

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held at The Memorial Hall, The Street, Frittenden on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7.30pm.

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

In attendance: Mrs E Nightingale (Clerk), Cllr S Holden (County)

### **PUBLIC FORUM:**

None

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

Cllr A Fairweather (Borough)

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

Cllr Viviers declared an interest in planning applications 23/02923/FULL & 23/0294/LBC.

#### **3. BOROUGH & COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE**

Cllr Holden reported that he continues to press for changes to the Bounds Cross Crossroads and measures to prevent HGVs from damaging Bettenham Bridge, but with little success to date.

So far, only one inspector has been recruited to the new Inspectorate being set up to monitor road works with a view to minimising road closures. In the meantime, Cllr Holden continues to press for the Goldford Road works to be completed without road closures where practicable.

KCC's process for putting in place the budget for 2024/25 is ongoing.

Southern Water will be reporting to the Environment Committee when it meets next week.

Cllr Tuke raised the ongoing issue of hedges encroaching across the road on Satins Hill. He noted that the hedges narrowed the road to such an extent that was dangerous to pedestrians and all road users. Cllr Holden will follow this up with the relevant officers at KCC Highways.

Cllr Gosbee referred to the broken manhole cover on the Headcorn Road. This had been reported but not yet replaced. Cllr Gosbee considered it to be a danger to road users, particularly cyclists and motor cyclists. Again, Cllr Holden will raise this with the relevant officer, albeit he noted that responsibility for manhole covers was with the relevant utility provider.

#### **4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON THE 4<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023 AND 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2023**

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

It was further proposed by Cllr Tuke, seconded by Cllr Vernon, and **RESOLVED** (1 abstention) that the Minutes from the Council meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 are a true and accurate record of that meeting.

That being so, the Chairman signed the said Minutes.

## 11. ROAD REPORT

Cllr Staples advanced this item to allow Cllr Gosbee, who was feeling unwell, to leave the meeting should he need to do so.

Cllr Gosbee confirmed that he was still pressing for the repairs to Bettenham Bridge to be carried out as soon as possible.

The potholes on Park Wood Lane were yet to be mended and the road surface at the bottom of Biddenden Lane remained in poor condition. Cllr Gosbee had been told that there were other roads in worse condition which were taking priority.

Buckhurst Bridge was yet to be repaired as KCC was waiting for the specific bricks required to be delivered.

Cllr Gosbee reported that the streetlight opposite the crossroads was not working and the one opposite the old Acorn Stores was turning off at 9pm. The Clerk was authorised to instruct the Council's streetlighting contractor to resolve these issues and replace any obsolete lanterns in accordance with the Council's policy of replacing the same as an when they stopped functioning.

There had been fly tipping on Park Wood Lane and Green Lane (off Bettenham Lane) once again. There also appeared to be mirror glass dumped on Sand Lane. A resident had photographed the culprit and reported them to the authorities. The Council were grateful to that resident for their actions. Cllr Staples reported that the issue of fly tipping had been discussed at a meeting he had attended with Kent Police on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023. The liaison for TWBC had also attended that meeting and he had agreed to speak with the relevant TWBC offers to discuss what could be done to address the biggest problem areas for fly tipping. In Frittenden, these were agreed to be Park Wood Lane, Sand Lane, Dig Dog Lane/Bettenham Lane and Green Lane.

Cllr Vernon noted that the land drains/gutters by Sunnyside appeared to be blocked again. Cllr Gosbee will report this and ask them to be cleared.

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

### Education in the Weald

A meeting is taking place by Zoom on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023. In preparation for that meeting Cllr Staples had obtained statistics on the school leavers from Frittenden Primary School and was also compiling statistics on the number of houses/bedrooms added to the Parish, primarily by the conversion of agricultural buildings into dwellings.

### Dig Dog Lane Hedge

Cllr Gosbee is arranging for this to be cut.

### Laundry Lane Hedge

The hedge had now been cut back as far as possible. Cllr Staples suggested that, in future, a working party be formed to cut it back as and when necessary, in order to supplement the two cuts per year included in the Grounds Maintenance Contract.

#### Highway Improvement Plan

The Clerk had circulated the proposed design/location for the new gateway on Headcorn Road and this was approved.

