

Minutes of a meeting of Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council held on Monday 9th September 2019 in the Eco Centre, Goldwell Lane, Aldington at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors: C Fowler (Chairman), A Baldwin, M Boulden, R Boulding, L Harman, P Kemp, W Parkinson and R Spicer.

In attendance: Peter Setterfield PSLCC, Parish Clerk.

Also present: 6 members of the public.

Prior to the start of the meeting the Chairman requested that item 24 on the agenda, Poulton Wood, be brought forward to follow the minutes.

619. Age UK:

A representative from the Ashford branch gave a presentation on the facilities and services available from Farrow Court in Ashford and the rural area.

620. To receive and accept apologies for absence:

Councillor T Ransley.

621. To receive any declarations of interest from Members:

Councillor L Harman in her role as a Borough Councillor sits on the planning committee, therefore does not vote on any applications placed before the Parish Council.

622. Minutes:

The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 8th July, 29th July and 19th August 2019 were submitted, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

623. Poulton Wood:

The Parish Council has been made aware from a copy of a letter of complaint addressed to Natural England of the potential closure of Poulton Woods Local Nature Reserve.

The manager of the site was present at the meeting and was invited to give some clarity on the matter. The 'friends of Poulton Wood' are an anonymous body who have written to various organisations spreading misinformation. The site is privately owned and as such does not have to provide public access, however, access is permitted for residents to enjoy the ancient woodland which is subject to management plans.

The decision to close the site from the 1st October for the Winter has been made in close consultation with the owners partners and will give nature the opportunity for nature to repair areas where the paths have widened as a result of foot fall avoiding the mud. As the woodland is coppiced on a rotational basis any wood unsuitable for usage is chipped and spread along the paths to reduce the amount of mud. As no coppicing has taken place recently there are no chippings available. A new management plan for the site is currently being drawn up which covers the next five years.

The Parish Council endorses the actions of the owners of Poulton Woods in the closure for the winter season.

- 624. Planning:**
19/01187/AS – HOWARTHS, DICKSONS BOURNE, ALDINGTON – Erection of an agricultural building for hay and machinery storage.
Resolved: the Parish Council has no objection to the application.
- 19/01240/AS & 19/01241/AS – SHEPHERDS HOUSE, FORGE HILL, ALDINGTON**
– Alteration to the external door opening configuration of detached ancillary building (partial revision to planning permission 18/01381/AS)
Resolved: the Parish Council has no objection to the application.
- 19/01267/AS – 1 FIR TREE VILLAS, BONNINGTON** – two storey side extension, replacement porch, additional window/rooflights.
Resolved: the Parish Council has no objection to the application.
- 625. Chairman’s Report:**
Councillor Ransley has contacted me to advise that he is shortly moving away from the Parish and as a result will be standing down. The council wish to pass on a vote of thanks to him for his service.
- The Chairman reported that in February 2019 the Parish Council undertook a widespread consultation encompassing a wish list, the Ashford Borough Local Plan 2030 and on the subject of Neighbourhood plans and village confines. It is considered that opinions may have been skewed based on comments made by the previous Borough Council ward member.
- As a consequence the matter of a Neighbourhood Plan will be placed on the October agenda for consideration.**
- 626. Public Participation Session:**
A resident raised concerns about the flying of drones above the playing field as it would appear that they are at low level.
- In response there are requirements that govern the flying of drones and any that appear to be breaching this should be reported to the police on 101.
- A resident asked if the War Memorial was covered on the Parish Council insurance.
- This will be looked into.**
- 627. KCC Highways and Transportation:**
A further site visit is to be undertaken when the schools return after the summer holidays to enable discussions regarding traffic management on Roman Road to take place.
- Follow up is still awaited from both Kent Highways and the PCSO’s to undertake at least one further site visit to review the traffic flow and speed to assist with the review of traffic calming measures and the petition to reduce speed limit to 20mph by the school.**
- 628. Speed limit on New Road Hill:**

The reduction in speed limit order was due to take effect on the 22nd August 2019. **The new signage required to show this is currently awaited.**

629. Speed Indicator Device:

The speed indicator device provided the number of vehicles passing it when the M20 was closed at the beginning of August. As a result of this massive increase in traffic a letter was sent to Highways England complaining about the way traffic had been managed.

