

Minutes of a meeting of Bilsington Parish Council held at Bilsington Village Hall on Thursday 26th July 2018 at 7.30 pm.

Present; councillors; S Hudson (Chairman), S Carrington, B Delmage and G Russell

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

608. Ashford Borough Councillor's Report:

Submitted by email: Hoped to attend tonight but unfortunately have been delayed on journey back from a client, so please accept my apologies.

There will be some positive news shortly regarding the sites allocated in the Ashford local plan, after my representations and that of Brook Parish Council, that will have positive ramifications for all villages. Policies HOU3a and 5 are also due re working due to my comments. Peter Brett and myself presented the arguments on the Landscape Protection Policy as well at the inspectorate hearings.

I am in conversation with the national CPRE and a number of key government ministers about the LPP inclusion in some shape into national Planning Policy.

There is a consultation running on the future of rural transport, and I urge all residents and the PC to comment. Details can be found on the KCC website.

609. Kent County Councillor's Report:

Apologies for absence received and no report submitted.

610. To receive apologies for absence:

Councillor R Corbett, County Councillor M Angell, Ashford Borough Councillor J Martin.

611. To receive any declarations of interest from Members:

There were no declarations of interest.

612. Minutes:

The minutes of the meetings held on 26th May and 28th June 2018 were submitted, agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

613. Finance:

Schedule of payments

Cheque No	Payee	Description	Amount
727 & 728	Staff costs	May	£329.95
729	Kent Association of Local Councils	Annual subscription	£181.27
730	Society of Local Council Clerks	Annual subscription	£51.09
731 & 732	Staff costs	June	£367.39
733	Clerks expenses		£52.40

RESOLVED: To authorise the payments as per the schedule.

614. Village Hall:

Cllr Delmage reported that a grant has been received from Pratt Boorman in the sum of £500. Future events include: Comedy evening 8th September, Fashion show in October, Music evening in November, Pop up emporium December and the return of the popular Boxtail Soup in January. The boundary hedge at the front that is overgrown is to be removed.

615. Planning matters:

18/00922/AS – THE PRIORY HOME FARM, PRIORY ROAD- Application to develop an outdoor sand school and to modify condition 3 of 04/01120/AS to allow a limited number of competitions at Bilsington Priory Equestrian.

RESOLVED:

Bilsington Parish Council likes to support local businesses but unfortunately we object to the modification of condition 3 of planning application 04/01120/AS within the planning application on the grounds that the local roads – in particular Priory Road - are unsafe and would be unable to cope with the additional traffic that the equestrian events held would generate.

KCC has already highlighted their concerns with regard to the width of the road and the lack of passing places on Priory Road and the dangers of the junction at the top of Priory Road where it meets Frith road so the applicant has proposed a suggested one way system for vehicles exiting an event.

This would mean that traffic would hopefully exit south on Priory road to the junction with the B2067 Bonnington Road. This junction is also unsafe especially for HGV's and Vans – i.e. Vehicles with cabs and no rear passenger windows. This is because of the angled nature of the junction. It is not a T Junction because of the triangular grass island. Please see photos.





As you can see the angled nature of the junction means that the view from the cab of a horse lorry or similar vehicle would be highly restricted and in essence the similar to that of a left hand drive lorry at a UK roundabout.

As you can see from the photo below checking for oncoming traffic is heavily reliant upon windows behind the passenger door.



Bonnington Road is an also unrestricted road and our speed indicator device which is only 300 yards from the junction and within the village 30mph speed limit zone has recorded speeds well in excess of 50mph.

The proposed routing of vehicles suggests that vehicles would exit over to Hamstreet. The road leaving Bilsington towards Hamstreet is single file traffic for 150 metres with signs at each end stating Single File Traffic which unfortunately many people fail to respect or see, especially non locals. Please see photo below. This road is clearly unsuitable for HGVs and large vehicles.



And if vehicles didn't follow the suggested route but their satnavs and needed to head up to the motorway the route plotted by their satnavs once they got to Bilsington would route them up Ashford Road and then over Sevington Railway bridge which is notoriously dangerous for HGVs and large vehicles towing.

For these reasons Bilsington Parish Council object to the above application.

616. Speed Indicator Device:

The speed indicator device remains effective and is located on Bonnington Road at present. As Ruckinge Road is closed at the present time it is likely that there will be a noticeable downturn in the level of traffic passing through the village.

617. Kent County Council – Big Conversation:

The Parish Clerk attended the presentation for Parish Councils on 24th July where the background to the existing schemes was given as well as discussing possible alternatives for the future. The purpose of the seminars and public consultation events was to obtain feedback on the current levels of service and suggestions for improvements for the future.

The results of the consultation events will be collated and a seminar will be organised for October to deliver the outcomes and announce various pilot schemes.

618. Ashford Local Plan 2030:

As reported by the Borough Councillor modifications are needed to policies HOU3a and 5 as identified by the Inspector. These modifications will then be subject to a six

week public consultation period before being placed before the Borough Council for adoption, which will be towards the end of 2018.

619. Any Other Business:

Ideas for the WW1 commemorations to be discussed at the next meeting.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.51pm.

DRAFT