

PARISH COUNCIL OF BENENDEN

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 16th September 2019, Iden Green Pavilion, 7pm

Cllr Alan McDermot, Leader of the Borough Council, Cllr Carol Mackonochie, Communities and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder, and Paul Taylor, TWBC Director of Change and Communities were present for the start of the meeting to introduce themselves to the Parish Council, take questions from Parish Councillors and set out the challenges facing the Borough, particularly finance, centralisation, growth and infrastructure and the changing high street. Copy of their presentation was circulated to Parish Councillors. Items discussed included how finances are raised; needs to modernise communications, highways and the rail network; community hubs; housing; co-ordination.

Present	Cllrs Beveridge, Cochrane, Cruse, Driver, Grant, Lewis, Manford, Skeet and Thomas	
In Attendance	Cllrs Dawlings and Holden; C Levett, Clerk. 1 parishioner.	
Item		Action Responsibility
1. APOLOGIES	No apologies were received.	
2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	There were no declarations of interest.	
3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING	The Parish Council minutes from the meeting held on 15th July 2019 were unanimously approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.	
4. MATTERS ARISING AND OUTSTANDING ITEMS	<p>(a) Broadband Cllr Driver had written an article for the Magazine. Cllrs Cochrane and Driver had looked at a questionnaire regarding the joint consultation between the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport on extending 5G mobile provision in rural areas. Cllr Driver to draft a response.</p> <p>(b) Autumn Village Clean It was agreed that this would take place on 9th November. Cllr Lewis and the Clerk to organise.</p>	<p>PD</p> <p>CL/JL</p>
5. REPORTS BY COUNTY/BOROUGH COUNCILLORS	<p>Cllr Dawlings reported the following :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All households will be receiving a letter regarding the new refuse collection service. Benenden’s collection day may change. Bottles and glass will be collected kerbside and Cllr Dawlings has requested the removal of the bottle banks at the Village Hall. • The Open Day for the new school building was well attended with a lot of positive feedback, although there have been a few inevitable teething problems. The school design is very well thought out and opens as a result of a lot of work by local people. 35 additional places have been created. An official opening of the new school will take place. • The new playground is being well used, although it has been noted that it is attracting adults as well as children. • Cllr Dr Ronen Basu, Borough Councillor, previously Mayor of Tunbridge Wells and previously Cabinet Member and Portfolio Holder for Sustainability has passed away. <p>Cllr Holden reported the following :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Carter, KCC Leader is standing down. There will be leadership election, for which there are four candidates. • KCC’s voucher scheme for broadband has opened, offering up to £1,000 where eligible. • Officers were asked to write to central government regarding 5g requesting that operators are made to share facilities/masts. • A meeting is due to take place on 25th September regarding the future of the 	

