

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held at St Mary's Church, The Street, Frittenden on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 7.30pm.

Present were: Cllr A Staples (Chairman)  
Cllr L Gosbee  
Cllr H Cullingworth  
Cllr R Vernon  
Cllr S Murray  
Cllr Tuke  
Cllr Riley

In attendance: Mrs E Nightingale (Clerk) and 1 member of the public.

#### **PUBLIC FORUM:**

None

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

Cllr Fairweather (Borough), Cllr Holden

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

None

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

In the absence of Cllrs Holden and Fairweather, Cllr Staples reported on the information provided at the Parish Chairmen's meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

TWBC had given a presentation about the Housing Register. He was particularly interested in comments made about the 40% affordable housing criteria for new developments and the need to get a Local Letting Plan agreed at the s106 stage if there was to be local input in the affordable housing element of any development.

TWBC had reported that 125 people from the Borough had expressed an interest in offering accommodation to Ukrainian refugees.

TWBC had also given a presentation on what it was doing to address climate change. One initiative mentioned was a Repair Café which took place once a month at the Trinity Theatre in Tunbridge Wells.

#### **4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON THE 15<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2022**

It was proposed by Cllr Vernon, seconded by Cllr Murray, and **RESOLVED** by all members present that the Minutes from the Council meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022 are a true and accurate record of that meeting. That being so, the Chairman signed the Minutes.

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

### Memorial Bench

Cllr Staples had been liaising with the family as to the location and design of the proposed bench. Due to the sloping ground and bulbs planted at the foot of the tree initially identified as an appropriate site for a quadrant bench, Cllr Staples will suggest that it would be better for a standard bench to be placed on the level ground closer to the War Memorial.

### Memorial Hall

Cllr Riley confirmed that the next phase of renovations would start on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022. The fence that was damaged in Storm Eunice will now have to be replaced at an additional cost of c.£4,500.

Cllr Staples noted that the closure of the Hall car park was causing traffic problems in the Village. Cllr Riley stated that this could not be avoided because the Hall Committee had been advised to close off the car park on safety grounds.

### Laundry Lane Hedge Cutting

All members agreed that this work had been done very well.

### Tunbridge Wells Electoral Review Consultation

Cllr Staples had circulated the submissions it was suggested be made on behalf of the Parish Council. It was proposed by Cllr Cullingworth, seconded by Cllr Vernon, and **RESOLVED** (1 abstention) that those submissions be sent by the Clerk.

### Fun Run

The Fun Run would be raising funds for the Village Hall and Community Shop. The Clerk would liaise with those who were organising the event on behalf of the Parish Council in order to ensure that an appropriate risk assessment and insurance cover was in place.

### Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The coordinating committee met last week and there is now a clear outline programme for events covering 4 days, to include the village cricket match. The Parish Council had agreed to contribute £500 and it could do so by paying for various expenses (e.g. toilet hire) up to the value of £500. The Council would be able to claim back the VAT paid.

Cllr Staples has drawn up a risk assessment for the events that were taking place on the Parish Field, together the lantern parade and lighting of the beacon at the War Memorial. The clerk will submit that risk assessment to the Council's brokers to obtain confirmation that appropriate insurance cover will be in place.

### High Weald Academy

Cllr Staples had posted on the Community Facebook page but no volunteers had come forward. He is liaising with the school to see whether any of the parents might be interested in the role proposed by Kim Fletcher.

## 6. IDENDEN CHARITY

It was proposed by Cllr Cullingworth, seconded by Cllr Riley, and **RESOLVED** by all members present to approve the appointment of Kevin Gilbert as trustee.

## 7. DAMAGE TO FENCING BORDERING THE PARISH FIELD

Cllr Staples reported that he had been approached by a resident whose fence, situated between the end of their garden and the perimeter hedge of the Parish Field, had been blown down during

Storm Eunice. The resident had been advised that the fence was heavily infested by ivy from the Parish Field side and this had contributed to it coming down. The cost of clearing the vegetation and replacing the fence could be substantial and relevant quotes had been provided to Cllr Staples by the resident. Whilst the Council did not accept any responsibility for the maintenance of the fence, or any liability for the damage that had occurred, it was proposed by Cllr Murray, seconded by Cllr Gosbee, and **RESOLVED** by all members present to make a contribution of £150 to the costs that will be incurred by the resident in the interests of neighbourliness.

