**PARISH COUNCIL OF BENENDEN**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 21st March 2016**

**Iden Green Pavilion, 7:00pm**

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| Present | Cllrs Reynolds (Chair), (Vice Chair), Aldhouse, Barker, Cruse, Davies, Ellis |
| In Attendance | Cllrs Dawlings and Holden; Caroline Levett – Clerk; 19 members of the Public were in attendance. |

Representatives from Rydon Homes presented a proposed development, which is at pre-application stage, for land on Walkhurst Road. The proposed development would consist of 12 units with a mix of 1 to 5 bedroom dwellings, 4 of which would be affordable housing. Rydon Homes took note of the concerns raised by parishioners and by the Parish Council.

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| **Item** |  | **Action**  **Responsibility** |
| 027/16  APOLOGIES | Apologies were received from Cllrs Henning, Marshall and Hall. |  |
| 028/16  DECLARATION OF INTERESTS AND ALTERATIONS TO MEMBERS REGISTER OF INTERESTS | No declarations of interests were made. |  |
| 029/16  MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING | The Parish Council minutes from the meeting held on 15th February 2016 were unanimously approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the  Chairman. |  |
| 030/16  MATTERS ARISING | 1. **Annual Assembly**   This will take place on 23rd May. It is hoped that details of the reconstitution of the Harmsworth Memorial Trust will be ready to be presented to the village at this meeting.   1. **Litter Picking**   A Village Tidy will take place on 23rd April. It was agreed to purchase litter picking equipment for use by parishioners throughout the year.   1. **Neighbourhood Plan**   Cllr Davies reported the following :   * It is unlikely that the Parish will receive any additional funding from TWBC to help with the process. * Cllr Davies to draft a formal letter to TWBC to start the process. * The Borough Council is under pressure to provide more housing than originally thought. * Villages have no sites allocated. * Sites need to be submitted by August. * The Parish Council will ask landowners to advise of potential sites and draw up an inventory.  1. **Civic Amenity Vehicle**   Whilst the Parish Council is unhappy with the process that led to changes to the  Civic Amenity Vehicle service, it **unanimously resolved to agree to pay the requested sum to continue its provision.**  It was pointed out that the roadsweeper service regularly seen in the village is unnecessary and ineffective and Cllr Dawlings agreed that the Borough Council should provide the differing services needed in different parts of the borough.   1. **Response from Cllr David Jukes, Leader, TWBC**   The Clerk read a response received from the Leader of TWBC. Figures regarding Benenden precept are incorrect. Cllr Barker offered to draft a response.  Cllr Holden felt that the response was disingenuous about Parish Council meetings and advised that some parishes feel the same as Benenden. | **CL**  **PD**  **KB** |
| 031/16  REPORTS BY CLLRS DAWLINGS AND HOLDEN | Cllr Holden :   * Recommended support for Cranbrook and the suggestion of a six month review of the CAV service. * Following appeal, permission has been granted for 62 houses on a site in Sissinghurst. * There had been some concern about the design of the new primary school but this has now been decided to go ahead with the design as required by the planning permission, and the new school and is on course to open September 2017. * There is a major funding issue for adult social care.   Cllr Dawlings:   * Expressed concerns about planning and developers. * TWBC has plans for new council offices, with a certain amount of office space to be let out, thereby keeping overall costs down. * Plans for a new theatre and car park will generate income. |  |
| 032/16  REPORTS CHAIRMAN AND PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES | 1. **Primary School**:   Cllr Thomas advised that a memorial service had taken place at St Georges for Caroline Andrews, with contributions made to the service by the school children.  Cllr Thomas also confirmed the above report from Cllr Holden on the progress of the new school building.     1. **KALC:**   Cllrs Reynolds and Davies attended the last meeting, held in Cranbrook. Villages nearer to Tunbridge Wells did not support Benenden’s viewpoint.   1. **Parish Chairmen’s Group:**   Cllr Davies attended the last meeting and advised it was very much an information exchange forum and no decisions were taken, and the Civic Amenity Vehicle was not mentioned at all. Lee Colyer of TWBC spoke of budget issues. The Local Plan review and housing matters were discussed. Details of events for Parish Councillors to attend were given. Cllr Ellis requested that more notice of these events is given. Cllr Davies to feed this back to the Group. | **PD** |
| 033/16  PLANNING & HIGHWAYS MATTERS | 1. **Planning Applications** 2. Cllr Barker advised on the following applications considered by the Planning Committee on 3rd March :  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Application | Address | Proposal | Planning  Committee  Recommendation | | 15/500473 and 474  FULL | Swaylands Barn Cranbrook Road | Proposed two storey rear extension. Including demolition of existing garage.  Proposed replacement garage | Support | | 16/500748  FULL | The Stocks Standen Street | Conversion of roofspace & extension to the existing dwelling including internal alterations & demolition of an existing garage | Support | | 16/500957  FULL | Roman Way Cranbrook Road | Proposed single storey side & rear extension | No comment |   **RESOLUTION To support the recommendations of the planning committee.**  Other applications :   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | 16/501311  FULL | Cob Trees Walkhurst Road | Removal of conservatory and construction of single storey rear extension | Support | | 16/501950  FULL  16/501951  LBC | The Kitty Fisher  The Street | Change of use from public house to dwelling for internal alterations.  Listed Building Consent for change of use from public house to dwelling and internal alterations | Support | | 15/510224FULL | Camley Meadows  Hinksden Road | Erection of a two-bay garage to replace previously existing 2-storey double garage | To be discussed at next Planning Committee meeting |  1. **Highways Matters**   Many ongoing issues of speed limits, broken or missing road signs, and drains and potholes. The Clerk to report and Cllr Barker offered to draft a letter to Highways. | **CL / KB** |
| 034/16  FINANCIAL | 1. **Monthly Finance Report and approve cheque for payment**   **RESOLUTION To ratify and approve the March 2016 cheque list. To agree the bank reconciliation and bank statement for February 2016.**  A request to hire the projector and screen was agreed at £40. |  |
| 035/16  CORRESPONDENCE | 1. **Kent Men of the Trees**   The Clerk advised that the village has been entered into the Kent Men of the Trees Competition. |  |
| 036/16  PARISHIONERS’ QUESTIONS | 1. Concerns were raised about a site with a previous planning application. Cllr Dawlings confirmed that he has asked an Enforcement Officer to visit the site again. 2. An issue was raised about the regularity of advertising information in the Parish Magazine such as doctors, hospitals, surgeries. Cllr Barker will discuss with the editorial committee of the magazine. 3. BACS has offered to support the financing of a desktop video magnifier for use by parishioners. | **KB** |
| 037/16  ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION | No Items were discussed. |  |
| 038/16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING | Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council Monday 18th April 2016, 7:30pm, at The Memorial Hall, Benenden. |  |
| 039/16 | The meeting closed at 9:15pm |  |