

Minutes of a meeting of Bilsington Parish Council held at Bilsington Village Hall on Thursday 27th July 2017 at 7.00pm.

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, Ashford Borough Councillor W Howard and 3 members of the public.

478. Ashford Borough Councillor's Report:

Councillor Howard spoke about the Local Plan 2030 and agreed that he would answer any questions on this when it appeared later on the agenda.

479. Kent County Councillor's Report:

Councillor Angell reported that there were several new members following the May Elections and that the induction period was still taking place, he also advised that he had grant funds available for projects.

480. To receive apologies for absence:

There were no apologies for absence.

481. To receive any declarations of interest from members:

Councillor Delmage declared an interest in minute 483, planning matters Chestnut Lodge as he is a neighbour, he did not take part in the debate or voting on this item.

482. Minutes:

The minutes of the annual Parish Council meeting held on 8th May 2017 were submitted, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

483. Planning matters:

PLANNING APPLICATION 17/1022/AS – CHESTNUT LODGE, BONNINGTON ROAD –
Proposed part single storey, part first floor rear extension.

RESOLVED:

To object to the application as follows:

The Parish Council is disappointed that it was not advised that there were revised drawings for this application as initial thoughts were different, however the revised drawings were noticed in time for the council to meet.

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>> having considered the application in detail the Parish Council wish to object to the application for the following reasons:

>> 1. the ground floor extension is oversized and not in keeping with the conservation area within which it sits.

>> 2. the sedum roof is incongruous with the architecture of all the other houses within the village and in particular within the Bilsington conservation area within which it sits. A pitched roof would be better suited.

>>3. the west facing patio doors overlook the neighbouring property where a window would be better suited for privacy and noise reduction.

484. Finance:

Schedule of payments:

Date	Cheque No	Payee	Amount
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27/7/17	687 & 688	Clerks Salary May	£332.72
27/7/17	689 & 690	Clerks Salary June	£267.65
27/7/17	691	Kent Association Local Councils	£72.00
27/7/17	692	Clerks expenses	£67.76
27/7/17	693	Society Local Council Clerks	£39.00

As indicated at the last meeting of the Parish Council a grant application was to be made to the Department for Communities and Local Government from the Transparency Fund to enable the purchase of a new scanner/printer and laptop and associated software to enable the Parish Council to remain compliant. This application has been made and was successful with sufficient funds made available to purchase what is required at no expense to the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: to approve the payments in the schedule of payments.

485. Village Hall:

Councillor Delmage reported that the ever popular Quiz with Cheese and Wine is back on 30th September, and that the Mantissa Opera Company have been booked for the 18th November. The committee are at present considering the options available to it to replace the Saturday coffee mornings previously run by the Church.

The cladding of the outside of the Hall is probably going to be done in November.

486. Transforming Health and Social Care in Kent and Medway:

The Parish Clerk recently attended a listening event organised by the NHS for its plans to transform Health and Social Care in Kent.

At the outset there was a presentation of facts: the population of Kent and Medway is growing and that by 2031 it will have increased by some 400,000, more people have long term conditions and the number of people over 70 will rise by 20% in the next five years, and that 1 in 4 people in Kent and Medway have a mental health problem.

The challenges: as many as 4 in 10 emergency admissions to hospital could be avoided if the right care was available in the community.

The plan:

- Helping you stay well
- Doing more out of hospital
- Making acute services more effective

Aims for local care:

- Prevent ill health by helping people stay well
- Deliver excellent care, closer to home, by connecting the care you get from the NHS, Social care, community and voluntary organisations.
- Give local people the right support to look after themselves when diagnosed with a condition
- Intervene earlier before people need to go to hospital.

Changing social care, promoting your wellbeing through the voluntary and community sector, promoting independence and a joined up team for health and care.

In Ashford GP's will work in clusters

Rural: Charing, Hamstreet, Ivy Court and Woodchurch

Ashford North: Wye, New Hayesbank, Hollington and Sellindge

Ashford Urban: Sydenham House, Willesborough, Kingsnorth, South Ashford Medics, Singleton Medical Centre and Singleton Surgery.