## **8. REQUEST FOR PRIVATE USE OF THE PARISH FIELD**

A resident had asked for permission to host a party on the Parish Field for those leaving Frittenden School at the end of the Summer term and to have a bouncy castle on the field. Prior to the meeting Cllr Staples had circulated a form of wording setting at the conditions under which such permission would be granted. It was proposed by Cllr Staples, seconded by Cllr Cullingworth, and **RESOLVED** (1 abstention) that this form of wording be adopted. The clerk will write to the resident in those terms.

## **9. RURAL BUS SERVICE CONSULTATION**

Cllr Staples had been approached by a number of residents who were very concerned about the removal of KCC's subsidy for the Kent Carrier Service, being the dial a ride service. If the subsidy is removed, the service will be withdrawn by the operator. It was felt by the Council that the availability of this service was not well known and that it should be better publicised if it were to continue.

It was proposed by Cllr Staples, seconded by Cllt Tuke, and **RESOLVED** by all members present that Cllr Staples would make a submission on behalf of the Council which addressed, in particular, its views in respect of the Kent Carrier Service

Confusion had arisen following the publishing of the route of the bus service to be provided by Sainsbury's between rural villages in the area and the Staplehurst Store. Whilst Frittenden is mentioned in the title of the route timetable, the timetable itself does not refer to any stops within the village.

Cllr Staples noted that the Parish Council had made representations to Sainsbury's in 2020 that such a service be provided between Frittenden and the proposed Staplehurst store. The clerk will liaise with the store to try to establish whether the bus service now being launched will, indeed, come to the village and, if so, ask that the position be made clearer on the published timetable.

## **10. ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**

The Annual Parish Assembly would take place at St Mary's Church on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022 as the Memorial Hall will still be closed. Cllr Staples will circulate a list of the clubs and societies that the Council proposes are invited to attend and speak about their activities. The Community Shop Committee would also be invited to provide an update.

## **11. COVID-19 HARDSHIP FUND**

No applications had been made to the Fund, which would be wound up on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022. The Authorising Committee will meet in advance of that date to discuss whether, and if so how, a new fund might be established to provide ongoing support to residents suffering hardship which is not caused by or related to the pandemic. The Authorising Committee will make recommendations for consideration at the next meeting of the Council.

## **12. SPEEDWATCH**

Due to adverse weather conditions, only two sessions had been held. The traffic passing Chestnut Close was slow due to the number of parked cars following the closure of the Memorial Hall car park.

### 13. PLAYGROUND INSPECTIONS

Cllr Cullingworth noted that the slide from the mound needed further attention as the new paintwork was peeling off in places. The clerk reported that the contractor had felt that this might happen due to the wet weather around the time the works were done. He has offered to come back and redo such works as necessary at no further cost.

Cllr Cullingworth also reported that one of the nuts on the basketball hoop backboard was missing. Cllr Murray will investigate and arrange for the nut to be replaced if possible.

### 14. COMMUNITY SHOP UPDATE

There was nothing to report.

### 15. ROAD REPORT

Cllr Gosbee reported that 6 or 7 trees had been blown down in the recent storms. Some repair work had been done on Biddenden Road, but there was still more to do.

He had reported a dangerous manhole cover near the bus stop in Sissinghurst and hoped that this would shortly be repaired.

There had been further incidents of fly tipping on Park Wood Lane, which had been completely blocked, and also at Brookwood.

The grass verge as you turn into Grandshore Lane was only half as wide as it should be due to vehicles, primarily lorries, cutting the corner. This was a matter of concern because the verge is close to the adjacent property's oil tank. If a vehicle were to hit the tank the environmental consequences would be serious. It was agreed that the clerk would ask Cllr Holden for advice on how this issue might be resolved.

Cllr Staples noted that a resident had expressed concern at the absence of a Frittenden sign as you entered the village from Biddenden Road and had offered to make a replacement sign.

