

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held at The Memorial Hall, The Street, Frittenden on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7.30pm.

Present were: Cllr A Staples (Chairman)  
 Cllr G Lawrence  
 Cllr R Vernon  
 Cllr L Gosbee  
 Cllr J Tuke  
 Cllr S Murray  
 Cllr M Viviers

In attendance: Mrs E Nightingale (Clerk), Cllr A Fairweather (Borough)

#### **PUBLIC FORUM:**

None

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr S Holden (County)

#### **2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Cllr Staples was nominated by Cllr Gosbee, seconded by Cllr Vernon, and it was **RESOLVED** (Vote: 6 For, 0 Against) that he be appointed Chairman. Cllr Staples then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of the office of Chairman.

#### **3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Cllr Viviers was nominated by Cllr Lawrence, seconded by Cllr Vernon, and it was **RESOLVED** (Vote: 6 For, 0 Against) that he be appointed to the office of Vice-Chairman. Cllr Viviers then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of the office of Vice-Chairman.

#### **4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct Part 2)**

Cllr Staples declared an interest in agenda item 15 (planning application 23/00971/FULL) and in agenda item 17.

#### **BOROUGH & COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE**

Cllr Fairweather was very pleased to have been re-elected to serve the Frittenden Community as their Borough Councillor with 68% of the vote. Due to the upcoming boundary changes, all Borough Councillors would be standing for re-election next year. In that election, electors would get to choose three Councillors from the list of those standing, as there would be three seats in the new Ward that would include Frittenden.

#### **5. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON THE 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2023**

It was proposed by Cllr Tuke, seconded by Cllr Murray, and **RESOLVED** (2 abstentions) that the Minutes from the Council meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023 are a true and accurate record of that

meeting, save for two small typographical errors that were corrected by hand. That being so, the Chairman signed the said Minutes and initialled the above corrections.

It was further proposed by Cllr Gosbee, seconded by Cllr Vernon, and **RESOLVED** (3 abstentions) that the Minutes from the Licensing Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023 are a true and accurate record of that meeting. That being so, the Chairman signed the said Minutes

## 6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

### Grounds Maintenance

Concerns had been raised over the fact that the Parish Field and play area had not been mowed. The Clerk had made enquiries of the contractor and was awaiting a response, but it was understood from discussions with other contractors as part of the tendering process that the ground needed to dry out before it could be mowed. Cllr Gosbee confirmed that the Parish Field had now been mowed.

Cllr Staples had met with residents who were concerned about the width of the hedge along the access to Brickwall Cottages. The width of the hedge meant that the access lane was narrowed and this prevented some delivery vehicles from being able to access the properties. It was agreed that quotes would be obtained for the work required to narrow the hedge, but that this work could not be carried out until after August to protect nesting birds.

### Annual Parish Assembly

The Council agreed that Michelle West had given a very interesting talk on the work of the Sam West Foundation.

### Dog Fouling Signs

Heather Collins had kindly agreed to put the new signs up in the Parish Field.

### Street Cleansing

The Clerk was continuing to chase Urbaser Ltd for the proposed terms under which the litterbins would be emptied in the 2023/24 contract year. In the meantime, it appeared that the bins were being emptied.

### Licensing

The Council had made written representations in relation to the Licensing Application for The Knoxbridge. The Council supported the operation of business as a country pub but was opposed to the applications relating to extended hours, outdoor music and sporting events, to include boxing and wrestling. A hearing before the Licensing Sub-Committee would be taking place on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023 when those written submissions would be considered.

## 7. SIGNAGE ON GRANDSHORE LANE

A resident was concerned about the lack of passing places on this narrow lane, particularly given the size of some of the vehicles that use it. They were also very concerned about the speed at which some drivers approached two bends. They had raised this with KCC Highways whether better signage could be provided warning of the bends and had been advised to seek the support of the Parish Council for such measures. It was proposed by Cllr Vernon, seconded by Cllr Lawrence, and **RESOLVED** by all members present that the resident be asked to set out in writing, and with reference to a plan, what his proposals were so that the Council could consider incorporating those proposals into an updated Highway Improvement Plan to be submitted to KCC.

## 8. TWBC Draft Enforcement Policy

TWBC had presented this draft policy at the last Chairmen's Meeting and had invited Councils to provide comments. Cllr Vernon's view was that the draft Policy was very high level and that there wasn't anything that the Council could usefully add or comment on. Cllr Staples noted that the biggest problem for TWBC was the recruitment and retention of Enforcement Officers, although it was acknowledged that, broadly, TWBC was more active in relation to enforcement than some other Borough Councils in the area. It was therefore agreed that no comments would be submitted by the Council.

## 9. PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL WASTE BAG HOOPS

The Council had previously purchased 20 hoops but the very good turnout of volunteers at recent Village Clean Up days has suggested that there was a need for more. Cllr Staples had done some research and found that 20 hoops could be purchased at the following cost:

Litterpickerz	£121.08
Ebay	£134.00
Go Cleaning	£129.00

It was proposed by Cllr Staples, seconded by Cllr Vernon, and **RESOLVED** by all members present that the Clerk be instructed to order 20 hoops from Litterpickerz.

## 10. EDUCATION IN THE WEALD ACTION GROUP

Kim Fletcher, Chair of Cranbrook & Sissinghurst Parish Council, was putting together a working group to investigate how the provision of non-selective secondary education in the area might be improved. Cllr Lawrence and Cllr Viviers confirmed that they were happy to be involved and that Cllr Staples could provide Kim Fletcher with their contact details.

