

Minutes of a meeting of Bilsington Parish Council held at Bilsington Village Hall on Monday 28th November 2016 at 7.00 pm.

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 and 3 members of the public.

417. **OTTERPOOL PARK:**

C Lewis, Planner from Shepway District Council, gave a presentation on the proposals for a Garden Town to be situated at Otterpool Park which, although situated within the Shepway District will have an impact upon the Parish in the future. He was able to respond to questions asked and accepted comments.

It was noted that a series of public engagement events will be held and the dates were made available together with the venues.

418. **REPORT OF THE ASHFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLOR:**

Collective Statement from Bilsington Parish Council regarding Ashford Borough Councillor – Jane Martin.

Firstly we'd like to thank Ashford Borough Councillor Will Howard for his attendance at the last meeting in September and his offer to potentially help Bilsington PC fund the installation of a Speed Indicator Device.

However Jane Martin is our nominated Councillor for Bilsington and has not attended any of our Parish Council Meeting since 9th January 2016. Councillor Jane Martin and has therefore missed our March, May July & now November meetings without sending apologies or in her absence - a report to be read out, as she does so when unable to attend Aldington PC meetings.

Her lack of attendance may be due to the fact the Councillor Martin disagreed with our decision to increase the Parish precept for a one year period in order to help fund the installation of a speed indicator device. We had plenty of support locally (nearly 50 signatures) and no objections from anyone that we approached or spoke to on the matter. We are well aware that in hind sight we should have looked for this support prior to raising the precept rather than retrospectively. – A learning for us going forward. Please note that our proposed precept for 2017/2018 reverts to that of 2015/2016.

I would have hoped that Councillor Martin would have been able to still work with us despite the difference in approach to tackling one of the key issues in Bilsington – speeding.

Bilsington does have other issues, parking, volume of traffic, fly tipping to name just some and we were hoping Councillor Martin would continue to work with us to the benefit of the Parish. Clearly this is not the case.

In September 2015 Councillor Martin requested our financial support and therefore inclusion in the Aldington, Bonnington & Bilsington Village Protection Plan. To be then called the Aldington Bonnington & Bilsington Village Protection Plan. It looked like it could be of benefit

to the village so we invested £250 to the plan and more than 10 full man working days collecting evidence to be included in the plan.

Here are some extracts from Councillor Martin's emails on the matter.

'The precise reason why I embarked on the VPP was to solve the issues of parking speeding, damaged roads, damaged hedgerows, too much traffic and a raft of the other things'

'With the professional evidence of the VPP there is an entirely different scenario and I am confident success will be achieved.'

'this policy is the best way to solve a raft of Bilsington issues'

'Using the evidence from the VPP we should be able to get KCC and ABC to financially support traffic and speed signage at no extra cost'

'I have been working in the background and have identified a financial source that may help solve the parking issues'

'I am very thorough and follow through - I promised to address the issues in my manifesto at the election and so set about finding a mechanism to solve them – The VPP'

To this date we have yet to hear anything back from Councillor Martin. In her on line media communications Councillor Martin refers to the Aldington & Bonnington Village Plan and excludes/ignores our involvement and contribution. We have not even received a copy of the plan (draft or otherwise) to agree, disagree, comment or amend, despite our requests. We hear that the plan has now been submitted to ABC but haven't heard anything off Councillor Martin on this or any other matter.

We would therefore like a formal update off Councillor Jane Martin on the outcome of the VPP and how the issues within Bilsington are being addressed and the tangible **solutions** that are going to be actioned as result of the plan as per the comments in her emails. In particular those regarding parking, traffic and speeding.

We look forward to a speedy response.

Bilsington Parish Council.

419. **REPORT OF THE KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR:**

Councillor Angell reported that he had been busy on the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee future working is giving more emphasis on local care and a much improved health and social care integration. Finance is still a big issue and the potential gap next year is £5m.

420. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

There were no apologies for absence.

421. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

There were no declarations of interest.

422. **MINUTES:**

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

423. **SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE:**

The Chairman recently attended meetings of the neighbouring parishes of Aldington and Ruckinge who had been asked if they were interested in joining the Parish Council in a joint venture for the speed indicator device. Ruckinge registered an interest subject to further consideration and Aldington at their meeting decided that as the unit would only be available for a limited time would not join Bilsington but would consider their own scheme at a later date. At a subsequent meeting of Ruckinge Parish Council they agreed to proceed with the scheme.

Kent Highways have been requested to proceed to the next stage which is a survey of the proposed sites after which they will provide a firm quotation for the installation. Ruckinge Parish Council are aware that they need to increase their insurance cover to include the device.

Councillors proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman and the Clerk for their efforts in taking the scheme forward.