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

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

	<p>Calverley Square development. Cllr Dawlings advised that he remains supportive of the scheme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £29million has been received from central government to prepare for Brexit to ensure minimal disruption and no road closures. 	
6. REPORTS BY CHAIR AND PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES	<p>Cllr Thomas attended the area KALC meeting on 20th August. There was much discussion regarding neighbourhood plans, and the different approaches by different parishes. Benenden will host the March 2020 area meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Thomas will be attending a Parish Chairmen's meeting at TWBC on 17th September for a briefing on the TWBC Draft Local Plan.</p>	NT
7. NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN	<p>The Regulation 14 consultation period has been extended to 31st October because the printing of hard copies of the plan were delayed. Concerns were raised about accessibility of the plan online. 50 hard copies will be made available to parishioners through the Shop and the Community Office.</p> <p>Cllrs Cochrane and Cruse will assist in looking at feedback received with Paul Tolhurst.</p>	RC/SC
8. TWBC DRAFT LOCAL PLAN	<p>The TWBC Draft Local Plan Regulation 18 Consultation takes place from 20 September to 1 November. The draft and policies maps had been circulated. Parish Councillors were asked to compare the policies, especially the site specific policies with Benenden's Regulation 14 Draft NDP, and to consider the impact of development in surrounding parishes. Cllrs Thomas, Beveridge and Grant will prepare a response to TWBC to be agreed at the Parish Council October meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Grant pointed out that TWBC had not used its own emerging policy in response to a recent planning application in Hawkhurst. Cllr Dawlings will report this back to TWBC.</p>	GB/PG/NT TD
9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS	<p>a. <u>Applications</u></p> <p>19 01180 FULL Toy Box Eaglesden Farm Mill Street change of use from agricultural work shop to toy shop. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to support this application.</p> <p>19 02064 LBC Champion House Standen Street Removal of single skin brickwork inner chimney breast, coal burning fireplace, white paint; installation of log burning stove and independent steel flue within inglenook fireplace; removal of a non-functioning floor standing coal boiler within the smaller fireplace; installation of log burning stove and independent steel flue; installation of new floor standing oil boiler and external steel flue within existing lean-to side element; installation of new oil tank within area of rear garden. The Parish Council supports the general details of this application however it feels that a different solution must be found for dealing with flue gases. It believes that whilst the drawing shows a flue pipe protruding about 1m above roof level, it thinks that Building Control will require a much higher flue. The Parish Council would not want to see a 4.5m high flue (from the top of the woodburner to the top of the flue) protruding from the roof, as recommended by both Building Regulations and the British Flue and Chimney Manufacturers' guidelines. If the application is passed in its current state and Building Control require a much higher flue, it would severely impact on the nature of the Grade II Listed property.</p> <p>19 01965 FULL Pullington Fold Farm Rolvenden Road Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) of planning permission 18/03573/FULL (Proposed conversion of existing barn to residential, change of use of land along with ecological and</p>	

	<p>landscape enhancements) - New plans to show alterations to internal layout, fenestration and finished floor levels. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to support this application.</p> <p>19 02318 FULL King Charles Cottage Mill Street Erection of rear and front extensions and a porch, reconfiguration of existing roof form and, addition of a log burner flue. The Parish Council unanimously agreed no comment.</p> <p>19 02328 SUB Benenden Girls School Submission of details in relation to Condition 9 (External Lighting) of 18/01131. The Parish Council has not been consulted on this. It notes that there is no column lighting and that lights are pointing downwards from underneath eaves with downward bollard lighting on the paths. The Parish Council accepts that lighting is necessary at the new hall and music school but to comply with Dark Skies policies requests motion sensors and timers to ensure that lights are not on all night.</p> <p>b. <u>Decisions</u></p> <p>19 01051 King Charles Cottage, Mill Street The Parish Council had objected to this application which was approved by TWBC. The Parish Council will recommend in future that if an officer is minded to approve an application which the Parish Council objects to it will request that the application is put to the Planning Committee.</p> <p>19 01745 Land Adjoining Springhill Oast Standen Street Demolition of one poultry unit and the conversion of the remaining poultry unit to one dwelling house with integral garage and associated landscape enhancements. The Parish Council had supported this application but requested that if consent granted it should include a condition to restrict exterior lighting to entry points only using PIR lanterns mounted at low level and at low wattage, on short timer devices to accord with BNDP Policy HD5 Dark Skies, and para. 1.9.1 of the Landscape and the Environment chapter. A further condition of consent should be that no additional exterior lighting can be installed without the written approval of TWBC and BPC. Reason: To conserve and protect the dark skies of the parish. Other relevant policies to justify such a condition: TWBC Local Plan 2006 Policy EN8: Outdoor Lighting (EN10 in the Draft Local Plan). TWBC Core Strategy Development Plan Document (Adopted June 2010) Core Policy 14: Development in the Villages and Rural Areas. NPPF Para: 180 c). HWAONB Management Plan 2019-2024 Objective OQ4. Permission was granted and the consent includes at Condition 9 — No external lighting shall be installed on the building without the prior written consent of the LPA. Reason: To protect and enhance the wider landscape by controlling the use of artificial lighting.</p>	
10. HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION	<p>a. Highways Improvement Plan Cllrs Cruse, Beveridge and Manford and Peter Nuttal had carried out a review of highways in Benenden which had been circulated with recommendations of junction improvements to be made to KCC Highways. Parish Councillors are asked to email Cllr Cruse with any amendments or further suggestions and he will complete the KCC HIP template to be approved by the Parish Council before submission to KCC.</p> <p>b. Signage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns had been raised by many, for a number of reasons, about new signs at the Glebe Field. Cllr Thomas will speak to the School to see how these came 	<p>ALL</p> <p>RC</p> <p>NT</p>