The Clerk had also circulated KCC Highways specification for the siting of any new Speed Indicator Device. For a mobile unit to be used, no less than 3 sites were required. It was agreed that it would be difficult to find sites on each of The Street, Headcorn Road and Biddenden Road that met KCC's requirements. It might be possible to make up the three sites required by using a location on Sand Lane near the junction with Biddenden Road. The Clerk was instructed to ascertain whether there was any cost associated with submitting proposals to KCC in this regard. If there was not, it was worth seeing whether the ideal sites for the Speed Indicator Device might be approved even if there was some doubt as to whether all criteria could be met.

Cllr Murray had arranged for the 30mph bin stickers to be made available in the Bell & Jorrocks for collection by anyone who wanted one. The Clerk will liaise with Cllr Viviers about putting up the banner in the locations identified by KCC.

Cllr Gosbee then left the meeting.

## 6. MEETING DATES 2024

The proposed dates were approved subject to confirmation that the Hall/Meeting Room was available on the selected dates. Cllr Tuke will then publish the dates on the Council's website.

## 7. SPEEDWATCH

Cllr Staples reported that 4 out of 5 sessions had taken place, with 1 session being cancelled due to bad weather. 28 offenders had been recorded, which amounts to 18% of vehicles. 4 letters had been sent to repeat offenders and the highest speed recorded was 47 mph on Biddenden Road.

## 8. PLAYGROUND INSPECTIONS

Cllrs Lawrence had circulated the costings he had compiled for the works needed to comply with the recommendations set out in the Annual Inspection Report. A lot of this work was straight forward and could be done by members of the Council at a cost of c.£1,000 plus VAT. The steps to the slide needed to be replaced but Cllr Lawrence suggested that a working party of volunteers be put together to tackle that job in the Spring.

It was proposed by Cllr Lawrence, seconded by Cllr Viviers, and **RESOLVED** by all members present that the Council accept the quote for the supply of the necessary parts and that action be taken to complete the initial remedial works as soon as those parts were available.

## 9. ROAD REPORT

As an addendum to Cllr Gosbee's earlier road report, Cllr Staples noted that 5 x 25kg bags of sand and grit were due to be delivered by KCC shortly. The storage container purchased to house the bags would need to be erected on the edge of the Parish Field and the bags moved in to it. Cllr Lawrence volunteered to assist Cllr Staples with this.

## 10. PLANNING

### New Applications

23/02620/FULL	<p>1 The Twins, Staplehurst Road, Frittenden Proposed extension of Barn A (Approved under planning ref: 23/00267/FULL)</p> <p><b>Proposed by Cllr Vernon, Seconded by Cllr Viviers RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL</b></p>
23/02757/SUB	<p>Four Acres, Cranbrook Road, Frittenden Submission of Details in relation to Condition 6 – (Construction/demolition environmental management plan); Condition 8 – (Details of off-site highway works); Condition 11 – (Detailed plans and information); Condition 13 – (Risk assessment, site investigation, RMS &amp; Closure Report); Condition 19 (Archaeology) of 21/01638/FULL</p> <p><b>Whilst the Council is not a Statutory Consultee in respect of this application, the Clerk was instructed to write to TWBC Planning and object to the statement made in the Construction Management Plan that London Lane/Cranbrook Road was a safe access route for site traffic.</b></p>
23/02923/FULL & 23/02924/LBC	<p>The Old Bakery, Headcorn Road, Frittenden External alterations including infill of window &amp; door and change from door &amp; window to sliding door &amp; window on west elevation, change from courtyard door to bi-fold door, first floor side extension over living area including 2 No. rooflights, replacement of singular window to two windows over courtyard, repositioning of window over flat roof, internal remodelling of ground floor &amp; first floor, removal of outer skin of Leicester Orange brickwork &amp; London Fletton brickwork, removal of rear part of north timber and tile-hung wall to be replaced with fenestration.</p> <p><b>Proposed by Cllr Vernon, Seconded by Cllr Lawrence RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND REFUSAL on the following grounds:</b></p> <p><b>The Design and Access Statement states that there is no overlooking or loss of daylight and no harm to the amenity of the adjoining Hepplewhite Cottage which the Council does not believe is the case. The proposal includes additional roof lights and alterations to lower and double the size of a window on the north elevation overlooking Hepplewhite Cottage. From the detail provided it appears that there will be material adverse impact on the residential amenity of neighbours by reason of overlooking and loss of privacy.</b></p> <p>(Cllr Viviers did not participate in any discussion or consideration of this application or vote on any proposal made having declared an interest)</p>

