

PARISH COUNCIL OF BENENDEN

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 17th April 2023, 7pm, Quinlan Centre, Benenden Hospital

Present	Cllrs Cochrane, Driver, Grant, Lewis, Presgrave and Thomas	
In Attendance	Cllr Warne; C Levett – Clerk.	
Item		Action Responsibility
1. APOLOGIES	Apologies were received from Cllrs Beveridge, Cruse, Hagan and Dawlings.	
2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	Cllr Thomas declared an interest in item 6b. Other Planning Matters, Appeal - 21/00967/FULL Part Of Reed Wood, Mill Street, as her employer is agent for the appellants.	
3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING	The Parish Council minutes from the meeting held on 20 th March were unanimously approved as a correct record of the meeting.	
4. REPORTS BY COUNTY/ BOROUGH COUNCILLORS	<p>Turnden : The Planning Inspector found in favour of the application for 165 dwellings at appeal but this was dismissed by the Secretary of State at a public enquiry. Exceptional circumstances in the AONB were not convincingly proven. Berkeley Homes may pursue a Judicial Review or consider an alternative scheme addressing some of the shortcomings identified. Whilst a good result for the AONB, for TWBC this is a step backwards in securing a 5-year housing supply and the risks that entails. TWBC may support a smaller, better designed scheme. Cllr Warne made representations as community planner as part of CPRE’s submission.</p> <p>Cllr Warne reported :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Warne will check that BPC’s application to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund has been put through to the next round. It is unlikely that other funding is available from TWBC for the toilets. • SE Water Community Grants are available to charities, but deadline is 21st April. <p>Cllr Dawlings reported :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder that photograph ID is required in Polling Stations for election on 4th May. • Deliberations continue on the Local Plan, including surveys supporting development of a rural settlement at Tudeley. Simply excluding Tudeley and having a shorter plan period is problematic because the developer contributions from Tudeley are needed for infrastructure improvements for planned developments at Paddock Wood. If Tudeley is not included in the Local Plan there may be more pressure for development in the AONB. 	NW
5. REPORTS BY CHAIR AND PARISH COUNCILLORS	Nothing to report.	
6. PLANNING	<p><u>a. Applications</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23/00618/FULL Apple Garth, Cranbrook Road. Demolition of existing conservatory, erection of single-storey rear extension <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Extension provides large kitchen/dining/seating area across back of house, replacing existing small kitchen which will become a lobby area to access new extension. ➤ Rear of house, not visible. ➤ Elevations: glazed and red western cedar cladding, clay tile roof to match existing. <p>The Parish Council unanimously agreed to support this application.</p> <p><u>b. Other Planning Matters</u></p> <p>i. Hospital Site Proposals Unanimous agreement had been given to the response to Esquire Development, which was copied to TWBC Officers and Benenden Healthcare Society Ltd. A response has been received from BHSL, with no items satisfactorily addressed. Cllr Thomas to respond to BHSL and follow up with Esquire as no response has been received.</p> <p>ii. Appeal - 21/00967/FULL Part Of Reed Wood, Mill Street Retention of forestry building, mobile welfare unit in situ and lean-to and proposed works to repair and maintain existing access track (Part Retrospective). BPC did not object to or support this application but made a request for conditions if consent granted. TWBC refused the application for good reasons and BPC unanimously</p>	NT

