

PARISH COUNCIL OF BENENDEN

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Monday 17th November 2014 at Iden Green Pavilion at 19.30 hours, pursuant to notice

Present: Cllr Reynolds (Chairman), Cllr Chorlton, Cllr Henning, Cllr Barker, Cllr J Ellis, Cllr Davies, Cllr Thomas (Vice-Chair), Cllr Marshall and Cllr P Ellis.

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

127/14 Apologies and Welcome

Apologies were received from Cllr Holden.

128/14 Parishioners Questions

The meeting was closed for Parishioners questions.

129/14 Declaration of Interests and Alterations to Members Register of Interests

There were no declarations.

130/14 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 20th October 2014

It was resolved that the Chairman is authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 20th October 2014 as a correct record of the meeting.

131/14 Matters Arising

- Defibrillator – A new box has been delivered and will be installed in Iden Green.
- IG Notice Board – When the layby is free from cars, the noticeboard will be moved.
- Marquee – The Girl Guides have one but it is a large heavy duty one. Photos of suggested purchase to be circulated to all Councillors so a decision can be made at the December meeting.
- Projector Quote – **It was resolved Cllrs Barker and Ellis (P) agree a projector and screen to recommend to the Council for purchase**

132/14 Reports by Cllrs Dawlings, Holden and Hall

Cllr Dawlings advised that the Amenity Refuse lorry will remain in service, any savings on this service will be made in a reduction in the landfill.

TWBC are withdrawing Council Tax Support Grant next year for the parishes, £1688 was received last year by Benenden Parish Council. TWBC is limited in its tax raising ability as it is capped at 2%, Parish Councils have not had their precept raising ability capped yet.

Under the transferring of its assets, TWBC asked BPC to take on the verges at Pullington, which BPC refused. TWBC will now keep these on.

A hoarding around the old Cinema site in Tunbridge Wells will have a large picture of Benenden Green on it.

133/14 Reports by Clerk, Chairman and Parish Council Representatives

1. Parish Plan. The Parish Plan will be presented on 7th February at 10.30 in the village hall.

Chairman..... Date.....

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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.

2. Youth – **It was resolved that Cllr J Ellis, Cllr Chorlton and Cllr Thomas will seek funding for new youth equipment. This will be done jointly with HMT, who own the current equipment.**

134/14

Planning & Highways Minutes

1. The minutes of the committee and the decisions therein were noted.

New applications were considered as follows:

14/504031	Eaton Farm, Goddards Green Road	Erection of solar panels	KB proposed the application be recommended for approval, WH seconded. A vote found 4 in favour and 5 against. A EIA was requested
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Councillors agreed that every application would be looked at on its own merits and that that approval of a small solar farm would not set a precedent. It was noted that site is 0.1 ha and is not visible from anywhere apart from the bridle path in Hempsted Forest . It was also noted that the farm’s energy consumption from fossil fuels would be reduced by about 50%.

Cllr Barker advised he had a meeting at Benenden Girls School who are looking for the Parish Council’s support in their effort to reduce the speed limit from 60mph outside the main exit from the school in New Pond Road. They will be looking at the accident record and are considering installing an automatic speed recorder. He advised that he hoped there would be more joint working. **It was resolved that the Council would support this request.**

Cllr Sean Holden is pursuing the idea that records from Speedwatch can have more impact on requesting a formal police presence in areas where speeding is an issue.

135/14

Financial Report

1. Monthly Finance report. **Resolved that payment of the October 2014 cheque list is ratified and the approved and the Chairman signed the Bank reconciliation and Bank statement.** The Clerk advised that the Election costs were for the printing of voting cards which have to be produced before it is known whether an election will be held.³
2. Items to be considered for the budget are: Parish Magazine printing, village website, playgroup equipment contribution, Parish Plan.
3. **It was resolved that Cllr Chorlton will join the Finance Committee meeting on 4th December at 10.30 to discuss next year’s budget. It was resolved that the Terms of Reference for the Finance Committee be approved.**

136/14

Training and Development

None currently.

137/14

To agree aims and objectives for the Parish Council

A draft vision statement and aims were agreed and will be reviewed following the publication of the Parish Plan in September.

138/14

Correspondence

Bottle Banks – a letter was received from a local resident who requested they be moved. Cllr Dawlings advised that TWBC is in the middle of a contract for recycling and is not likely to consider collecting glass any time soon. **It was resolved that a sign should be put on the banks advising recycling should only take place between 9am and 9pm. The Village Hall administrators were asked to advise late night hirers that they should not recycle the glass immediately after their event.**

Xmas Lights - £50 has been received from TWBC. **It was resolved that the Village Hall and Iden Green Pavilion will receive £25 each.**

It was resolved that East End should be considered more by the Parish Council and it was agreed that 1 meeting a year will be held at the Hospital.

Helen Grant MP – work experience opportunity

DCLG – direct grants are being offered to community projects working with TWBC.

It was resolved that the information be passed to Harmsworth Court and Jim Hyde.

KALC – request for funds for an Economic Benefits study for east facing slips on M25 in the vicinity of junction 5.

139/14

Items for future consideration

- Budget

140/14

Date of Next Meeting

15th December 2014 at 7.30p.m. at the Memorial Hall, Benenden.

It was resolved that light xmas refreshments will be served afterwards.

The meeting closed at 8.50p.m.