## 11. CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

Cllr Staples reported that the events were well supported. The lunch was attended by nearly 200 people and it was nice to see a good cross-section of the village represented. The Parish Council has allocated funding of up to £400, but a small surplus of £14.17 was realised without any funding being required, largely because there was no charge for the Tent Team marquee and the Hall also made no charge. It was proposed by Cllr Staples, seconded by Cllr Tuke, and **RESOLVED** by all members present that the £81 raised from table booking fees be donated to The Prince's Countryside Trust as a cause very close to the King's heart.

## 12. SPEEDWATCH

Cllr Staples reported that there had only been 3 sessions due to the Bank Holidays. 14 offenders had been recorded, which was a 14% offending rate.

## 13. PLAYGROUND INSPECTIONS

Cllr Gosbee noted that Heather Collins was continuing to do the inspections this month. He was happy to do the inspections during the summer months but was unable to do so during the winter. Cllrs Murray and Viviers confirmed that they were happy to undertake inspections during the winter.

## 14. ROAD REPORT

Cllr Gosbee reported that 80% of Grandshore Lane had been resurfaced. It was unclear when the remaining 20% would be done.

The sign which had fallen off before the bridge on Biddenden Road had now been put back up and Cllr Gosbee had spoken to Cllr Holden (County) about the potholes on Green Lane (between Bettenham Lane and Hareplain Road).

Cllr Gosbee had also spoken to Paul Catt about the damage to the grass verge coming in to Stone Court Farm. This had been caused by large agricultural vehicles and KCC had indicated that it would not be carrying out any repairs. Cllr Gosbee felt that the deep holes in the verge needed to be filled in as they were a hazard to road users who might have to drive onto the verge to allow oncoming vehicles to pass.

The fly tipping at two places along London Lane had been reported.

## 15. PLANNING

### New Applications

23/00933/FULL	Summerlea, Sand Lane, Frittenden Conversion and extension of a barn into a single dwellinghouse with associated garden land, parking, landscaping and biodiversity enhancements. <b>Proposed by Cllr Vernon, Seconded by Cllr Gosbee RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL</b>
23/00971/FULL	South View Lodge, Cranbrook Road, Frittenden Formation of roof over existing sand school to create all-weather arena. <b>Proposed by Cllr Gosbee, Seconded by Cllr Tuke RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL (Vote: 3 For, 2 Against, 1 Abstention)</b> N.B. Cllr Staples played no part in the consideration of and/or discussions about this application having declared an interest and did not vote.
23/01053/FULL	Broadlake, Mill Lane, Frittenden Extension of curtilage to allow for proposed new access and driveway <b>Proposed by Cllr Lawrence, Seconded by Cllr Vernon RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL</b>

### Outcome of Previous applications

23/00461/FULL	Junkyard Barn Cottages, 2 Staplehurst Road, Frittenden Erection of proposed agricultural barn <b>PERMISSION GRANTED</b>
23/00267/FULL	The Twins, Staplehurst Road, Frittenden Conversion of two redundant agricultural barns to two dwellings <b>PERMISSION GRANTED</b>
22/02113/FULL	Haffenden Farmhouse, Bubhurst Road, Frittenden

	Replace existing agricultural building with residential dwelling, demolition of stable block, and associated parking and landscaping <b>PERMISSION GRANTED</b>
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### Planning appeals

- None.

## 16. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

- The Clerk had received a request for permission to undertake metal detecting on the Parish Field. The Council did not consider this to be an appropriate activity for the Parish Field. It was concerned that any holes that were dug and then filled in might represent a tripping hazard, particularly to those playing football or other sports on the field. The Clerk was therefore instructed to politely decline the request.

## 17. FINANCE

- It was proposed by Cllr Staples, seconded by Cllr Vernon, and **RESOLVED** by all members present to pay the accounts as follows:

FRITTENDEN PAYMENTS – May 2023					
Cheque Number	GROSS	VAT	NET	SUPPLIER	DETAILS
BACS	£38.00	Nil	£38.00	Frittenden Memorial Hall	Room Hire – Meeting Room (1 x session less £2 overpayment for April hire as winter surcharge is not applicable after March) & Hall Hire (1 x session for APA)
BACS	£213.00	£35.50	£177.50	Kent Grassland Services	Grounds Maintenance – April
BACS	£60.80	Nil	£60.80	Mrs Emma Nightingale	Clerk’s Expenses – May
BACS	£226.20	Nil	£226.20	Mrs Emma Nightingale	Clerk’s Salary – May
BACS	£150.40	Nil	£150.40	HMRC	PAYE
DD	£18.00	Nil	£18.00	Unity Trust Bank	Bank Charges
BACS	£429.54	£71.59	£357.95	KALC	Subscription 2023/24
DD	£35.00	Nil	£35.00	Information Commissioner	ICO Fee 2023/24
BACS	£212.40	Nil	£212.40	Bell & Jorrocks – Sean Croucher	Reimbursement of cost of replacement Defibrillator pads
BACS	£24.00	£4.00	£20.00	Idea Signs	2 x signs re: Dog Fouling
BACS	£1,136.80	Nil	£1,136.80	AJGIBL GBP Client NST Account	Insurance Premium 2023/24
BACS	£286.50	Nil	£286.50	Frittenden Memorial Hall	50% proceeds of Easter Fun Run
BACS	£286.50	Nil	£286.50	Sam West Foundation	50% proceeds of Easter Fun Run
BACS	£12.44	Nil	£12.44	CJ & J Brown	Refund of coronation celebration expenses
BACS	£115.00	Nil	£115.00	Frittenden PTA	Refund of coronation celebration expenses

BACS	£92.59	Nil	£92.59	AJ & JA Staples	Refund of coronation celebration expenses
DD	£52.88	£2.52	£50.36	Npower	Streetlighting Energy – May
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,390.05</b>	<b>£113.61</b>	<b>£3,276.44</b>		

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:18 pm.

Chairman's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_