

Minutes of a meeting of Bilsington Parish Council held at Bilsington Village Hall on Thursday 19th January 2017 at 7.30pm.

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

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

Also present: Kent County Councillor M Angell.

433. REPORT OF THE ASHFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLOR:

Submitted in the form of the newsletter delivered to residents attached.

434. REPORT OF THE KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR:

Councillor Angell reported that the Care Quality Commission had recently audited Hamstreet surgery and had rated them as outstanding. The County Council are scheduled to meet on the 9th February to determine the budget for 2017/18 which is likely to be an increase of 1.99% plus the 2% for Social Care in line with the Governments capping. There is to be a campaign to clean up litter and smarten up the county.

435. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Borough Councillor J Martin.

436. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no declarations of interest.

437. MINUTES:

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2016 were submitted, agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

438. SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE:

The Chairman reported that he had attended a site meeting with the Chairman of Ruckinge Parish Council and representatives from Kent Highways to determine the positioning of the posts for the speed indicator device. Kent Highways are finalising the detail on one post in Ruckinge by ascertaining the ownership of the land. Once this is confirmed installation can go ahead which has been indicated to be before the end of the financial year. Taking into account the grant from the Kent County Councillor the remaining cost will be divided between the two parishes.

439. FINANCE:

Schedule of payments

Date	Cheque No.	Payee	Amount
19/1/17	667 & 668	Clerks Salary November	£256.80
19/1/17	669 & 670	Clerks Salary December	£232.95
19/1/17	671	Clerks Expenses	£39.60

Proposed by Councillor S Hudson

Seconded by Councillor G Russell and

RESOLVED: To make the payments listed in the schedule.

(Voting: For; 5, Against; 0, Abstentions; 0)

440. BUDGET 2017/18:

REPORT: following the decision made at the last meeting of the Parish Council the Borough Council have confirmed the levels of Council Tax Support Grant, Concurrent Services Grant and Tax base for 2017/18 these being £190.00, £280.00 and 147.9 respectively.

The budget was calculated using the sums received from the Borough Council for the financial year 2015/16 being £120.00, £370.00 and 143.09 respectively. The net result in monetary terms for the Parish Council is a reduction of £20 which can be met from reserves.

In terms of the level of Council Tax paid by residents the Band D equivalent for 2015/16 was £29.56 and the figure will be £28.60 a net reduction to householders of 3.25%.

It was previously indicated to the Parish Council that HM Government were considering the implementation of referendum principles on Parish Councils where the Band D equivalent was increased above the guideline, which was anticipated to be 2% in line with Borough and County Councils. However, HM Government have now announced that there will be no capping of Parish Council precepts for 2017/18 but expect constraint whilst further legislation is considered in addition to the Transparency Act which already requires small Parish Councils to publicise considerably more financial information than that of the higher tiers of local government.

441. VILLAGE HALL:

Councillor Delmage reported that Mrs S Delmage had now been appointed as Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee. The Committee have been successful in obtaining a grant from Ashford Borough Council for 50% of the cost of the cladding of the exterior of the Hall. The next major refurbishment will be the toilets.

A vote of thanks was made to the outgoing Chairman Hugh Webb for his efforts.

442. PLANNING MATTERS:

There were no planning applications submitted.

443. FUTURE PLANS AND PROJECTS:

It was agreed that the Parish Council would commemorate the Centenary of the end of World War I in November 2018 possibly involving the Village Hall and Church.

444. CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. Information Commissioners Office Newsletter January
- b. Rural Vulnerability Service – Rural Broadband – January 2017
- c. Rural Vulnerability Service – Rural Transport – December 2016
- d. Rural Network Service – weekly news digest 3 January 2017
- e. Rural Network Service – weekly news digest 9 January 2017

445. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Councillor Russell enquired about the battery life of the defibrillator and the cost of replacements as it has been reported that they can cost up to £250. It is not thought that the cost for the Bilsington defibrillator would be as much as this but sufficient funds would be retained by the Parish Council to ensure that it is always available.

Councillor Carrington requested that the meeting dates are placed on the website.

The Clerk had received a request from the Village Hall regarding membership to ACRK as we had previously had a joint membership. This was no longer available and the Parish Council decided last year that it would cease membership..

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.00pm