

Minutes of a meeting of Bilsington Parish Council held at Bilsington Village Hall on Thursday 18th July 2019 at 7.45pm.

Present: Councillors; S Hudson (Chairman), M Bilham, S Carrington, R Corbett and R Thompson.

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

Also Present: Cllr M Angell (Kent County Council)

696. Ashford Borough Councillor's Report:

Councillor Harman communicated with the Chairman that she would like to be able to take forward one matter this year.

697. Kent County Councillor's Report:

Councillor M Angell reported that there has been a Select Committee at KCC on the subject of knife crime which is due to publish its findings shortly. Representations have been made to the Ministry of Transport regarding the M20 in an attempt to remove the barrier. The response has been that the barrier will remain in place until at least the end of October.

The A28 widening scheme will now commence on the completion of 400 houses on the Chilmington Green development.

698. To receive apologies for absence:

Ashford Borough Councillor L Harman.

699. To receive any declarations of interest from Members:

There were no declarations of interest.

700. Minutes:

The minutes of the Annual meeting of the Parish Council held on 16th May 2019 were submitted, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

701. Finance:

Schedule of payments:

Date	Cheque No	Payee	Amount
18/7/19	766 & 767	Staff costs	£319.04
18/7/19	768 & 771	Staff costs	£258.94
18/7/19	769	Clerks expenses	£64.00
16/5/19	770	Society Local Council Clerks	£40.61

Resolved: to authorise payment of the items on the schedule.

702. Village Hall:

The village hall now produces an events diary which is circulated. The refurbishment of the toilets is now complete and grants are being sought for the replacement of the hall floor.

It has been agreed that the lighting of the Christmas tree should take place on 8th December.

703. Planning Matters:

19/00872/AS – FRITH BUSINESS CENTRE, FRITH ROAD, ALDINGTON – Conversion of light industrial buildings to form ten units (in accordance with the recent prior approval for the change of use of the buildings into ten residential units under reference 18/00714/AS), to include associated building works and parking details.

Resolved: The Parish Council have considered this application and have concerns with aspects that do not appear to have been covered within the proposals fully.

The proposals would potentially be in breach of the Local Plans SPD on Dark Skies in that skylights are being proposed, in addition there is no indication if external lighting is to be provided.

Whilst the proposals state there is adequate space on site for parking and turning of vehicles this has not been quantified to verify if it meets planning policy. There is no indication on the plans for a cycle storage facility for any of the units, the Local Plan aims to promote sustainable transport.

Aldington Frith does not benefit from mains drainage or gas the application does not provide any detail as to how heating is to be provided or how sewerage is to be dealt with.

No details have been provided as to refuse collection, with 10 units there is a potential for 10 wheelie bins on collection days where are these to be placed? Is there sufficient room on site for a refuse vehicle to enter and leave in a forward gear?

Should the Borough Council be mindful to approve the application the Parish Council would wish to see conditions placed on the grant to the effect that all site personnel, visitor and construction vehicles are kept on the site with no roadside parking. The entrance is close to a busy crossroads on a road that is subject to the national speed limit. In addition the Parish Council would wish to see a restriction placed on the routing of construction vehicles to ensure that none use Priory Road which in places is single track with no passing places.

704. KCC Highways and Transportation:

KCC want communities to have a greater voice in prioritising the road safety measures they need to take and to be more responsive to community needs. At the same time, they need to balance requests with the money they have available to spend, making sure their investment has the most impact in making roads safer for all users.

Local communities are best-placed to tell them about the road safety issues in their areas and, through the collaboration between local Members and parish councils, this can provide them with a clear view about the local priorities they should be addressing.

To help them improve the way they manage requests for these types of changes and improvements, they ask members of the public to contact their parish council. This will enable them to assist Parishes and communities with their requests in a more proactive and programmed way.

Parish councils know their local area well and it is this knowledge that can help them focus their efforts and finite funding on improvements or changes that have the greatest priority. It also gives parish councils a more effective way of spending their money to solve local issues.

They would encourage parish councils, working with their local KCC Members, to develop a Highways Improvement Plan for their areas. The plan gives parish councils the opportunity to decide which community priorities they want to take forward. Given the finite KCC highways budget, not all priorities are likely to be funded. However, the Kent Highways team can discuss the problems and provide technical advice for the best way to deliver improvements and provide estimates for the costs. Using this information, parish councils can determine whether they can provide funding for these priorities and, working with Kent Highways, deliver them.

Members of the public wanting to make a request for lower road speeds or other road safety improvements are asked to take the following steps:

1. Check the crash data of the site where the improvements are wanted
2. Contact their local parish council with the crash data or other evidence for the request, who would then contact the KCC Member for further collaboration.

Benefits:

- Communities not only have a voice on the road safety improvements that are delivered in their areas, but they also have control over determining these and taking them forward.
- There is greater transparency of road safety improvements in local areas through local Highways Improvement Plans.
- Highways, Members and Parish Councils have a more productive relationship
- Highways staff have more time to work proactively with local communities in delivering these improvements.

The Parish Council is recommended to draw up a list of potential highways issues for further consideration.

Resolved: It was agreed that a meeting should be arranged with the Chairman, Borough Council Ward Member, County Council Ward Member and the Highways Steward to discuss the crossroads, parking and the signage on Ruckinge road where the road narrows to single track. The date suggested being 10th September at 10am the Clerk to contact the Highways Steward to arrange.

705. New Regulations:

New regulations called 'The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No.2) Accessibility Regulations 2018' have come into force, which means that from the 23rd September 2019, every new public sector website and app will need to meet

certain accessibility standards and publish a statement saying that they have been met. Existing websites will have until 22nd September 2020 to comply.

The aim of these regulations is to ensure public sector websites and mobile apps are accessible to all users, especially those with disabilities.

An accessibility statement is being prepared to be placed on the website which in itself is regulated and will appear on the website prior to the 23rd September.

All new documents being placed on the website are being monitored by the accessibility checker prior to publication. Prior to September 2020 all existing documents will be checked for compliance and updated or removed as appropriate.

An initial check of the Parish Council website using an approved diagnostic tool has revealed that it does not comply with the regulations in that there is insufficient colour contrast on the pages which needs rectifying. A solution to this is being sought.

Resolved: to note the position and ask for regular updates at Parish Council meetings on progress.

706. Speed Indicator Device:

Data is still being obtained and retained for future usage.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:10 pm.