

PARISH COUNCIL OF BENENDEN

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on
Monday 17th January 2022, 7pm, Quinlan Centre Benenden Hospital**

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| Present | Cllrs Cochrane, Cruse, Driver, Grant, Hagan, Lewis, Skeet and Thomas | |
| In Attendance | Cllr Dawlings; C Levett, Clerk. | |
| Item | | Action Responsibility |
| 1. APOLOGIES | Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Beveridge and Warne. | |
| 2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS | There were no declarations of interest. | |
| 3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING | The Parish Council minutes from the meeting held on 13 th December 2021 were unanimously approved as a correct record of the meeting. | |
| 4. REPORTS BY COUNTY/ BOROUGH COUNCILLORS | <p>Cllr Dawlings reported :</p> <p>Garden Waste : Pressure on the contractor is increasing to reintroduce the service, although TWBC does not want this to impact on the rest of the waste services. It is hoped that garden waste collection will be reintroduced by the end of February.</p> <p>TWBC Budget : Income fluctuates as this comes mostly from fees and charges rather than council tax. It is hoped that as things continue to return to normal the income level will plateau. It is hoped that the co-working arrangements at the Town Hall will have a net value of £0.5million, through rental and cost savings. TWBC will be receiving a New Homes Bonus from central government which it had not anticipated. Overall, TWBC projects a reduced budget shortfall from £2million to £1million.</p> <p>Ameila Scott Building : Opens 28th April. The conversion of the building has been carried out to a very high standard.</p> <p>Queen's Platinum Jubilee : Events are being discussed. Cllr Thomas confirmed that she is liaising with Peter Ellis about how this will be celebrated in Benenden.</p> | |
| 5. REPORTS BY CHAIR AND PARISH COUNCILLORS | Cllr Hagan will be attending KALC Dynamic Councillor and Introduction to Planning training. | |
| 6. PLANNING | <p>a. <u>Neighbourhood Development Plan</u> :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Information Statement from TWBC has been issued and puts forward that the referendum takes place on 3rd February. Polling cards have been sent out from TWBC. ➤ The Friends of East End have distributed a leaflet containing some incorrect information. The Parish Council can correct factual errors, and Cllr Thomas and Paul Tolhurst will be discussing. ➤ Parishioners should be encouraged to vote on 3rd February. <p>b. <u>Applications</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21/04154/FULL Highway Access Land To The South Of South Cottage, Nineveh Lane Modifications to Existing Highway Access to Serve Agricultural Land <p>The Parish Council unanimously agreed to support this application subject to KCC Highways approval of the scheme.</p> <p>c. <u>Other Planning Matters</u></p> <p>i. Planning Enforcement Training : The presentation hosted by TWBC on 6th January had been circulated. This was attended by Cllrs Grant, Hagan and Thomas and was a useful event.</p> <p>ii. Apple Pie Farm Farmland : Full email communication between a parishioner had been circulated raising concerns about the purchase and subdivision of land, change of use, lack of planning</p> | |

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.

