

Minutes of a meeting of Bilsington Parish Council held at Bilsington Village Hall on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors; S Hudson (Chairman), S Carrington, R Corbett, B Delmage and G Russell.

In attendance: Peter Setterfield PSLCC, Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

**566. Ashford Borough Councillor's Report:**

No report submitted.

**567. Kent County Councillor's Report:**

No report submitted.

**568. Public Participation Session:**

No members of the public present.

**569. To receive apologies for absence:**

Kent County Councillor M Angell, Ashford Borough Councillors W Howard and J Martin.

**570. To receive any declarations of interest from Members:**

There were no declarations of interest.

**571. Minutes:**

The minutes of the meetings held on 24<sup>th</sup> January and 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018 were submitted, agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**572. Chairman's Report:**

Good evening everyone.

Facebook proved to be a useful aid when we had snow a few weeks ago, with villagers helping each other with loaning of central heating oil and logs and taking elderly resident to hospital appointments/collect prescriptions. But Facebook will never replace a friendly face at the door so I'd like to thank those villagers (and I know there were many) who looked in on those less able than themselves during the cold spell. Thank you.

The Speed Camera continues to be effective. Full details continue to be compiled and filed. If anyone would like to view this information please attend one of our Parish Council meetings or contact me. Hopefully it will be moved around more frequently now the weather is a bit better and the roads safer to take the sign down and put back up in a different location! The recent stats showed a doubling of traffic when the M20 was closed between Jt 9 and Jt 10 with nearly 1200 cars coming in a western direction through the village in a single day! Whilst the snow had the opposite effect with traffic reduced by half with an average of about 300 cars per day for a 4 day period.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to request help with a village clean up party (to include cleaning road signs, street signs and litter, rubbish collection) to take place in the spring, hopefully we can attract a few new faces. I've seen some comments made on the Facebook Village Community Page and it'd be great to see more people help

their community in a positive manner rather than just make comments on Facebook. Please contact me on 07768560044 if you can help.

The Planning inspectorate has heard the appeal for Ripley's Scrap Yard and came down in favour of the applicants. Ashford Borough Council had objected to this development of 6 additional residential houses along with our Borough councillor but as this is the epitome of a "brown filed site" it did receive support from others to include the Planning Inspectorate, Kent County Council and this Parish Council. The Applicant has yet to put a timescale on their next steps which will be for detailed planning permission but I'm sure we will see this in good time.

With regards to Development in the area and the Ashford 2030 local plan. Keep Bromley Green Green and The Rural Means Rural Campaigns are also gaining support but also looking for more support. Rural Meeting Rural are also holding a quiz night to raise funds. This is being held on Sunday March 25<sup>th</sup> from 7pm at the Walnut Tree in Aldington. So if anyone would like to organise a Bilsington Team I'm sure they would be made very welcome.

Rural Means Rural are also holding a meeting at Shadoxhurst Village Hall Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30 to 1pm where they will be helping and everyone offering advise on how we can best protect our rural landscape for future generations. A further meeting is being held in Victory Hall Hamstreet on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> at 10.00 am for the same purpose.

The Parish Council has made strong representation against both large and inappropriate rural development in the area to ABC during the consultation process. I urge anyone who is passionate about their local community to engage in the future plans for the area and make their views heard now.

**573. Planning Matters:**

There were no planning matters.

**574. Finance:**

Schedule of payments:

Cheque no	Payee	Description	Amount
713 + 714	Staff Costs	January	£290.48
715 + 716	Staff Costs	February	£275.02
717	Clerks expenses		£37.09
718	Aldington & Bonnington PC	Contribution training	£24.99
719	Royal British Legion		£50.00

**RESOLVED: to authorise the payments as per the schedule.**

**575. General Data Protection Regulations:**

The Clerk reminded Councillors of the imminent introduction of the General Data Protection Regulations on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

**576. Ashford Borough Council Consultation:**

Gypsy, Traveller & Travelling showpeople issues and options, & search for available land for Gypsy and Traveller pitches.

This consultation will inform the Development Plan Document which will set out the future of Gypsy and Traveller development within the Borough.

It was agreed that there was no suitable land within the Parish to submit for consideration.

**577. Village Hall:**

Work has recommenced on the cladding. Quotations are being sought to replace the toilets one being for £13,400. The next event being a comedy night on 17<sup>th</sup> March. Other events are being planned.

**578. Highways:**

Parking continues to be an issue and the verge on Bonnington Road has been very badly churned up. A meeting is to be requested with the parking officer from Ashford Borough Council and Kent Highways to see if anything can be done to improve road safety and the appearance of the roadside.

**579. Speed Indicator Device:**

See comments in Chairman's report.

**580. Correspondence:**

- a. **Information Commissioners Office Newsletter**
- b. **Kent Association Local Councils February newsletter.**

**581. Any Other Business:**

Due to other commitments the date of the Annual Parish Meeting needs to be re-arranged. The date agreed being 24<sup>th</sup> May commencing at 6.30pm with the Parish Council meeting to follow.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.37pm.