424. **FINANCE:**

Schedule of payments

Date	Cheque No.	Payee	Amount
13/11/16	659	Bilsington Village Hall	£239.75
13/11/16	660	Bilsington Village Hall	£90.00
28/11/16	658 & 662	Clerks Salary September	£315.89
28/11/16	663 & 664	Clerks Salary October	£252.09
28/11/16	665	Clerks Expenses	£47.70
28/11/16	666	RBL Poppy Appeal	£50.00

Proposed by Councillor G Russell
Seconded by Councillor S Hudson and

RESOLVED: To make the payments listed in the schedule.

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

425. **BUDGET 2017/18:**

REPORT BPC/16/04 concludes the budget – making process for 2017/18 and makes recommendations to enable the Council to set its precept for 2017/18 and to notify the tax collecting authority in accordance with statutory legislation.

Proposed by Councillor S Carrington
Seconded by Councillor G Russell and

RESOLVED:

- 1. To receive and note Report BPC/16/04**
- 2. To approve the Parish Council's budget for 2017/18 as follows:**

		Budget 16/17	Budget 17/18
Expenditure	Clerks salary	3420	3420
	Clerks expenses	150	150
	Insurance	280	300
	Audit	50	50
	Training	200	
	Miscellaneous	50	50
	Maintenance	100	
	Future plans	2500	
	Subscriptions	450	250
	Donations	150	50
	General	400	200
	Room hire	200	250
	Total	<u>7950</u>	<u>4720</u>
		<u><u>7950</u></u>	<u><u>4720</u></u>
Income	Precept	7460	4230
	Concurrent grant	280	280
	Council tax support grant	210	210
	Interest		
	Miscellaneous		
	Total	<u>7950</u>	<u>4720</u>
		<u><u>7950</u></u>	<u><u>4720</u></u>

3. To confirm the Precept for 2017/18 in the sum of £4,230 in accordance with the provisions in Sections 39,41 and 50 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, subject to confirmation from Ashford Borough Council that the Council tax Support Grant and Concurrent Grant are maintained at the 2016/17 level.

4. To authorise the Clerk of the Parish Council to sign the Precept demand on the Borough Council.

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

426. **VILLAGE HALL:**

Councillor Delmage reported that recent events had included a Cheese and Wine quiz night and a bread making class. These events will be run again as well as the planned return of the pudding club.

The Chairman reported that representatives from the Village Hall had attended a meeting at the Borough Council Offices with regard to grant funding towards the cladding of the outside of the hall and provision of a disabled access. The Borough Council require confirmation that the Ward member and the Parish Council supports the application. The Council unanimously agree to support the application and requested the Parish Clerk to take forward.

427. **PLANNING MATTERS:**

15/01579/AS – Land at Courtside, Newchurch Road

The Borough Council has advised the Parish Council that the applicant has lodged an appeal against the decision to refuse permission with the Planning Inspectorate. Members decided that they did not wish to add any further comments to those made when the application was placed before them.

428. **CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES:**

Plans are at an advanced stage for the festivities on the 11th December the tree will be put in place on the 10th and illuminated. New LED lights have been purchased as last year the lights were insignificant.

429. **FUTURE PLANS AND PROJECTS:**

The council have been asked to consider how it wants to interact with residents to ascertain what projects residents would like to see undertaken in the future in order that a prioritised plan can be drawn up. It was suggested that consideration be given to commemorating the end of WWI in 2018. Further consideration will be given to this at the next meeting of the parish council.

430. **FUTURE MEETING DATES:**

As the village hall have been successful in gaining a regular booking for Monday evenings it has been agreed that the Parish Council will rearrange the dates of its future meetings. The new dates being:

Thursday 19th January 2017 at 7.30pm

Thursday 30th March 2017 at 7.30pm

Thursday 18th May 2017 at 7.00pm

431. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- a. Information Commissioners Office Newsletter October
- b. Information Commissioners Office Newsletter November
- c. Rural Housing Spotlight
- d. Rural Vulnerability service – Fuel Poverty – November 2016.
- e. Rural Vulnerability service – Rural Broadband – October 2016.
- f. Rural Vulnerability Service – Rural transport – October 2016.
- g. Spotlight on Rural Health.
- h. Transforming health and social care in Kent

- i. Rural Network Service – weekly news digest 3 October 2016.
- j. Rural Network Service – weekly news digest 7 November 2016.
- k. Rural Network service – weekly news digest 10 October 2016.
- l. Rural Network Service – weekly news digest 14 November 2016.
- m. Rural Network Service – weekly news digest 24 October 2016.
- n. Rural Network service – weekly news digest 31 October 2016.
- o. Rural Network service – weekly news digest 18 November 2016.
- p. Kent Highways Winter Letter to parishes 2016/17.

432. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

Councillor Hudson reported that the Church will be holding their Christmas coffee morning on 3rd December. The bench next to the bus stop is to be renovated/replaced in the near future.

Councillor Carrington reported that she had communicated with PCSO Hobbs who reported there had been no anti-social behaviour or thefts. He did ask that any concerns are logged on 101 emergencies still on 999.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.30pm