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| | <p>consultation, rights of way, surfacing, advertising, security and enforcement. The parishioner has also contacted TWBC.</p> <p>iii. Enclosure and Pond at Land Next to PRow WC338 : A partially dug out pond and an enclosure has been erected on land next to PRow WC338 just south of the ancient woodland. The Parish Council unanimously agreed that these works should be reported to enforcement as it is defined as operational development and harm is being caused to the landscape.</p> <p>iv. Benton Hoppers : Further communication between the Parish Council and TWBC Planning Compliance Officer was reported to the meeting. The Parish Council agreed no further action would be taken.</p> <p>v. Standen Stables : A parishioner advised and queried edging being installed at the bottom of the track joining the lane at Standen Stables. This is within Sandhurst Parish and the Planning Group considers there is no breach of planning and no planning harm exists. The Parish Council agreed that no action is necessary.</p> <p>vi. 21/03764/FULL Change of Use from Water and Woodland Management to siting of timber shed/implement store : This application for the shed in the woodland, discussed at the last meeting, has been withdrawn by the applicant. TWBC has confirmed that the applicant was advised that the application would be refused and that the shed should be removed. TWBC Enforcement Officer will be monitoring the situation to ensure the shed is removed in a reasonable timeframe.</p> <p>vii. TPO Request : The Parish Council had made request for a Tree Preservation Order to protect a tree which is significant in the landscape of Iden Green Recreation Ground and the Conservation Area at land adjoining 2 Hague Cottages, Coldharbour Road, Iden Green reference planning applications 20/01265/FULL and 21/01392/FULL. TWBC Tree Officer has asked the case officer to ensure that an updated tree protection plan is submitted and enforceable by condition. If this does not happen or a planning condition is not sufficient to protect the tree a TPO will be requested.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7. HIGHWAYS, FOOTPATHS & TRANSPORT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Driver reported the problem with the flooded footpath gateway at the bottom of Hillyfields to KCC Highways in November (ref: 607735) and is now shown as “Works Completed” on the KCC Highways website although no remedial works have been carried out. Cllr Driver is trying to find out what the reasons are. • The Iden Green village gateway in Mill Street has been completely demolished and Cllr Driver has reported this to KCC (ref: 615825). • The Clerk has reported a stolen salt bin on the junction of Ramsden and Woodcock Lanes (ref: 616292). | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8. RESOURCING/ FINANCE | <p>a. <u>Monthly Transactions</u></p> <p>TRANSACTIONS FROM 1st December 2021</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Brought forward</td> <td style="text-align: right;">90382.31</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Income</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Payee</td> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Reference</td> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Amount</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">John Lewis</td> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">Broadband Refund</td> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">2.76</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2.76</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Expenditure</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Supplier</td> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Reference</td> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Amount</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">DD NEST</td> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">Pension</td> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">67.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">Direct Unity Bank</td> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">Service Charge</td> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">18.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">BACS C Levett</td> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">Clerk’s Salary</td> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">1086.34</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">BACS edf</td> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">Public Toilets</td> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">43.42</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">BACS Tenterden Twilight</td> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">Public Toilets</td> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">519.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">BACS Tompsett Landscaping</td> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">Grounds Maintenance</td> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">90.00</td> </tr> </table> | Brought forward | 90382.31 | Income | | Payee | Reference | Amount | John Lewis | Broadband Refund | 2.76 | TOTAL | 2.76 | Expenditure | | Supplier | Reference | Amount | DD NEST | Pension | 67.80 | Direct Unity Bank | Service Charge | 18.00 | BACS C Levett | Clerk’s Salary | 1086.34 | BACS edf | Public Toilets | 43.42 | BACS Tenterden Twilight | Public Toilets | 519.60 | BACS Tompsett Landscaping | Grounds Maintenance | 90.00 | |
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| | BACS | Business Stream | Public Toilets | 52.14 | | |
| | BACS | HMRC | Employer Contributions | 282.32 | | |
| | BACS | Memorial Hall | Meeting | 15.00 | | |
| | BACS | Counselling Centre | Donation | 100.00 | | |
| | BACS | TWDistrict Citizens Advice | Donation | 100.00 | | |
| | BACS | Benenden's | Village Tidy | 57.20 | | |
| | BACS | Adobe | NDP | 75.84 | | |
| | 300015 | RBL Poppy Appeal | Wreath | 17.00 | | |
| | TOTAL | | | 2524.66 | | |
| | Reconciled with bank statement 057 31 December 2021 | | | 87860.41 | | |
| | January 2022 Payments for Approval | | | | | |
| | DD | NEST | Pension | 87.05 | | |
| | BACS | C Levett | Clerk's Salary | 928.83 | | |
| | BACS | Edf | Public Toilets | 67.00 | | |
| | BACS | Tenterden Twilight | Public Toilets | 612.00 | | |
| | BACS | TP Jones | Payroll Q3 | 57.60 | | |
| | BACS | BMS Electrical | Public Toilets | 487.08 | | |
| | BACS | Memorial Hall | Meeting | 15.00 | | |
| | BACS | KALC | Councillor Training x 2 | 120.00 | | |
| | BACS | Cast Roofing | Public Toilets | 200.00 | | |
| | TOTAL | | | 2574.56 | | |
| 9. ENVIRONMENT & MAINTENANCE | <p>a. <u>Public Toilets</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The electrical work to separate the time locks and lighting for the men's and ladies' toilets has been carried out as agreed by BMS Electrical Contractors. A local roofing contractor, Cast Roofing, confirmed that the ceiling in one of the cubicles in the ladies' toilets had started to fall due to roof leaks. The soil pipe collar located directly above the cubicle was leaking. There were also 15 broken roof tiles and lower verge tiles which were slipping out. The rear guttering had come apart from the middle joint causing dampness to the rear wall. Work was carried out to make repairs to all and clear the gutters of debris at a cost of £200. This expenditure was agreed by the Finance Committee. A quote for cabling for CCTV is awaited from BMS Electrical. <p>b. <u>Queen's Green Canopy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllrs Cochrane, Driver and Lewis arranged and carried out the planting of the two wild service trees at Iden Green Recreation Ground. The Clerk had thanked Cathy Rooney, the Project Manager at TWBC, for her work and help on this project. The Environment and Maintenance Group will consider the style, size and finish of a commemorative plaque. Cllr Lewis will add the jubilee trees to the Queen's Green Canopy map. BVT has carried out some tree maintenance in Iden Green and Benenden and planted the saplings that the Parish Council acquired as part of the Queen's Green Canopy in the gap that was left by the large, felled chestnut along the school and playing field boundary in Benenden. <p>c. <u>Parish Wells</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BVT has agreed to host a crowdfunding page for the Parish Council which the Clerk will set up. Cllr Thomas to write an article. The Parish Council has agreed to make a £10,000 contribution this financial year and a contractor should be appointed before the year-end. Cllr Hagan to look over the fee quotation before final appointment of contractor is made. | | | | | <p>ENV GRP</p> <p>JL</p> <p>CL NT</p> <p>GH</p> |