### 16. PLANNING

#### New Applications

21/00482/FULL	Poundlands Farm, Biddenden Road, Frittenden Demolition of former barracks building; erection of single storey outbuilding (containing garage, pool room and stable, outdoor swimming pool, tennis court with 2.75m high upvc covered black or green chain link fencing, associated landscaping <b>Proposed by Cllr Vernon, Seconded by Cllr Cullingworth RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL</b>
22/00812/TPO	Frittenden House, The Street, Frittenden Overly mature multi stemmed Acer Campestre, T1 has suffered a large wound during Storm Eunice and lost the main leading stem which fell into the school field. T1 also shows signs of decay

	around the base and other stems on the stool are starting to come apart. Proposal is to fell T1 to prevent any further collapse and mitigate the risk of any future damage to people or property given the location and proximity to the public footpath and primary school areas. The stump of the T1 will be left at an appropriate height for the allowance of natural regeneration and safe management of regrowth in the future. <b>NOTED</b>
22/00743/TCA	Ivy House The Street Frittenden Cranbrook Kent Trees in a Conservation Area Notification: ASH (T1) -Reduce by 3m <b>Proposed by Cllr Vernon, Seconded by Cllr Riley</b> <b>RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL</b>
22/00673/NMAMD	Barnlea Waterman Quarter Headcorn Non material amendment in relation to 13/02102/FULMJ (Solar Panels) <b>NOTED</b>
22/00816/TCA	Forge Garage, The Street, Frittenden

- Cllr Staples will attend the TWBC Planning Committee meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at which the application for the proposed development of 23 houses at Four Acres, Cranbrook Road will be considered. He will reiterate the comments already made by the Council in respect of that application and try to ensure that the community has rights of nomination in respect of the affordable housing element of the development.

#### Outcome of Previous applications

21/04248/FULL	Agricultural Barn at 2 Kenwards Cottages, Bubhurst Lane, Frittenden Proposed conversion and extension of rural building (with deemed consent for single dwelling), change of use of land, and proposed access to form single dwelling. Along with demolition of existing outbuilding and landscape / biodiversity enhancements <b>PERMISSION GRANTED</b>
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#### Planning appeals

- APP/M2270/W/21/3286899 – The Hatchin Tan, Grandshore Lane, Frittenden – Stationing of three mobile homes, three touring caravans and a utility room for a gypsy family (21/02576/FULL) – The Council had already submitted full and detailed objections to this application and had nothing further to add to those objections.

#### 17. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

- The clerk had received notice that the defibrillator that had been attached to the fence between the Memorial Hall car park and Acorn Stores had been temporarily removed following the storm damage to the fence. Other defibrillators were available outside the Bell & Jorrocks and at Larchmere House.
- The clerk had also been informed that the mobile Post Office would not be operating in the village pending completion of refurbishment works at the Memorial Hall. Cllr Riley explained

that they had tried to make alternative arrangements, with Sean and Rosie Croucher kindly agreeing to host the Post Office at the Bell & Jorrocks, but the Post Office could not get its equipment to work there. The service would therefore be suspended until further notice.

## 18. FINANCE

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

FRITTENDEN PAYMENTS – MARCH 2022					
Cheque Number	GROSS	VAT	NET	SUPPLIER	DETAILS
BACS	£20.00	Nil	£20.00	PCC Frittenden	Hire Church Upper Room – March
BACS	£390.00	£65.00	£325.00	Streetlights	Replacement lantern to streetlight at Chestnut Close
BACS	£750.00	Nil	£750.00	Mr N Sestanovic	Parish Field/Laundry Lane Hedge Reduction
BACS	£168.00	£28.00	£140.00	Four Jays Group	Toilet Hire – Queen’s Jubilee
BACS	£67.99	Nil	£67.99	Mrs E Nightingale	Clerk’s Expenses – March
BACS	£128.92	Nil	£128.92	Mrs E Nightingale	Clerk’s Salary – March & backpay from 1 April 2021
BACS	£85.60	Nil	£85.60	HMRC	PAYE
BACS	£42.00	£7.00	£35.00	Urbaser Ltd	Litter Bins – February
BACS	£160.00	£26.67	£133.00	Kent Grassland Services Ltd	Grounds Maintenance – February
DD	Tbc	tbc	Tbc	Npower	Street lighting energy – February
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,812.51</b>	<b>£126.67</b>	<b>£1,685.84</b>		

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:21 pm.

Chairman’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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