

Minutes of a meeting of Bilsington Parish Council held at Bilsington Village Hall on
Wednesday 28th September 2016.

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

In attendance: Peter Setterfield MILCM Parish Clerk and responsible Financial Officer.

Also present: Cllr W Howard (Ashford Borough Council) Cllr M Angell (Kent County Council)

Public Gallery: M Drury, H Webb and R Martin.

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

Councillor W Howard apologised for the lack of attendance at the Parish Council meetings over recent months but this was due to a hostile planning application in the Parish of Brabourne which is also in the Saxonshore Ward. The developers are challenging the Borough Council's 5 year land supply which has also been challenged successfully in Tenterden. Although there is little risk of such a threat to Bilsington the Council is asked to be prepared to act immediately upon notification.

The Borough Council have invested in more enforcement this year with the introduction of litter enforcement in the town. Planning enforcement has also been increased. The matter of the Portakabin on Wills Lane was mentioned. Councillor Howard was not aware that this was still on site and will take forward with the Borough Council Enforcement Officer.

Flytipping is still an issue, the Borough Council has an app to enable reporting direct to the team by taking a photo which is transmitted together with the coordinates this can be downloaded from <https://appsto.re/gb/HX7QA.i>

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

Councillor M Angell reported that he has been appointed as Chairman of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee who have been busy. The Care Quality Commission have been looking at the Ambulance service which is being put into Quality Special Measures they have been requested to prepare a 5 year plan which will be out for public consultation after Christmas.

Councillor Angell is happy to support the Speed Indicator Device and has locked in £3,500 of his Combined Member Grant to fund this and requested that a formal application be submitted as soon as possible. The Parish Clerk will take this forward.

402. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Councillor S Carrington

403. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

Councillor B Delmage declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in minute 411 in respect of Cross Cottage, Bonnington Road by virtue of being the applicant, he did not take part in the discussion or voting on this item of planning.

404. **MINUTES:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2016 were submitted, agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

405. **NOTICE OF CONCLUSION OF AUDIT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016:**
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.

406. **PARISH COUNCIL INSURANCE:**
REPORT: The Parish Council's statutory insurance is due for renewal on 23rd October 2016. The renewal has been received from the Council's Insurance Brokers in the sum of £280.44 which is close to the 2016/17 budget of £280.00. The Parish Council has taken advantage of a long term agreement with the company.

407. **SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE:**
 The Chairman thanked the Kent County Council member for his support on this project and his financial contribution towards the cost. Research has been undertaken and it has been found that a variety of equipment is available within a price range. The advice provided by Kent Highways provides a list of the costs which are comparable. It was agreed that the project would proceed via Kent Highways as this was in effect a one stop shop and much simpler as authorisation would be required from Highways before the posts were installed. At the present time there is a possible shortfall in funding which could be covered from reserves. Councillor Howard suggested that as this was a mobile device the offer should be extended to the neighbouring parishes of Ruckinge and Aldington for a post subject to a contribution to the overall cost of the project.

408. **FINANCE:**
 Schedule of payments.

Date	Cheque No	Payee	Amount
28/9/16	648&649	Clerks Salary August	£259.79
28/9/16	650&651	Clerks Salary September	£263.64
28/9/16	652&653	Clerks Salary July	£280.34
28/9/16	654	Clerks expenses	£35.89
28/9/16	655	Came & Company (Insurance)	£280.44
28/9/16	656	Information Commissioner	£35.00

Proposed by Councillor G Russell
 Seconded by Councillor B Delmage and

RESOLVED: To make the payments listed in the schedule.

(Voting: For; 4, Against; 0, abstentions; 0)

409. **CONSULTATION ON THE 2017/18 LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE SETTLEMENT:**
REPORT: The Department for Communities and Local Government has issued a consultation paper for the 2017/18 settlement covering the proposals of the Government.

The proposals cover the distribution of central resources and changes to local resources. The distribution of central resources has no direct impact on Parish and Town Councils however, the government is proposing changes to the council tax referendum principles.

The Government is proposing to introduce referendum principles for town and parish councils whose Band D precept is higher than that of the lowest charging district council for

2016/17 (£75.46), and which have a total precept for 2016/17 of at least £500,000, while taking account of transfers of responsibilities, and that consideration is given to the extension of referendums to all local precepting authorities.

The Government recognises the value of parishes and the greater role in service delivery that many are performing to deliver ambitious services for their residents. However, the increase in average Band D tax level of 6.1% set by parishes in 2016/17 is notably higher than those in the previous 5 years.

In light of this, the Government is minded to apply referendum principles to larger, higher spending town and parish councils in 2017/18. There are around 8,800 precepting parishes in England, which vary widely in terms of resident population and precept charge. We believe there is a strong argument in favour of extending referendums to those larger parishes whose precept is equivalent in size to that of a district council. Increases of less than 2% or up to and including £5 (whichever is higher) can be set without triggering a referendum.

In doing this, the Government wishes to ensure that parishes continue to have the flexibility to take on responsibilities from other tiers of local government without being unduly constrained by council tax referendum principles.

A large proportion of parishes are modest in size – for example, around 4,000 parishes have precepts of £25 or less. However, the Government is aware that increases in these precepts continue to concern local tax payers and is therefore prepared to consider extending referendums to all parishes.

