

Minutes of a meeting of Bilsington Parish Council held at Bilsington Village Hall on Saturday 12th September 2015.

Present: Councillors S Hudson (Chairman) Mrs S Carrington (Vice-Chairman) and B Delmage.

In attendance: Peter Setterfield Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer.

Public Gallery: Kent County Councillor M Angell.

279. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillor G Russell, Borough Councillor J Martin

280. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no declarations of interest.

281. MINUTES:

The minutes of the meetings held on 11 July and 17 July 2015 were submitted, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

282. FINANCE:

Schedule of payments

Date	Cheque No	Payee	Amount
17/7/15	000599	Information Commissioner	£35.00
17/7/15	000600	A C R K	£65.00
5/8/15	000601	Clerks salary July	£231.69
5/8/15	000602	H M R C	£57.80
5/8/15	000603	Bilsington Village Hall	£99.00
12/9/15	000604	Clerks Salary August	£185.39
12/9/15	000605	H M R C	£46.20
12/9/15	000606	Society of Local Council Clerks	£20.00
12/9/15	000607	Clerks Expenses	£76.68
12/9/15	000608	Cancer Research	£191.00

Members will be aware of the difficulties experienced with the Parish Council's present Banker's in the change of signatories on the account. The Council is asked if they wish to maintain the relationship with the current bankers or request the Clerk in accordance with the Parish Council's Financial Regulations to investigate an alternative.

Lloyds Bank have acknowledged the poor service that they have given the Parish Council and have paid £191.00 in compensation for the inconvenience. It was unanimously agreed that this sum will be given to Cancer Research.

The annual renewal for the Parish Council Insurance has been received from the Parish Council's Insurance Brokers, Came and company. as brokers they have

obtained three quotations on behalf of the Council and they recommend Hiscox who are prepared to offer a 5% reduction in premium should the Council be prepared to enter into a three year binding agreement.

Proposed by Councillor S Hudson

Seconded by Councillor Mrs S Carrington and

RESOLVED:

- 1. To authorise the payment of the cheques in the schedule.**
- 2. To retain the relationship with the current bankers.**
- 3. To renew the Parish Council's Insurance with Hiscox agreeing to a three year binding agreement.**

(Voting: For; 3, Against; 0, Abstentions; 0)

283. NOTICE OF CONCLUSION OF AUDIT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015.
REPORT: PKF Littlejohn LLP, the Council's External Auditor has completed its work on the Parish Council's Audit and has forwarded the certified Annual Return attached to the Agenda.

284. THE UK FINANCIAL SERVICES COMPENSATION SCHEME:
REPORT: From 3rd July 2015 the UK Financial Services Compensation Scheme will cover deposits of small local authorities. The definition of small local authority being one that has an annual budget of less than €500,000 (currently £355,700 as it is based on the exchange rate on 3rd July each year). This will extend cover to over 8,000 parish and community councils.

The UK Financial Services Compensation Scheme will cover the first £75,000 of eligible deposits, a reduction from the previous figure £85,000. The previous limit will remain in force for individuals and small companies until 31 December 2015, but the new rate will apply immediately for councils.

The Financial Services Compensation Scheme ensures that eligible bank depositors have access to their eligible deposits within fifteen business days of receipt of a request from the depositor which contains sufficient information to enable the Financial Services Compensation Scheme to make a payment.

285. VILLAGE HALL:
Councillor Delmage reported that arrangements are being put in place for Remembrance Sunday, 8th November and for the Christmas Carols and party. The next meeting of the committee is on 19th September.

286. PLANNING MATTERS:
No new applications had been received by the Council. The garage at Chestnut Lodge was approved by the planning department of Ashford Borough Council and has been constructed, members were concerned that it was not in keeping with the area but accept that it was in accordance with the planning application.

287. TELEPHONE BOX:

Enquiries have been made of BT who confirm that the phone box is still in their ownership. An application has therefore been submitted to them to purchase the phone box. This will be the subject of consultation, the result is awaited.

288. DEFIBRILLATOR:

British Heart Foundation have confirmed that they will be providing a grant for the defibrillator as well as a training kit. This will be supplied shortly and training will be advertised locally.

289. SPEED AWARENESS:

REPORT: the speed that traffic travels through Bilsington has been the source of many complaints over the years. It was hoped that the remodelling of the crossroads would have helped the situation, however, this does not appear to be the case.

Other means need to be considered, however the Parish Council does not have the power to implement them as the roads are the responsibility of the highways authority, in this case Kent County Council. Speedwatch is a consideration and is used in other Parishes within the Ashford Borough, but, the permission of Kent Police is required following a risk assessment on the proposed location. Given the nature of the road it is unlikely that this would be granted.

Speed indicator devices are a possibility and can be sanctioned by Kent County Council. These can be funded by the County Council depending on statistics, or alternatively can be funded by the Parish Council. It is also possible that the County Council member may have grant funds available.

County Councillor M Angell was present at the meeting and would be prepared to make available some of his member grant and asked that an application form be filled in.

Proposed by Councillor S Hudson

Seconded by Councillor B Delmage and

RESOLVED: to progress a grant application through the County Council member for Speed Indicator Devices and to explore the Village Gateways.

(Voting: For; 3, Against; 0, Abstentions; 0)

290. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF THE ASHFORD BOROUGH:

REPORT: the initial stage of consultation has been completed and the Borough Council has issued its draft recommendations for consultation. There is no proposed change to the boundary for the Parish of Bilsington nor the size of Council.

291. ASHFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

Submitted by email, due to broadband issues the email was not received by the Clerk until after the meeting. The report is attached for information.

292. KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

Councillor Angell reported that he is following up the lines at the crossroads, however this is not a priority job. There are concerns that when the County Council sets its budget in November there will be further cuts and reductions in the Members grants.

293. PARKING:

Following the meeting between the Borough Councillor and the Officers from the Borough Council and County Council arrangements are being put in place to remove Bilsington Crossroads from the height journey planner which will remove it from SatNavs. Hopefully this will reduce the level of HGV's through the village.

Further news is awaited on the possible removal of the bank in front of Cossway Cottages to allow parking.

294. PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS:

REPORT: the Parish Council agreed at its annual meeting its schedule of meetings for the current municipal year on a bi-monthly basis. The Council is asked to consider the introduction of a meeting on the alternate months on a weekday evening to enable quicker decisions on matters placed before it.

After due consideration and debate it was **RESOLVED: the Parish Council will continue to meet on a bi-monthly basis with the provision that additional meetings can be called on the interim month to discuss urgent business.**

295. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

A resident has complained about the amount of rubbish in one of the gardens in Cossway Cottages, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman will be visiting the property over the next few days to speak to the occupants before and further action is considered.

An invitation has been received to the Kent County Council Parish and Town Council Seminar on 29th October, Councillor S Hudson will attend.

An invitation to the Fifth Continent Scheme Awareness Meeting on 13th October has been received from the Kent Wildlife Trust, the Parish Clerk will attend.