

Minutes of a meeting of Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council held on Monday 11th November 2019 at the Eco Centre, Goldwell Lane, Aldington at 7.30pm.

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

In attendance: Peter Setterfield PSLCC, Parish Clerk.

Also present: 5 members of the public.

671. To receive and accept apologies for absence:

Councillor A Baldwin.

672. 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.

673. Minutes:

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th October 2019 were submitted, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

674. Public participation session:

A resident reported that there was a car parked on Roman Road adjacent to the play area which has been there some considerable time, can it be reported. The **Chairman responded that he would check to see if the vehicle was taxed if not he would report it.**

675. Chairman's Report:

The Chairman reported that together with the Clerk, the Vice Chairman and Borough Councillor a meeting had been held regarding the site allocated, S52, on Goldwell Lane with the land owner and architects at their request to discuss their initial thoughts and designs. As the site is within the Ashford Local Plan the development cannot be refused, however seeking to work with the developer is the best way to influence the design. Once the plans have been drawn up there will be a public presentation before they are submitted to Ashford Borough Council.

The PCSO together with the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator recently held an engagement meeting at the Village Hall at which the level of turnout was very disappointing. There will be future events of a similar nature and timings will be changed to see if a wider audience attends.

The recently piloted newsletter has been well received with positive feedback, this will be further discussed later in the meeting.

676. Parish Council Vacancy:

The Returning Officer at Ashford Borough Council has confirmed that they have not received requests from ten or more residents of Bonnington for an election to fill the vacant seat. The Parish Council can therefore proceed to co-opt a replacement Member who meets the qualification requirements.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the vacancy would be widely advertised and that preference would be given to a Bonnington resident should they choose to apply.

Resolved: To authorise the Parish Clerk to advertise the position of Councillor to represent the Parishioners of Bonnington.

677. Planning:

19/01542/AS – Sea Glympse, Frith Road, Aldington – Replacement chalet style dwelling and a detached garage (resubmission to 16/01649/AS – Erection of a replacement detached dwelling and detached garage).

Resolved: The Parish Council offers no objection to the application.

678. Neighbourhood Planning:

In accordance with Minute 658, Neighbourhood Planning, an up to date map showing the Parish Council's boundaries has been obtained from Ashford Borough Council and a formal request has been submitted to the Planning Department requesting the designation of the combined Parishes of Aldington and Bonnington as a Neighbourhood Area.

Councillors are attending a briefing meeting on 17th December to be given by the Principal Planner, Planning Policy, Ashford Borough Council.

679. Ashford Borough Councillor's Report:

Councillor Harman reported that the movement sensor lighting bollards are now being installed at Quarry House and will be adjusted over the next few weeks for optimum performance. There is a continuing dialogue with the manager over the public spaces inside the building regarding the pulling of blinds and turning off of lights to minimise the light spill.

680. Highways:

a. Roman Road:

Kent Highways are dealing with this under a Parish Highway Improvement Plan and have indicated that in view of their workload at present that it will be some weeks before any further information will come forward. The PCSO for the Parish has confirmed that he will be monitoring the area when available at the start and end of the school day.

County Councillor Bell is monitoring the situation here and has been advised that the Steward will be undertaking his further site visit within the next couple of weeks prior to submitting his findings/recommendations. **The Highways Improvement Plan is also to be sent to her and a copy made available to all members of the Parish Council.**

It was reported that the Aldington Village sign on Station Road has been knocked over **The Parish Clerk to report to Kent Highways.**

During the last week, contractors have been working on the defects in the resurfacing works carried out on Calleywell Lane, Forge Hill/New Road Hill and Knoll Hill mainly around the ironworks this has resulted in the surface becoming uneven and water laying in these areas. **The Parish Clerk is requested to submit a letter of complaint to Kent Highways regarding the poor quality of these works.**

Following the incident last week on Frith Road at the junction of Priory Road Kent Highways are to be requested to review the speed limit in this area as it is currently the National Speed Limit. **The Parish Clerk is requested to add this to the Highways Improvement Plan and also to request that it is placed on the Bilsington Highways Improvement Plan as the Parishes merge at the point of the incident.**

Councillor Harman reported that she had made a formal complaint to Kent Highways regarding the drainage works being carried out on Giggers Green Road and the fact that there has been a lack of communication with residents as to when and where access to their properties would be allowed.

A resident pointed out that despite numerous visits from Highways water is still running down the verge at the lower end of Calleywell Lane. **The Parish Clerk to take forward.**

b. Speed Indicator Device:

The statistics downloaded from the Speed Indicator Device for the last two weeks have been compared with those for the same period last year when it was situated on Roman Road capturing information on vehicles approaching from the Goldwell Lane direction.

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
22/10/18		1197	1219	1295	1314	965	975
21/10/19		1168	1125	1085	1215	1052	929
Variation		-29	-94	-210	-99	+87	-156
29/10/18	1305	1305	1565	1602	1396	1033	804
28/10/19	1304	1389	1390	1306	1392	1202	894
Variation	-1	+84	-175	-296	-4	+169	+90
Weekly average over 24 weeks	1214	1226	1294	1317	1375	1254	1175

Members requested that future analysis should be further detailed in order to ascertain the period of time during the day when variation occurs.