The Government recognise that issues of proportionality, practicality and cost could be raised by such a step and would welcome views on this.

To put this into context the Band D equivalent at Bilsington for 2016/17 is £50.44 2% of this is £1.00, given the tax base of 147 the maximum increase permissible without referendum would be £147 on the percentage or £735 based on £5, a referendum would cost in excess of £2,000.

The Council is asked to consider a response to the consultation as the principle on the figures quoted would result in the Council having to have a referendum to increase the precept to have a referendum to increase the precept for a particular reason.

Proposed by Councillor S Hudson

Seconded by Councillor G Russell and

RESOLVED: To request the Clerk to respond to the specific question in the consultation affecting Parish Councils expressing concern about the proposal for introducing referendum principles to parish councils of our size and the implications of doing so.

(Voting: For; 4, against; 0, Abstentions; 0)

410. **VILLAGE HALL:**

Councillor Delmage reported that there will be a choral event in November 2017. A grant from the Pratt Boorman Family Fund of £1,000 has been received towards the cost of cladding for the hall costing £6,500. There has also been donations in memory of Terry Tarrant amounting to £500. A new art group has started using the village hall on a Thursday future plans include a sponsored walk and a cheese and wine quiz night.

411. **PLANNING MATTERS:**

16/01273/AS – CROSS COTTAGE, BONNINGTON ROAD

Proposal:

1. Part demolition of existing single storey extension and erection of two storey extension.
2. Listed Building – Part demolition of existing single storey extension and erection of two storey extension with associated internal alterations.

Proposed by Councillor G Russell

Seconded by Councillor S Hudson and

RESOLVED: To support the application.

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

16/01413/AS – SIOUX, ASHFORD ROAD

Proposal: Conversion of part of outbuilding to holiday accommodation.

Proposed by Councillor S Hudson

Seconded by Councillor B Delmage and

RESOLVED: To offer no objection to the application.

(Voting: For; 4, Against; 0, Abstentions; 0)

16/01402/AS – CASA AMICA AND RIPLEYS AUTO SPARES LTD, BRISLEY LANE

Proposal: Outline application for the demolition of the existing property (Casa Amica) and buildings and structures associated with Ripley's Scrap-Yard and the erection of 7 dwellings (including one replacement dwelling) and associated access.

Proposed by Councillor S Hudson

Seconded by Councillor G Russell and

RESOLVED: To support the outline application subject to neighbour comments and the permanent change of use to residential.

(Voting: For; 4, Against; 0, Abstentions; 0)

412. **ROADS:**

Additional 30 markings have been placed on the road at the start of the speed limit on Ashford Road.

413. **ELECTORAL BOUNDARY REVIEWS:**

REPORT: Ashford Borough Council at its meeting at its meeting on 8th September recommended changes to the ward boundaries as part of its Governance Review to increase the number of Borough Councillors and to balance the number of electors per

councillor. The recommendation that concerns Saxonshore is to divide the ward in two using the A20 as a boundary and that the ward is represented by one Borough Councillor as opposed to the two at present.

The Local Government Boundary Commission will shortly be placing this out for consultation. The intention is that these changes will take place with effect from the Borough Council elections in 2019.

In addition the Local Government Boundary Commission is also looking at the Parliamentary Boundaries with a view to reduce the number of MP's. The proposals being put forward include moving the boundaries of both the Ashford Constituency and the Folkestone and Hythe Constituency. At the present time Saxonshore sits in Folkestone and Hythe, the proposal is for it to be transferred to Ashford. As with the Borough Council review the Commission will be looking for electoral parity throughout the country.

414. **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY AND CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES:**

It was agreed that these events would run with a similar theme to last year, dates being agreed with the church and village hall as 10.45 on 13th November for Remembrance Sunday then at the Village Hall. Christmas festivities being on the 11th December.

415. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- a. Information Commissioners Office Newsletter August.
- b. Ashford Health Summer newsletter,
- c. Kent Association of Local Councils – Parish News July 2016,
- d. Rural Spotlight on the heart of the village.
- e. Rural Spotlight on Young People.
- f. Rural Vulnerability Service – fuel poverty – August 2016
- g. Rural Vulnerability Service – Rural Broadband – September 2016.
- h. Rural Vulnerability Service – Rural Transport – August 2016.
- i. Rural Vulnerability Service – weekly news digest 1 August 2016
- j. Rural Vulnerability Service – weekly news digest 8 August 2016
- k. Rural Vulnerability Service – weekly news digest 19 September 2016
- l. Rural Vulnerability Service – weekly news digest 6 September 2016
- m. Rural Vulnerability Service – weekly news digest 16 August 2016.
- n. Rural Vulnerability Service – weekly news digest 23 August 2016.
- o. Rural Vulnerability Service – weekly news digest 26 July 2016.
- p. Rural Vulnerability Service – weekly news digest 30 August 2016.

416. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

Councillor Russell expressed his disappointment with the response from Borough Councillor J Martin in respect of a request for funding for the Speed Indicator Device and tone of the reply.

Councillor Hudson advised that he had received 2 complaints about the noise levels emanating from Odo's Barn a visit had been made and an apology received as the DJ had bypassed the sound limiter.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10:10 pm.