on use of social media at meetings. **It was resolved that point I on page 4 of the Standing Orders be amended to allow broadcasting and recording at meetings.**

119/14 Reports by Cllrs Dawlings, Holden and Hall

Cllr Hall advised that the Electoral Review has been put on hold currently as the Electoral Commission have other work on at present. A review of the number of Councillors representing an area can be called if the number of electorate falls below a certain level, although this is unlikely to happen in the near future.

The Amenity Vehicle was originally provided after the loss of the Eastern Area tip at Goudhurst which was sold for housing and Cllr Jukes has advised he may be minded to let the service remain. A cabinet meeting is being held on Thursday to consider this and members of the public can register to speak at this meeting, if they feel strongly about the issue.

TWBC John Street car park is being considered for redevelopment with shops and flats to bring a rental income for the Council.

There is a concern on leakage of information on the 11+ as Kent and East Sussex hold it on different days. Cllr Hall left the meeting.

Cllr Dawlings advised that the Amenity Refuse lorry is likely to remain in service. There is concern that there is an abuse of the service by collectors dumping their collections directly into the lorry. The cost to KCC to send this rubbish to landfill is £165,000, more needs to be done on recycling of the waste.

The Electoral Review of 3 member wards has been delayed. It is hoped that the Commission will review this situation to ensure that elections become more co-ordinated rather than happening nearly every year, at considerable cost to the Parish Council.

TWBC are currently looking into the drainage situation at Cherryfields, a response is awaited.

Approval has been given for the Primary School car park so unconditional planning permission is now in place.

The Providence Chapel in Cranbrook is being considered for compulsory sale and TWBC are to put a plan in place for this building.

120/14

Reports by Clerk, Chairman and Parish Council Representatives

1. Parish Plan Asset Group – a letter is requested to be send to Helen Grant MP signed by the Chair of Governors, Chair of the Parish Council, Cllrs Dawlings and Holden, seeking further reassurances for direct funding. **It was resolved the Chairman sign the letter, as circulated to Councillors.**
2. The Primary School wishes for The Glebe field to be included in the contract for mowing. This will be referred to HMT when the mowing contract comes up for renewal next year.
3. No KALC meeting has taken place. Cllr Davies attended the meeting on the Amenity Vehicle, see previous comments.
4. The play area on the Recreation Ground will be moved following the approval of the car park outside the village hall, funding will be sought by HMT for a new play area.
5. The youth group previously run on the Streetcruizer bus is now run from the village hall and is called the Benenden Banta Club. 2 qualified youth workers oversea the activities and the hall will be appreciated in the winter, in particular.

121/14

Planning & Highways Report

The following recommendations from the Planning Committee, were noted.

14/503512	4 Laurel Cottages	Replace some windows with replicas and entrance door	Recommend approval
14/502714	Woodford, New Pond Road	Replace conservatory with family room extension	Remain neutral as the design and flat roof are not in keeping with the existing building
14/503140	Pine Tree Lodge	Proposed dormer, balcony and other alterations	Recommend approval
14/503070	Marden Cottage, Hinksden Road	Demolition of side porch, detached garage, shed, log store and new single storey extension	Remain neutral as the design, particularly the flat roof and large rear windows, are out of keeping. The driveway enlargement is acceptable. Request permitted development rights be removed should planners approve the development.

The following decision by TWBC was noted.

14/503112	West Pullington, Rolvenden Road,	2 new dormer windows	Granted
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The following Highways report was noted.

Planned works All main roads in the Parish None

123556 – Loose drain cover	The Street, Benenden	Enquiry under investigation
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17434709 – Flooding	New Pond Road, Iden Green	Works being planned
114739 – Potholes	Standen Street, Iden Green	Works being programmed
109736 – Drainage	Outside Chittenden Farm	More works required
17443188 – Vegetation	Cranbrook Road, Benenden	More works required
123561 – Road Sign missing	Cranbrook Road, Benenden	Enquiry under investigation

It was noted that the loose drain covers are owned by the Gas Board, not KCC.

It was noted that Benenden Girls school have requested a meeting with the Council to discuss speeding outside the school. It was agreed Cllr Barker would meet with them.

Cllr Holden is pursuing the Police and Crime Commissioner on the issue of speeding and in particular, having the results from the Speedwatch exercise, used for prosecutions.

New applications were considered as follows:

14/503989	The Redhouse	Demolition and replacement of outbuilding	Recommend approval
14/503800	Diprose Bungalow	Variation of condition 3	Recommend approval
14/5041000	1 Border View	Replacement of 8 UPVC windows	Recommend approval

122/14

Financial Report

1. Monthly Finance report. **Resolved that payment of the September 2014 cheque list is ratified and the approved and the Chairman signed the Bank reconciliation and Bank statement.** A breakdown of the Election costs was requested.
2. The 6 monthly budget was noted, with spend to date of £17,823.38 against a predicted year end spend of £34,417. Income was noted as being at £35,646.38 against a predicted year end income of £40,420.00.
3. **It was resolved that a Finance Committee meeting be arranged for the end of November to discuss next year's budget.** Cllrs Ellis, Thomas and Davies will attend.

123/14

Training and Development

The Clerk has circulated relevant dates.

124/14

Correspondence

A letter of thanks from the Samaritans was noted.
A list of fund raising ideas was gratefully received from Mr Wookey and will be considered by the youth working group in regards to the play areas.

A suggestion was received that the Parish Noticeboards be individually maintained by volunteers. **It was resolved that the Clerk continue to maintain the noticeboards9. It was resolved that Cllr Barker to meet with Mr Santer to oversee the relocation of the Iden Green Noticeboard** as its current location in the layby is unsatisfactory.

125/14 Items for future consideration

- Budget

126/14 Date of Next Meeting

17th November 2014 at 7.30p.m. at the Iden Green Pavillion.

The meeting closed at 8.50p.m.

DRAFT