



ROLVENDEN

Parish Council

MINUTES of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 20th June at 7.30pm in the Pre-School Room, Rolvenden Village Hall, Maytham Road, Rolvenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4ND for the purpose of transacting the following business:

Apologies for absence: Cllr. Mr. Duncan Murray (holiday).

- a) Declarations of Members' Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:** under the Localism Act 2011 to be made relating to items on this agenda.

None

- (b) Declarations of Members' Other Significant Interests:** under the Kent Code of Conduct adopted in August 2012 by the Parish Council, to be made relating to items on this agenda.

Cllr. Mrs. Denise Curtain declared an interest under Section 332 (Finance) in that a recipient of payment from the Parish Council, Mr. Brian Mercer, is her Son-in-Law.

Cllr. Mr. John Wilkins declared an interest under Section 331 (St. Mary the Virgin) and Section 32 (Finance) in that he is a member of the Fabric Committee of St. Mary the Virgin.

- (c) Declarations of Members' Other Interests:** not required to be disclosed under (a) and (b) but voluntary announcements made only for transparency reasons.

Cllr. Mr. Michael Hook declared an interest as a member of the Weald of Kent Preservation Society.

- 322. DRAFT Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 16th May, 2017, copies previously having been sent to each Parish Councillor were agreed and signed as a correct record.

323. Public Participation.

An opportunity for members of the public to speak prior to the beginning of the business of the main Parish Council Meeting.

This session is at the discretion of the Chairman and will be limited to two minutes per individual unless the subject in question warrants further time. The session does not form part of the official Minutes.

No public participation.

324. Planning.

[i] Applications for CONSULTATION received from Ashford Borough Council were accepted and considered.

17/00667/AS Installation of a sewerage treatment plant (Klargester Biotec) ~ *Retrospective*.

Merrington Park Lodge, Hastings Road, Rolvenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4PJ.

The Parish Council SUPPORTS this application.

[ii] Applications for CONSULTATION received from Ashford Borough Council between 12th June and 20th June to be accepted and considered.

13/00755/CONB/AS

Discharge of Condition 19

Halden Field, Tenterden Road, Rolvenden, Kent.

Cllr. Mrs. Denise Curtain to contact Lucy Holloway at Ashford Borough Council as the Parish Council has not been allowed sufficient time to comment on the materials to be used in construction before the 7th July deadline as the notification did not arrive in time. In addition, the photographs supplied are not of sufficient quality and members would like to see physical samples of the proposed materials.

[iii] Consent GRANTED by Ashford Borough Council to the following Applications to be accepted and considered.

None advised.

[iv] Halden Field

Related matters to be accepted and considered.

The Clerk mentioned that the advertising hoarding has been changed to include 2 bedroom homes.

[v] Barratt Field

Related matters to be accepted and considered.

See Item 328

[vi] Planning Related Issues

Items not mentioned elsewhere on this Agenda to be accepted and considered.

Cllr. Mrs. Denise Curtain referred to a KALC meeting that was held on 24th May but unfortunately, neither Cllr. Curtain nor Cllr. Murray were able to attend.

Simon Cole from Ashford Borough Council gave an update on Ashford's situation. They have failed to come up with a 5 year Housing Land Supply. This has been compounded by the fact that a lot of developers have bought up land around Ashford and got outline planning permission but now they are just sitting waiting and not developing it. Consequently, Ashford are now behind in the number of houses that they are supposed to develop in their local plan. They are now looking at various ways of rectifying this situation which includes forcing more houses into villages. Un-official figures suggest that 100 houses are required in Rolvenden in addition to the Halden Field development.

Ashford Borough Council have asked all Parish Council's concerned to sign a letter lobbying Damian Green with regard to the Consultation starting on 1st July.

324. Planning.

[vi] Planning Related Issues

Items not mentioned elsewhere on this Agenda to be accepted and considered.

Continued.

Cllr. Mrs. Denise Curtain read out the letter that has been composed by Shadoxhurst Parish Council.

Because of the dates involved in the start of the Consultation, it was necessary to decide whether Rolvenden Parish Council would be a signatory to the letter to Damian Green.

Cllr. Mr. John Wilkins pointed out that Ashford's inability to come up with the 5 year plan would put Rolvenden Parish Council's Neighbourhood Development Plan at risk.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would be a signatory to the letter.

325. Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Although the plan is progressing, one of the sites that has been put forward for development does not currently have vehicular access. An assessment from Kent County Council Highways needs to be carried out to ascertain whether there could be suitable vehicular access. It is hoped that the land owner will fund this as Kent County Council do not provide this service free of charge although our Planning Consultant says otherwise.

Depending on how many houses are planned, the charge could be between £250 and £750.

This matter could hold up the Neighbourhood Development Plan if the land owner is not agreeable to paying for the assessment.

326. Highways.

All related matters were accepted and considered.

[i] Disabled Access Signs.

The Clerk informed Members that he currently is in receipt of one quotation for £100 to provide 4 weatherproof signs.

Cllr. Mrs. Denise Curtain mentioned that Chris Miller from the Community Enforcement Officer Team at Ashford Borough Council will ask the Enforcement Officers to come to Rolvenden occasionally and put notices on peoples' cars regarding the disabled access as this is enforceable.

[ii] 'A' Boards in the Village

Photos of the 'A' boards in question were provided to Members.

After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk was to speak to Kent County Council Legal to ascertain the Parish Council's position with regard to enforcing rules concerning 'A' boards.

[iii] Fire Hydrants.

Cllr. Mrs. Denise Curtain distributed the list again with suggestions of the hydrants which Members could inspect and suggested that this should be carried out as soon as possible in the light of recent incidents in London.

326. Highways

Continued.

[iv] Other Highways related issues not mentioned elsewhere on the Agenda to be accepted and considered.

Cllr. Mrs. Denise Curtain mentioned that a request has been received from residents in Sparkeswood Avenue to look at the possibility of putting a knee rail around the green from number 9 to 14.

Cllr. Curtain had a site meeting with Toyah Bicker from Ashford Borough Council. She has since been out and looked at the site again and said that she does not feel the knee rail fencing will be appropriate for the green in question. Also, Ashford Borough Council's contractors, BIFFA have been consulted and feel that knee rails around the trees would cause them issues if people were parking on the other side of the road. Ashford Borough Council are however looking into putting in restrictions at the top of Sparkeswood Close.

It was agreed that Cllr. Curtain contact Toyah Bicker to see what else can be done to help this situation.

327. Allotments.

Cllr. Mr. Brian Hindley mentioned that his understanding is that there was a direct approach made to Miss. Thoburn with a request to buy the allotments for development into housing. He suggested that the Parish Council should write to the allotment owner with a request that if the situation ever arose that they were to be sold, that the Parish Council were offered first refusal to allow them to be kept as allotment facilities for the village and not developed.

Cllr. Mr. Graham Tiltman has spoken to the person that manages the allotments and was told that he was aware of the situation with regard to Miss. Thoburn. He also mentioned that Miss. Thoburn's nephew said that the sale for development would not take place.

Cllr. Mrs. Irene Newman suggested writing to Miss. Thoburn to thank her for providing the allotments for the village and to request that the Parish Council be given first refusal on purchasing them should she wish to sell them. Similar to Cllr. Hindley's suggestion.

Cllr. Mr. Brian Hindley's proposal was seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Irene Newman.

328. Section 106 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990

Cllr. Mr. Brian Hindley referred to the Section 106 letter drafted by Edward Barham to Ashford Borough Council in January 2015 which Cllr. Curtain managed to find. Cllr. Hindley pointed out that the letter in question was written when Edward Barham was working with a third party to develop the field themselves. That situation has now changed.

Cllr. Curtain informed Members that she has spoken to Lucy Holloway at Ashford Borough Council to ask if they are in receipt of another more up to date version of the Section 106 letter. Lucy Holloway informed Cllr. Curtain that she believes there to be an updated version and that she will speak to Ashford Borough Council Legal Department and ask them to send the Parish Council a copy of the updated version.

Cllr. Hindley also confirmed the terms of the Lease arrangements for premises on the Barratt Field regarding the Football Club. Cllr. Hindley questioned why anyone would wish to sign such an agreement and also suggested that the Football Club would find it difficult to obtain grants because of the terms of the Lease.

329. Gift of Land to The War Memorial Trust.

Councillor Hindley briefly described how the Trust was set up its aims and the rules under which it operated. He described that it was a surprise to the existing Trustees when a Deed dated 18th December 1936 was returned by the Charity Commission in August 2014 indicating the gift of 1/3 acre of land on Windmill Farm north of the Tennis and Cricket Club to the Trust by the Barham Family.