Hospital Care: one emergency hospital centre including a 24/7 A&E and planned care

One emergency hospital centre including a 24/7 A&E planned care and providing specialist services

One hospital dedicated to planned care and rehabilitation alongside a GP led urgent care centre.

This event was arranged to obtain feedback on the proposals so far and will be taken into account before a further listening event is organised prior to the plans being out for consultation early next year.

At no stage was any mention made of expanding local surgeries or the hospitals, the emphasis was more on the social care and the voluntary sector.

To put the local position into context the Ashford Borough Council Local plan is for 13,250 new homes and Shepway District Council 8,000

487. Open Letter to the Minister of State for Housing and Planning:

REPORT: The Ashford Area Committee of the Kent Association of Local Councils at its recent meeting discussed at length the Borough Council Local Plan 2030. From these discussions it was felt that the present National Planning Policy Framework afforded little or no protection to Rural communities.

It was decided that an open letter to the Minister of State for Housing and Planning should be produced and signed by as many of the Parishes within the Ashford Borough as possible. A draft of this letter was attached to the agenda for reference. By agreeing to sign this letter the Parish Council is not going against the planning policy of Ashford Borough Council, the letter is simply asking for the National Planning Policy Framework to be amended to provide a measure of protection with future development.

RESOLVED:

- 1. To receive and note the report.**
- 2. To agree to sign the letter to the Minister of State for Housing and Planning.**

488. Ashford Borough Council Local Plan 2030 – Consultation:

REPORT BPC/17/05 brings to the attention of councillors an update on the Ashford Borough Council Local Plan 2030 and the latest public consultation on it.

RESOLVED: to request the Parish Clerk to draft a response on behalf of the Parish Council bringing forward the Council's concerns with some of the policies being proposed in the plan. The proposed response to be circulated for approval before submission.

489. Porta cabin, Wills Lane:

Borough Councillor W Howard advised that the owner had been served notice to remove possessions from the PortaCabin prior to the Council's contractors arriving on site to demolish and remove the structure. A precise date for these works has not been given due to the nature of the works being undertaken.

The leader of the Borough Council is aware of the situation and the long drawn out planning enforcement.

490. Broadband:

Rural Broadband is an area of National concern as many areas are directly affected by this. Kent County Council have provided funding to BT to improve rural connectivity throughout the County.

According to the Kent County Council website the project commenced in the Spring of 2016 with a planned end date of Summer 2018. Using the availability checker it quotes that they are consulting with Openreach to see how they can deliver to Bilsington.

491. Speed Indicator Device:

Kent County Council have been requested to proceed with the project, the delivery of the device is awaited is the installation of the required posts.

492. Bilsington Crossroads:

REPORT: the Parish Council is very concerned that despite repeated requests to Kent Highways there are still two Stop lines on Ashford Road, albeit in the wrong place. The crossroads are at the heart of the Village Conservation area and this unnecessary road marking detracts from the appearance of this area.

It has been suggested that daffodils are planted on the southern side of the crossroads to improve the appearance during the spring time each year. Should the Parish Council wish to take this forward permission will have to be sought from Kent Highways and the Borough Council.

RESOLVED: to request the Parish Clerk to communicate with Kent Highways with regard to the road markings in the Village and to enquire about the planting of bulbs in the verge.

493. Parking:

The Parish Council have received complaints about "inappropriate" parking in the vicinity of the crossroads. The subject of residents parking has appeared at various times on the Parish Council agenda over the years and possible areas where parking could be made available. However, to date nothing appears to have come forward to the planning stage and the number of cars seeking parking spaces does not seem to be declining.

Section 57 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 gives Parish Councils the Power to provide parking spaces. It would seem logical in the first instance to contact Kent Highways to ascertain the ownership of appropriate land and to obtain an estimate of the likely cost to determine the level of funds required and the possible sources.

RESOLVED that the Parish Clerk should contact Kent Highways to organise an initial site visit to see if it is possible to arrange some roadside parking.

494. Village Entry Gates:

The installation of gateway facilities in rural villages is governed by the Traffic Calming Regulations 1993 and the Department of Transport have issued a Traffic Advisory Leaflet on the subject.