A brief response has been received which advises that they are aiming to remove the temporary traffic lights on the A20 prior to the next planned full closure on the 6th September.

630. Parish Council Insurance:

Report ABC/19/13 brings to the Parish Council details of the renewal of its insurance.

Resolved:

1. **To receive and note report ABPC/19/13**
2. **To accept the quotation from Inspire via Axa**
3. **To request inclusion of the War Memorial on the policy.**

631. Village Hall Security:

Report: a request has been received from the Village Hall Management Committee for the Parish Council to fund an additional outside security light on the rear corner of the village hall to enhance the level of security as well as to add clarity to CCTV images. The cost of this work has been quoted at £385 plus VAT.

It is recommended that the Parish Council agree to the request which can be funded from Section 106 monies.

Resolved: to proceed with the installation of an additional security light.

632. Finance:

Schedule of payments:

Chq No	Payee	Detail	Amount
1423	R Boulding	Reimbursement	£39.60
1424	Society of Local Council Clerks	Training	£72.00
1425	Colourworks SE	MUGA Cleaning	£894.00
1426	Jati Ltd	Memorial bench	£424.99
1427	Sweatman mowers	Equipment repairs	£617.28
1428	P Setterfield	Reimbursement waders	£857.59
1429 & 1430	Staff costs		£1,337.12
1431	Noticeboard Company	Header	£47.98
1432	Harmer & Sons	Grounds maintenance	£966.00
1433	R Spicer	Reimbursement	£34.99
1434	Aldington Village Hall	Room hire	£115.00
1435	Mark Harrod Ltd	Goal purchase	£2,964.00

Chq No	Payee	Detail	Amount
1436	Boyd Sport & Play	Line marker	£546.00
1437	Harmer & Sons	Grounds maintenance	£966.00
1438 & 1439	Staff costs		£1,391.47
1440	Ashford Tarmacadam Contractors	Car Park surfacing	£20,912.40
1441	Trees R Us Ltd	Quarry Wood	£1,320.00
1442	PKF Littlejohn LLP	External Audit	£360.00
1443	Aldington Village Hall	Room hire	£8.00
1444	Came & Company	Insurance	£1,374.14

Resolved:

1. To receive and approve payment of the items in the schedule of payments.
2. To transfer the sum of £30,000 from deposit account to current account.

633. Notification of Conclusion of Audit for the year ended 31 March 2019:

Report: The Parish Council's external auditor, PKF Littlejohn LLP, have issued their report for the 2018/19 accounts which states:

"On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met."

There were no matters drawn to the attention of the Parish Council.

634. Finance Review:

Report ABPC/19/14 brings to the Parish Council an update on its financial standing against its budget at the end of the first quarter of the financial year.

Resolved:

1. To receive and note Report ABPC/19/14
2. To receive and note the financial position at the end of the first quarter of the financial year.

635. Financial Regulations:

Report: The National Association of Local Councils has recently published a revised set of model financial regulations which comply with current legislative requirements. The opportunity has been taken to review the Council's Financial Regulations to ensure that they are up to date, whilst there have been no major changes an up to date set is attached to the agenda for members to adopt.

Resolved: to adopt the revised Financial Regulations.

636. Recreation Land, Roman Road:

The lining machine has been ordered and delivered, the goals have been ordered and delivery is awaited.

637. Pond Maintenance:

The Parish Council is asked to agree a date when the maintenance of the pond is to take place. The waders and rakes have been obtained and as soon as the risk assessment and disclaimers have been completed the works can be undertaken.

It was agreed that the maintenance would take place on 12th and 13th October 2019 with the completed risk assessment being in place.

A management plan for the future maintenance of the pond and surrounding areas is to be drawn up.

638. Play equipment:

Report: Further to minute 612 of 29th July one company has attended a site visit and promised quotations in time for the preparation of this agenda, however they are still awaited. Another company has been contacted but have yet to respond with a date that they can attend a site visit.

An enquiry has been made of Ashford Borough Council to ascertain the level of funds available for the purchase of the equipment, whilst the Section 106 agreement shows a total of £53,792 with index linking has grown to £64,219 not all of these funds can be used as a capital purchase sum. The planning agreement specifies that 49% of the sum is for the capital purchase and 51% is to be retained as a maintenance fund this means that only £31,467 is available.