	<p>about.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns had been raised about advertising signs being attached to road signs. Lorries from the Walkhurst Road site have knocked into the road signs around the War Memorial. Cllr Cruse advised that he has been impressed with the responses from the contractors and it was agreed to let them put it right. 																																	
11. RESOURCING/ FINANCE	<p>a. Monthly Finance</p> <p>The Parish Council Financial Transaction Report for July and August had been circulated and agreed and the Parish Council ratified and approved the July 2019 payments list.</p> <p>Agreed September payments :</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>DD</td> <td>John Lewis</td> <td>Broadband</td> <td>9.75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>C Levett</td> <td>Clerk's Salary</td> <td>888.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>Thompsett Landscaping</td> <td>Grounds Maintenance</td> <td>274.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>Michael Patrick</td> <td>War Memorial</td> <td>107.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>Tenterden Twilight</td> <td>Public Toilets</td> <td>410.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>ASL (Geerings)</td> <td>Copying/Printing</td> <td>72.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>PKF Littlejohn</td> <td>External Audit</td> <td>360.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">TOTAL</td> <td>2122.35</td> </tr> </table> <p>b. External Audit</p> <p>The external audit has been completed and everything is in accordance with proper practice, there are no other matters giving cause for concern, and relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have been met.</p> <p>c. Finance and Resourcing Committee</p> <p>Cllr Cochrane was agreed as a new member of the Finance and Resourcing Committee.</p>	DD	John Lewis	Broadband	9.75	BACS	C Levett	Clerk's Salary	888.60	BACS	Thompsett Landscaping	Grounds Maintenance	274.50	BACS	Michael Patrick	War Memorial	107.50	BACS	Tenterden Twilight	Public Toilets	410.00	BACS	ASL (Geerings)	Copying/Printing	72.00	BACS	PKF Littlejohn	External Audit	360.00	TOTAL			2122.35	
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12. CORRESPONDENCE	<p>a. Cut branches</p> <p>Concerns had been raised about branches cut from an open top bus and thrown to the side of the road around the parish. Cllr Thomas to report to KCC.</p> <p>b. Benenden-Bishopsbourne links</p> <p>The following email had been received : Benenden-Bishopsbourne links in the years c.500 - 1400 AD. During this period, people from Bishopsbourne drove their pigs every autumn to "dens" in Benenden to fatten on acorns and beechmast. They were then slaughtered and salted and shipped back from Rye. Would your magazine be interested in an article on this, and would there be any general interest in commemorating the transhumance route jointly with Bishopsbourne?</p> <p>The magazine is interested in this as an article and Cllr Thomas will contact Bishopsbourne to find out what sort of commemoration they have in mind.</p> <p>c. Harmsworth Court Lighting</p> <p>Two parishioners have complained about new exterior lighting in Rothermere Close which has been erected by Stonewater Housing. Both have contacted Stonewater and the lights have been taped so as to render them useless. Cllr Thomas to obtain the full facts and establish if this is an enforcement issue.</p>	<p>NT</p> <p>NT</p> <p>NT</p>																																
13. PARISHIONERS' QUESTIONS	No questions from parishioners.																																	
14. ITEMS FOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Cruse will write an article for the Magazine regarding lighting at night, asking 																																	

FUTURE CONSIDERATION	parishioners to consider turning off porch lights, using low wattage lightbulbs and motion sensors. • Cllr Cruse requested that parking on pavements is considered at a future meeting.	
DATE OF NEXT MEETING	Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council Monday 21 st October 2019, Memorial Hall, 7pm	
	The meeting closed at 10pm	

Clerk to the Parish Council, 18th September 2019