Should the Parish Council wish to investigate this as a possible future project early reference to Kent Highways needs to be made as they will have to undertake the necessary survey to ensure that the locations meet the strict guidelines. Kent Highways will also be able to provide guidance on the design of the gates and determine if they can be locally sourced.

Subsequent to the issue of the agenda further information has been obtained from Kent Highways which gives an indicative cost of around £1,280 which would depend on site conditions and location and does not include any design fees, future maintenance or required traffic management. At the present time Kent Highways are unable to resource the design of a scheme suggesting that a consultant is employed and they would check the design and carry out the work.

No further action is required at this time.

495. Allotments:

REPORT: The Parish Council have a Statutory Obligation to provide land to be used as allotments, when six (or more) council tax payers make a request and, to acquire land for that purpose.

The Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 states:

- If the Council of any Parish are of opinion that there is a demand for allotments the Council shall provide a sufficient number of allotments, and shall let such allotments to persons resident in the Parish, and desiring to take the same.
- On a representation in writing to the council of any Parish, by any six registered parliamentary electors resident in the Parish, that the circumstances of the Parish are such that it is the duty of the council to take proceedings under this part of the Act therein, the council shall take such representation into consideration.

Powers of councils in relation to the provision of allotments:

- The Council of a Parish may, for the purpose of providing allotments, by agreement purchase or take on lease land, whether suitable within or without the Parish or Borough, or may purchase such land compulsorily in accordance with the provisions of this Act and of the Acquisition of Land Act 1981.

RESOLVED:

- 1. To receive and note the report.**
- 2. To take no further action at this stage as no formal representations have been received.**

496. General Data Protection Regulations:

The General Data Protection Regulations will require all Parish Councils to allocate significant resource and effort to comply, especially for smaller councils. The National Association of Local Councils Policy Committee recently discussed this and agreed to write to the Government about resource implications and the potential impact on the precept.

The Parish Council will be kept advised of progress on this subject. It should be noted that all of the policies and procedures required to fulfil the requirements of the Regulations must be in place before May 2018 as well as a full audit of all the data held by the Parish Council.

497. Bilsington Parish Council Website:

The Parish Clerk advised that there had been a few issues with keeping the website up to date but with the new laptop this should be resolved shortly.

498. Village News Update:

Regular articles are to be submitted to the Village News based on the meeting and any other updates between meetings.

499. Fly Tipping in the Parish:

There has been evidence of fly tipping at certain locations and the Borough Councillor was asked who to contact as the site is becoming a regular spot.

500. Future Plans:

The Parish Council were asked to consider any projects or events that it wishes to progress during the remainder of the current financial year and any projects for consideration at the next meeting when an indication of costs can be provided prior to the setting of next year's budget.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Clerk communicate with Revd Martin Jones regarding Remembrance Sunday and Christmas inviting him to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council when the events will be discussed.

501. Correspondence:

- a. Rural Economy Spotlight.
- b. Rural Vulnerability Service – Fuel Poverty.
- c. Rural Vulnerability Service – Rural Broadband
- d. Rural Vulnerability Service – Rural Transport
- e. Spotlight on Older People.
- f. Spotlight on Rural Health.
- g. Rural Network services – weekly news digest 3rd July 2017
- h. Rural Network Services – weekly news digest 5th June 2017.
- i. Rural Network Services – weekly news digest 10th July 2017.
- j. Rural Network Services – weekly news digest 12th June 2017.
- k. Rural Network Services – weekly news digest 17th July 2017.
- l. Rural Network Services – weekly news digest 19th June 2017.
- m. Rural Network Services – weekly news digest 22nd May 2017.
- n. Rural Network Services – weekly news digest 26th June 2017.
- o. Rural Network Services – weekly news digest 30th May 2017.

502. Any Other Business:

The position of the Stop sign on Newchurch Road creates a blind spot a request is to be made to Kent Highways to review its location.

The Parish Clerk advised that a Parish Council notice had been removed from the noticeboard and also that a Church Notice had been placed in the centre of a statutory notice. Whilst it was a Parish Council noticeboard there was no reason why Church notices could not be placed there but they should not be placed in such a way as to obscure Parish Council notices.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.00pm

Next meeting 28th September 2017