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

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	<p>agreed to make no further comment to the appeal inspector and entrust TWBC to defend its refusal.</p> <p>iii. Benenden School Lighting Cllr Thomas had written to Benenden School. The Director of Estates and Grounds responded that he had liaised with the Cranbrook residents and fully understands the concerns. He assures BPC that the lighting is strictly controlled and only on for the hours that are required and within the constraints of the planning condition. BPC to monitor.</p>																																																																																																																																														
<p>7. HIGHWAYS, FOOTPATHS & TRANSPORT</p>	<p>a. <u>Highways Improvement Plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Cllr Driver met Nigel Rowe, KCC Highways Community Engagement Officer, to discuss the HIP. Cllr Driver explained the reasoning behind BPC's proposals for improved signage at the crossroads for northbound traffic and for extending the 30mph limit west along B2086. Nigel Rowe will report the concerns to the Highways Engineer who will respond to BPC requests. ➤ Nigel Rowe mentioned the KCC 30mph Toolkit, an initiative by KCC aimed at reducing speeding. The toolkit consists of a range of campaign material such as posters, social media ads, banners, stickers. BPC felt that the message of the campaign is not clear and not worth pursuing. ➤ The Clerk to contact Horsmonden regarding its campaign to find out more information. ➤ Some traffic monitoring equipment has been set up at the crossroads. <p>b. <u>Benenden Crossroads replacement fingerpost sign</u> : KCC has ordered the sign but no timescales given.</p> <p>c. <u>No Parking signs</u> : Cllr Hagan had spoken to the Bull and agreed the wording of the signs and agreement had been given by the Bull that these can be placed on the fence. Iden Signs has quoted £30 + VAT for 3 x vinyl stickers with the words "no Parking by order of the Parish Council" to stick over the original signs. The Clerk to confirm with The Bull and place the order.</p>	<p>CL</p> <p>CL</p>																																																																																																																																													
<p>8. RESOURCING/ FINANCE</p>	<p>a. <u>Monthly Finance</u></p> <p>TRANSACTIONS FROM 1st March 2023s</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Brought forward</td> <td style="text-align: right;">61354.47</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Income</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 40%;">Payee</td> <td style="width: 45%;">Reference</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>B&IG WI</td> <td>Copying</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">3.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">TOTAL</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Expenditure</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Supplier</td> <td>Reference</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DD</td> <td>NEST</td> <td>Pension</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">77.81</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DD</td> <td>Unity Trust Bank</td> <td>Quarterly Charge</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">18.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>C Levett</td> <td>Clerk's Salary</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">1037.02</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>C Levett</td> <td>Telephone</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">31.56</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>C Levett</td> <td>First Aid Kit/Storage Boxes</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">43.74</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>Business Stream</td> <td>Public Toilets</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">59.18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>edf</td> <td>Public Toilets</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">46.10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>HMRC</td> <td>Employer Contributions Q4</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">627.76</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>Iden Green Pavilion</td> <td>Meeting Hire</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">16.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>JK Farms</td> <td>Wildflower Meadow</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">150.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>Alex Durnell</td> <td>War Memorial</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">500.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>Anthony Hicks</td> <td>Benenden Well</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">7368.72</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>Air Ambulance</td> <td>Donation</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">150.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">TOTAL</td> <td style="text-align: right;">10125.89</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Reconciled with bank statement 077 31st March 2023</td> <td style="text-align: right;">51232.18</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">April 2023 Approved Payments</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DD</td> <td>NEST</td> <td>Pension</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">77.81</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>Memorial Hall</td> <td>Meeting Hire</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">21.25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>TP Jones</td> <td>Payroll Q4</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">63.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>Thomson Snell & Passmore</td> <td>Walkhurst Road Land Registry</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">258.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>Benenden's</td> <td>Village Tidy</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">132.75</td> </tr> </table>	Brought forward		61354.47	Income				Payee	Reference		B&IG WI	Copying			3.60	TOTAL		3.60	Expenditure				Supplier	Reference	DD	NEST	Pension			77.81	DD	Unity Trust Bank	Quarterly Charge			18.00	BACS	C Levett	Clerk's Salary			1037.02	BACS	C Levett	Telephone			31.56	BACS	C Levett	First Aid Kit/Storage Boxes			43.74	BACS	Business Stream	Public Toilets			59.18	BACS	edf	Public Toilets			46.10	BACS	HMRC	Employer Contributions Q4			627.76	BACS	Iden Green Pavilion	Meeting Hire			16.00	BACS	JK Farms	Wildflower Meadow			150.00	BACS	Alex Durnell	War Memorial			500.00	BACS	Anthony Hicks	Benenden Well			7368.72	BACS	Air Ambulance	Donation			150.00	TOTAL		10125.89	Reconciled with bank statement 077 31st March 2023		51232.18	April 2023 Approved Payments			DD	NEST	Pension			77.81	BACS	Memorial Hall	Meeting Hire			21.25	BACS	TP Jones	Payroll Q4			63.40	BACS	Thomson Snell & Passmore	Walkhurst Road Land Registry			258.60	BACS	Benenden's	Village Tidy			132.75	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Chris Heath, in consultation with Cllr Grant, has cut a hole through the hedge to enable pedestrian access to the site. ➤ It is necessary to install a crossover from the lane, create a gap in the hedge and erect gates for vehicular and pedestrian access. Quotes are being obtained to enable the Association (when created) to apply for funding. ➤ Chris Heath and Nancy Tolhurst are fully engaged in establishing the allotment site and have arranged a start-up meeting for interested parties with the intention of setting up an Association. Cllrs Grant and Presgrave to attend. It was agreed that there should be a representative of BPC on the Association. Cllr Presgrave agreed to take on this role. ➤ It was unanimously agreed that BPC grants tenancy to the Association to manage the site. ➤ A draft tenancy agreement BPC to the Association, draft tenancy agreement between Association and plot holder (tenant), draft terms and conditions which the plot holder must agree to under terms of the tenancy and draft application to erect an allotment structure were circulated and discussed. Cllr Grant to make amendments and share with Nancy Tolhurst. ➤ It was agreed that an email address for all matters relating to the allotments and for the Association would be created, allotments@benendenparishcouncil.org. ➤ It was unanimously agreed that BPC would meet the cost of start-up expenses until the Association is officially established and able to apply for funding. ➤ BPC unanimously agreed that the name of the allotment site would be The Thoburn Allotments. ➤ The Association name to be decided by the members of the Association. <p>b. <u>Public Toilets</u> Cllr Grant had revised the layout of the toilets. A revised quote has been received from Interfix. The Clerk to request a like-for-like quote from Danfo and Healthmatic.</p> <p>c. <u>Pre-School/Primary School</u> There has been no update following the Governors' meeting. Cllr Thomas to follow up.</p> <p>d. <u>Annual Assembly</u> This was provisionally agreed for the afternoon of Saturday 13th May 2pm. The Clerk to organise.</p>	<p>CP</p> <p>PG</p> <p>CL</p> <p>CL</p> <p>NT</p> <p>CL</p>
11. CORRESPONDENCE/ PARISHIONERS' QUESTIONS	Cllr Lewis advised that she had received communication from a parishioner thanking BPC for its work and offering assistance to repair the village name sign on the Rolvenden Road and the finger post at Benenden Crossroads. Cllr Lewis thanked the parishioner and advised that BPC would bear the offer in mind for future sign repair.	
DATE OF NEXT MEETING	Date of Next Meeting: Monday 15 th May 2023, 7pm, Iden Green Pavilion	
	The meeting closed at 9.20pm.	

C Levett, Clerk to Benenden Parish Council, 17th April 2023