

**Minutes of a meeting of Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 online at 7.30 pm.**

In accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 this meeting was held as a virtual meeting.

**Present:** Councillors: L Harman (Chairman), A Baldwin, R Boulding, A Bowman, P Kemp, R Spicer and S Wagstaff.

**In attendance:** Peter Setterfield PSLCC, Parish Clerk.

**876. Apologies for Absence:**

Cllrs M Boulden and W Parkinson.

**877. Declarations of Interest:**

Councillor Harman declared an interest in minute 880, planning, as a member of Ashford Borough Council Planning Committee and did not participate in this item.

**878. Public Participation Session:**

Whilst there were no members of the public present it has been observed on social media some issues which need to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council. It would seem that a “den” has been established in the area of woodland adjacent to Handen Quarry potentially without the farmer or land owners consent. There is also evidence of fly tipping. The Chairman has contacted the land owner.

Comments have also been posted about Anti Social behaviour in the Village

**879. Minutes:**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 were submitted, agreed as a true record to be signed by the Chairman at a time when current meeting restrictions permit.

**Councillor Harman passed control of the meeting to Councillor Baldwin for the next agenda item.**

**880. Planning Matters:**

An overview of the decisions made by the planning committee were presented to the full council for ratification.

**Planning application 21/00150/AS Land rear of 2 to 16 Longsfield off, Quarry wood, Aldington** – Erection of 3 dwellings accessed from Quarry Wood together with associated landscaping and engineering works.

**Resolved: The Parish Council wish to comment on the application as follows: The application appears to be contrary to policy SP1 of the Ashford Local Plan 2030 in that the site is not easily accessible and does not promote access to a wide choice of easy to use forms of sustainable transport as the nearest railway station is in Ashford and the bus service is very limited during the daytime with no evening or weekend service necessitating the use of private cars.**

The application appears to be contrary to Policy HOU3a of the Ashford Local Plan 2030 in that the layout of the site is not compatible with the layout and character of the immediate area and will have an adverse impact on the residents of Quarry Wood as well as those who share a boundary in Longsfield who will be overlooking the proposed properties.

**Councillor Baldwin passed control of the meeting back to Councillor Harman.**

**881. Finance:**

Schedule of payments:

Chq No	Payee	Purpose	Amount
1573	Maps4Planners	Neighbourhood Plan	£25.00
1574	Alison Eardley	Neighbourhood Plan	£480.00
1575	James Boot	Neighbourhood Plan	£380.00
1576	Harmer & Sons	Grounds maintenance	£1,017.90
1577, 1578 & 1579	Staff costs		£1,625.31
1580	P Kemp	Reimbursement	£10.56
1581	N Corfield	Allotment rent	£25.00
1582	D Earnshaw	Reimbursement re gate	£191.22

**Resolved: To authorise payment of the cheques listed in the schedule of payments.**

**882. Refurbishment of the Reynolds Play Area:**

The project to refurbish the Play area at Reynolds Playing Field is to be financed from the S106 agreement completed for the Wheatfields development. The Parish Council have now received the funding agreement from Ashford Borough Council which has been signed and returned. The order for the equipment has now been placed.

**883. NHS, Social Care & Frontline Workers' Day:**

Minute 867 dated 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 refers. Members asked that the matter be considered at the March meeting in order that further research could be undertaken and an understanding of the potential situation regarding public gatherings might be available.

It was decided that at the present time it was too early to make a decision in terms of staging an event.

**ACTION: The Parish Clerk to ascertain the costs of an appropriate flag to be flown on the day.**

**884. Neighbourhood Plan:**

The Neighbourhood Plan Team had a virtual meeting with AECOM who are undertaking the preparation work for the Neighbourhood Plan, the purpose of the meeting was to give AECOM an overview of the Parish which was accomplished by a virtual tour of the Parish.

It is intended that a virtual community event be organised in April to publicise what has been achieved so far with the intention of engaging with the younger age group, and an in person presentation will be held when current restrictions are relaxed.

885. **Quarry Field, woodland and pond:**

The materials have been obtained to enable the completion of the pedestrian gate onto Reynolds Playing Field.

886. **Allotments:**

The annual renewals have all been sent out and all have renewed. There are currently 3 on the waiting list, it was noted that there is a plot at the Aldington Meadows site which was designated for compost bins this will be rotavated and offered to those on the waiting list.

**ACTION: Councillor Kemp to organise the rotavating of the plot and request a quotation for the building of an appropriate compost bin.**

887. **Other items for information:**

The planters have been installed opposite the Millenium stone and adjacent to the Bus shelter. The tending of the planter by the Millenium Stone has been organised but a volunteer is needed for the other.

**ACTION: The communications team is asked to post an appropriate notice on the Council's Facebook page and the website.**

Councillor Boulding reported that Mrs Gibbs and Mrs Older had planted some more Rose bushes and hedging at the War Memorial site.

**ACTION: The Parish Clerk to send a letter of thanks to Mrs Gibbs and Mrs Older acknowledging the works.**

Councillor Kemp requested a letter of thanks be sent to the Post Office for hosting the defibrillator and providing the necessary power supply.

**ACTION: The Parish clerk to send a letter.**

Discussion was held about how recognition can be given to those that undertake things that are beneficial to the Parish.

**ACTION: The communications team to discuss and put forward a strategy.**

888. **Exclusion of the Public and Press:**

**Resolved: That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the Public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be conducted.**

889. **Aldington Meadows:**

No decisions were made as further research is required before any plans are made.

**ACTION: The Parish Clerk to liaise with Councillor Spicer.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20 pm

Next meeting of the Parish Council 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021.