681. Finance:

Schedule of payments:

Chq No	Payee	Detail	Amount
1452	Terry Lee	Outside tap Village hall	£274.53
1453	P Kemp	Reimbursement	£30.00
1454	Enter Digital	External light Village Hall	£462.00
1455	SLCC Enterprises	Training course	£48.00
1456	Harmer & Sons	Grounds Maintenance	£966.00
1457	Aldington & Bonnington Gardening Society	Village Hall Planters	£58.44
1458	D Earnshaw		£626.51
1459	Aldington Village Hall	Room hire	£16.00
1460	Terry Baker	MUGA lighting	£42.00

Chq No	Payee	Detail	Amount
1461 & 1462	Staff costs		£1,319.66

Resolved:

1. To receive and approve payment of items in the schedule of payments.
2. To transfer the sum of £4,000.00 from deposit account to current account.

682. Finance half year review:

Report ABPC/19/17 brings to the Parish Council an update on its financial standing against its budget at the end of the first half of the financial year.

Resolved:

1. To receive and note **Report ABPC/19/17**.
2. To receive and note the financial position at the end of the first half of the financial year.

683. Recording of Parish Council Meetings:

Report ABPC/19/18 has been compiled following a request made during the public participation session at the Parish Council's meeting on 14th October 2019.

Resolved:

1. To receive and note **Report ABPC/19/18**
2. To receive and note the legislative requirements
3. To not record meetings of the Parish Council and that members of the public wishing to record meetings need to seek permission before commencement of the meeting.

684. Recreation Land, Roman Road:

a. Protective netting:

A meeting has been held with members of the Football Club committee who will be returning to the full committee at its meeting tonight with details. The Parish Council will look at this matter at its December meeting once it has a firm proposal from the Football Club.

b. Pond maintenance:

Further research is being undertaken before any proposals are placed before the Parish Council as it would appear that the drain from the football pitch has become blocked as no water is draining into the pond.

Councillor Boulden will look at the drain and arrange for its clearance. As there is a large build-up of silt on the clay liner it will require mechanical equipment to remove **the Parish Clerk is to arrange for quotations for the work and to ascertain from Ashford**

Borough Council when the access through Ragstone Hollow will be reopened an order that the equipment can be brought in with minimal damage to the green.

c. Play equipment:

An invitation to tender has been placed on the Government's Contracts Finder website in accordance with the Parish Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. 12 companies have responded asking for further information, a closing date for Tenders has been set for 18th November.

685. VE Day 75:

Ticket sales for the Vintage Tea Party have been slow and members were asked to promote.

686. Allotments:

Councillor Kemp advised that there are issues with two of the plots in that the holders have not carried out any meaningful cultivation for a period of 2 years in one case and 3 years in the other. The holders have received written warnings about this. It was agreed that the tenancies for these two holders would be terminated at renewal. **The Parish Clerk is to write informing and requesting that all personal property is removed from the plot.**

687. Village Hall:

Councillor Boulding reported that the long-awaited external tap has now been installed. It was also reported that bookings are on the increase and that good comments have been posted on Facebook and the number of followers of the Village Hall webpage is increasing.

688. Telephone Kiosk:

The door has now been attached to the kiosk, the only external works needed now are the embellishment of the crown. Work can now commence to install the shelving ready for the children's book exchange.

Councillor Spicer is to take forward the necessary arrangements to get the shelving installed.

689. Otterpool Park:

An update regarding the water supply has been received from the Otterpool team which was attached to the agenda.

690. Correspondence:

- a. Ashford Borough Council Parish briefing No 22
- b. Ashford Borough Council Parish briefing No 23
- c. Ashford Borough Council Parish briefing No 24
- d. Ashford Borough Council Parish briefing No 25
- e. Ashford Borough Council Parish briefing No 26
- f. Ashford Borough Council Parish briefing No 27
- g. Rural Network Services – Rural Bulletin 15th October 2019
- h. Rural Network Services – Rural Bulletin 22nd October 2019
- i. Rural Network Services – Rural Bulletin 29th October 2019
- j. Rural Network Services – Rural Bulletin 5th November 2019

- k. Kent Association of Local Councils October Newsletter
- l. Reaching Out – a guide to tackling loneliness
- m. The Good Councillor’s Guide to Transport Planning.

691. Any Other Business:

Councillor Harman requested that a letter of thanks be sent to the Church for organising the Remembrance Sunday service.

The newsletter was discussed the intention is to highlight the key projects and the key issues. At present this is being funded by Councillor Harman if it were to continue and the Parish Council financing the project the indicative cost is £54 per issue. **This will be added to the December agenda for a formal decision to be made.**

Councillor Kemp advised that he had been approached by the Church regarding the old Parish Council noticeboard. It was agreed to donate the board to them as a replacement was being considered which will be sited next to the Reynolds Playing Field play area on Roman Road.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.