In view of this it is recommended that the area at Reynolds Playing Field is given the priority as some of the existing equipment is showing as a medium risk on the weekly inspections.

As the Parish Council has received a clear indication from the potential users of the equipment of what they would like to see it is recommended that as the total cost is likely to exceed £25,000 then the rules relating to procurement override the Parish Council's Financial Regulations and the Tender process has to be followed.

Resolved: to authorise the Parish Clerk to initiate the Tender process for the area at Reynolds Playing Field.

639. VE Day 75:

The working group has scheduled its first meeting for the 12th September 2019 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

640. Future projects:

The Parish Council is asked to consider what projects it would like to undertake over the course of the next three years to enable an appropriate budget to be considered.

641. Allotments:

Letters have been sent to 2 plot holders regarding weeds and non-cultivation no response has been received but it would appear that there is evidence that weed control measures have been put in place.

642. Trees in Quarry Wood:

Following the tree inspection carried out by a qualified arboriculturist the tree surgeons have now carried out the works required to make the area safe.

643. Local needs housing survey:

The Parish Council agreed at its meeting on 29th July 2019 that it would be appropriate to undertake a Local Needs Housing Survey as it is some four years since the last one was undertaken.

The Parish Council is asked to finalise how it wishes to undertake this exercise and the timeframe. Consideration needs to be given to the cost as this as it has not been included in the budget for the current financial year.

It was agreed that this item would be held over until the October meeting to be discussed in tandem with a potential neighbourhood plan project.

644. Otterpool Park:

Councillor Harman attended a study tour organised by Folkestone and Hythe District Council on 21st and 22nd August led by an urban planner. The tour covered examples such as Saffron Walden, Bishops Stortford and Letchworth aiming to show the best and worst in urban design.

Although Otterpool Park is a long term plan there is the potential for more services and shops becoming available for residents of Aldington.

645. Ashford Borough Councillor's report:

A local issue of note is complaints being received about flying footballs landing in gardens from the playing field. The possibility of the installation of nets will be reconsidered by the Parish Council at its October meeting.

Any decision to purchase nets should be undertaken jointly with Aldington Football Club.

646. Telephone Kiosk:

Councillor Spicer has undertaken research into the possible uses of the telephone kiosk which included use as a local history booth. However, it has been decided that the most appropriate usage would be as a children's book swap. It was acknowledged that there is the table in the foyer at the village hall but this is not always open.

647. Village Hall Car Park:

The car park has now been resurfaced.

648. Village Hall:

Councillor Boulding advised that the number of bookings is showing an increase.

649. Correspondence:

1. Rural Network Services – The Rural Bulletin 9th July 2019
2. Rural Network Services – The Rural Bulletin 16th July 2019
3. Rural Network Services – The Rural Bulletin 23rd July 2019
4. Rural Network Services – The Rural Bulletin 30th July 2019
5. Rural Network Services – The Rural Bulletin 6th August 2019
6. Rural Network Services – The Rural Bulletin 13th August 2019
7. Rural Network Services – The Rural Bulletin 20th August 2019
8. Rural Network Services – The Rural Bulletin 28th August 2019
9. Ashford Borough Council – Parish briefing No 10

10. Ashford Borough Council – Parish briefing No 11
11. Ashford Borough Council – Parish briefing No 12
12. Ashford Borough Council – Parish briefing No 14
13. Ashford Borough Council – Parish briefing No 15
14. Ashford Borough Council – Parish briefing No 16
15. Ashford Borough Council – Parish briefing No 17
16. Information Commissioners Office Newsletter July
17. Information Commissioners Office Newsletter August
18. CPRE – Fieldwork
19. County Lines Partner Pack
20. KCC Inside Track issue 259
21. Kent Association of Local Councils – News
22. Kent Police – summer newsletter
23. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government – By their deeds and their results.
24. Village Survival Guide

650. Any Other Business:

It was reported that the road edge is collapsing on Boat Lane next to the junction of Knoll Hill and the general state of the surface from Giggers Green down to the canal, this will be reported to Kent Highways.

It was reported that the lamp post on Reynolds Playing Field was not working. This will be reported.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.00pm.