### Outcome of Previous applications

23/02122/FULL	Gould Farm, Mill Lane, Frittenden
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	Demolition of chimney on rear extension, reinstatement of a new chimney over existing study, demolish window and lower opening at rear of property, remove timber weatherboarding; works to renovate interior of the building, demolishing floor coverings and rotten joists, removing brick covering, strip carpet, demolish walls, demolish fireplace, demolish internal doors, relocation of oil tank, demolition of an existing annex and garage and replacement with a new garage. <b>PERMISSION GRANTED</b>
23/01707/FULL	South View Lodge, Cranbrook Road, Frittenden Formation of roof over existing sand school to create all-weather area and change use for dog agility purposes <b>PERMISSION GRANTED</b>
23/02253/FULL	Oaklands, Cranbrook Road, Frittenden Proposed change of use of redundant building and detached garage with amenity area to dwellinghouse <b>PERMISSION GRANTED</b>
23/02247/FULL	Buckhurst Farm, Biddenden Road, Frittenden 4 no. open fronted car ports to previously approved barn conversions (19/03080/FULL & 20/03360/FULL refer) <b>PERMISSION GRANTED</b>

### Planning appeals

- None.

## 11. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

- The deadline for nominations for the KALC Community Awards scheme is 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024.
- The KALC AGM will take place on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

## 12. FINANCE

- Draft Budget – The draft budget had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was discussed and amendments were agreed. Thereafter, it was proposed by Cllr Staples, seconded by Cllr Murray, and **RESOLVED** by all members present to approve the amended budget and request a precept of £17,000 for 2024/25, thereby holding the precept at the 2021/22. The Council recognised that this would mean that it would be required to fund some of its expenditure from reserves but, having reviewed those reserves, it was comfortable that this was appropriate in order to avoid increasing resident’s Council Tax burden.
- Donations – It was proposed by Cllr Staples, seconded by Cllr Viviers, and **RESOLVED** (1 abstention) to make the donations set out in the list appendix to these minutes.
- It was proposed by Cllr Vernon, seconded by Cllr Murray, and **RESOLVED** by all members present to pay the accounts as follows:

FRITTENDEN PAYMENTS – November 2023				
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Cheque Number	GROSS	VAT	NET	SUPPLIER	DETAILS
BACS	£17.00	Nil	£17.00	Frittenden Memorial Hall	Room Hire – Meeting Room (1 x session & winter surcharge)
BACS	£453.00	£75.50	£377.50	Kent Grassland Services	Grounds Maintenance – October & £200 + VAT for Laundry Lane hedge reduction
BACS	£50.40	£8.40	£42.00	Urbaser Ltd	Street Cleansing - October
BACS	£201.58	Nil	£201.58	Mrs E Nightingale	Clerk's Expenses - November
BACS	£114.86	Nil	£114.86	Mrs E Nightingale	Clerk's Salary - November
BACS	£76.80	Nil	£76.80	HMRC	PAYE
BACS	£78.61	Nil	£78.61	Mr M Cooper	Tent Team Spares
BACS	£55.24	£9.21	£46.03	Mr G Lawrence	Refund re: cost of replacement gatepost for Parish Field
DD	£11.99	£2.00	£9.99	Hugo Fox	Website Hosting fee
DD	£76.47	£3.64	£72.83	Npower	Streetlighting Energy – October
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,135.95</b>	<b>£98.75</b>	<b>£1,037.20</b>		

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:09 pm.

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

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

**APPENDIX**

Kent Air Ambulance	<b>£125.00</b>
Victim Support	<b>£50.00</b>
Tunbridge Wells Citizen Advice Bureau	<b>£50.00</b>
Frittenden Parochial Church Council	<b>£350.00</b>
Heart of Kent Hospice	<b>£100.00</b>
Samaritans	<b>£50.00</b>
Relate	<b>£50.00</b>
Hospice in the Weald	<b>£100.00</b>
Frittenden Pre-School	<b>£100.00</b>
Frittenden School	<b>£100.00</b>
Hawkhurst Community League of Friends – Cottage Hospital	<b>£100.00</b>
Royal British Legion	<b>£50.00</b>
Snowfields Academy Farm	<b>£50.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1,275.00</b>