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| | <p>d. <u>Climate Change</u> The Environment and Maintenance Group has agreed to give further consideration to the Benenden carbon footprint report to see if any improvements or changes can be implemented, however small, to the parish.</p> <p>e. <u>Maintenance</u> i. The noticeboard in Iden Green is in a dilapidated state, although it is still standing. If it is to be replaced then it may be an opportunity to re-site it. ii. The Iden Green sign which is opposite Oakfield Drive is in need of repair, even though some kind person (not known who) reinforced the posts last year. iii. The Benenden village sign on the Green will need to be weather protected. iv. The three Parish Council red telephone boxes need sprucing up and a coat of paint. v. The Group considers that there is a need for a parish handyman, who could perhaps be shared with BVT.</p> <p>Cllr Hagan offered to look at noticeboards and audit the Parish Council's general maintenance list.</p> | GH |
| 10. VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS/ COMMUNITY | <p>a. <u>Benenden Village Trust</u> Cllr Lewis advised :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BVT has agreed to lay a gravel path from the village hall car park to the playground and onwards from the play area to the recreation ground boundary in the direction the of the school. It is hoped this will solve the problem of the large muddy track which is constantly present during the winter months. • The property group of the BVT intends to re-visit the project to re-purpose the current public toilet block and look at integrating the toilets into the village hall. This proposal has been on hold for the last couple of years due to COVID restrictions. <p>b. <u>Wellbeing in the Weald</u> Cllr Hagan advised :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men's Shed is a worldwide initiative set up to help combat loneliness and isolation and to help to improve mental/physical health and wellbeing in men. Women are welcome too. • The inaugural meeting of the Wealden Men's Shed is being held on 31st January in The Coach House, Cranbrook School. The group will run every Monday from 7th February from 10am-2pm in the Coach House. <p>c. <u>Queen's Platinum Jubilee</u> : Cllr Thomas will follow up with Peter Ellis what arrangements are in hand and if the beacon lighting is registered.</p> | NT |
| 11. COMMUNICATIONS | Cllr Skeet advised that he had contacted the Estate Manager at Benenden Hospital following some suspicious activity. The head office looked into the matter and are going to improve security. | |
| 12. CORRESPONDENCE/ PARISHIONERS' QUESTIONS | <p>a. <u>KALC Community Award Scheme 2022</u> : The Parish Council agreed its nomination for the award, to be submitted by 14th February. Cllr Thomas to draft.</p> <p>b. <u>Memorial Hall AGM</u> : The Parish Council, as a hall user, has been invited to attend the Memorial Hall Committee AGM on Wednesday 26th January at 2pm. Cllr Lewis offered to attend, and will raise the issues of wi-fi and heating.</p> | NT JL |
| DATE OF NEXT MEETING | Parish Council Meeting Monday 21 st February 2022, 7pm, Iden Green Pavilion | |
| | The meeting closed at 8.15 pm | |

C Levett, Clerk to the Parish Council, 17th January 2022