In a Trust Meeting in October 2014 Edward Barham considered that as his father had farmed the land as part of Windmill Farm for many years and that he, having been given the Farm as a gift and had registered the Farm including the 1/3 of an acre with the Land Registry in 2008 and had farmed it as his father had for many years he remained the rightful owner as he personally had no knowledge of the gift.

The majority of Trust members were unhappy and pursued the matter further. Much discussion followed between Peter Garrott as a Representative Trustee and Edward as a Co-optative Trustee with solicitors appointed on each side. It took until early this year to realise no agreement was possible and the matter went to court on 4-5th April before Judge John Hewitt who reserved judgement and produced a 28 page document of his findings in which the 1/3 acre was returned to the Trust with costs.

It is expected that a full report will be published in due course.

330. Rolvenden Pre-School

Cllr. Mrs. Denise curtain referred Members to the letter received from Rolvenden Pre-School requesting financial help from the Parish Council.

The Pre-School anticipate that by September 2018 they will be running at a loss of approximately £3,500. It was first anticipated that the loss would be nearer £9,000 but they have done some cost cutting and fund raising and brought this figure down considerably.

Cllr. Mr. Graham Tiltman proposed a donation of £500 seconded by Cllr. Mr. Michael Hook.

After discussion and consideration it was agreed that the Parish Council would give a donation of £1,000 and that there would also be ongoing support not necessarily financial after further consideration of their request..

331. St. Mary's Church, Rolvenden

The request for the Parish Council's contribution to the upkeep of the Churchyard was accepted and considered. Last year's contribution was in the sum of £1,697.50.

This contribution is made because as a Parish Council, there is an obligation to provide a burial ground in the village. Because the Church has taken on that obligation for the Council, it is deemed fair that the Council help with the upkeep of the Churchyard.

Cllr. Mrs. Irene Newman proposed a figure of £1,500 as this was not seconded a vote was taken.

It was agreed by a vote that the donation would be £1,500.

332. Finance

[i] It was resolved to pay the following:

J.P. Oakeley	£625.00
St. Mary The Virgin, Rolvenden <i>Annual rent of Village Hall</i>	£85.00
St. Mary The Virgin, Rolvenden <i>Contribution to the upkeep of the Churchyard</i>	£1,500.00
Sharky Sparky, Brian Mercer <i>Defibrillator Cabinet Checks</i>	£72.00
Mr. S. Brooks <i>Litter collection in the village</i>	£125.00
Clerk's Wages from 17th May to 19th June	£430.50
Expenses	£33.10

333. Other Matters for Information

Issues may be raised which involve no more than an exchange of information.

NO DECISIONS may lawfully be made on matters raised under this exchange.

LGA 1972 Sch. 12.

[i] Cllr. Mrs. Irene Newman mentioned the plot at Gatefield at the back of where Sid Brooks used to live has been cleared and planning permission will be applied for. Sid Brooks was of the opinion that the plot has to be kept together with the adjacent house.

[ii] Cllr. Mrs. Irene Newman mentioned that the Village Hall will be having trouble meeting their commitments should a large expense be incurred. In view of this, the Village Hall will be writing to the Parish Council to request financial help.

[iii] Cllr. Mrs. Irene Newman mentioned that when she spoke to a gentleman at the allotments, he was complaining about people from surrounding areas obtaining housing in the village and causing trouble. She mentioned that it was wrong that there are young people in the village who are desperate for housing but who are not getting a home in the village.

[iv] Cllr. Mr. Graham Tiltman mentioned that a number of broken graves have been "laid down". Jusy Vinson confirmed that this was for safety purposes.

[v] Cllr. Mr. John Wilkins advised of several cases of domestic fly tipping.

[vi] Cllr. Mr. Michael Hook mentioned the ash tree by the Rolvenden Layne playing field. He suggested that it needs to be felled and replaced.

[vii] Cllr. Mr. Brian Hindley expressed concern that the new Vicar has not been to see the Parish Council at work.

[viii] The Clerk advised that he has been informed that the Badminton Club will be moving their night from Tuesdays to Mondays but that there was a new dance class group that would be using the hall on Tuesdays. The Hall Manager is concerned that the noise from the dance classes may interfere with Parish Council Meetings. The Hall Manager suggested that the Parish Council sample the noise levels that will have to be contended with.

334. Appointment of Layne Ward Councillor

This item was held in closed session and does not form part of the Public Minutes.

In accordance with:

Local Government Act 1972 s. 100(2)

Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s. 1(2)