

Minutes of a meeting of Bilsington Parish Council held at Bilsington Village Hall on Thursday 30th September 2021 at 7.30pm.

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

In attendance: Peter Setterfield Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

835. **Apologies for Absence:**

County Councillor D Robey and Borough Councillor L Harman.

836. **Declarations of Interest:**

Councillor L Lawson declared an interest in minute 840 b and c as the owner, she did not take part in the discussion or the voting.

837. **Minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th August 2021 were submitted, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

838. **Ashford Borough Councillor's Report:**

Councillor Harman reported a blocked drain at the junction of Priory Road and Frith Road. This will be reported to KCC.

839. **Kent County Councillor's Report:**

Submitted by email:

- KCC is looking at budgets from now to mid 2025 and things look likely to be tight, in terms of the services required and the money to fund them.
- The A2070 was discussed at length at the Ashford JTB on Tuesday 7th September. A speed survey has been carried out on the whole length of the road from Ashford to Brenzett, with no speeding issue found. The focus going forward will be on the stretch of the road from the Clover Leaf Roundabout to the Bridgefield Roundabout, where we are hoping to try and make the whole section 50 mph and also look at what can be done to reduce motorcycle noise levels.
- The government is asking local government to come up with suggestions for what they would like to do in what areas, if more powers were delegated to them. This is called a County Deal and KCC is working on proposals, in consultation with the District and Borough Councils in Kent and Medway Unitary. A key focus is likely to be on infrastructure, in its various forms.
- KCC is looking at how to improve the situation with litter and fly-tipping across Kent. This is a complex issue, but is likely to result in litter-picking and the money to do this, being delegated to Parish Councils and similar bodies, on the subsidiarity principle.
- There are serious skills shortages across Kent, in a wide range of areas, including the full range of jobs, which, alongside shortages of many materials, is holding back economic recovery and is therefore a key focus for KCC and the government.

- I have asked for the last section of blocked drain with the broken pipe to be looked at and fixed and this should be happening shortly.

840. **Planning:**

- a. **21/01455/AS Woodacre, Brockmans Lane, Bilsington** - Proposed oak front porch; single storey side extension; alterations to the fenestration.

Resolved: The Parish Council unanimously support the application.

- b. **21/01364/AS St Augustines Priory, Priory Road, Bilsington** – Proposed conversion of redundant store within former stables to tearoom including internal alterations to provide kitchen, toilets and external seating area with associated landscaping and alterations to the fenestration.

Resolved: The Parish Council supports the application.

- c. **21/ 01527/AS St Augustines Priory, Priory Road, Bilsington** – Proposed works to facilitate the conversion of redundant store within former stables to tearoom including internal alterations to provide kitchen, toilets and external seating area with associated landscaping and alterations to the fenestration.

Resolved: The Parish Council supports the application.

- d. **21/01477/AS Crisinda, Brockmans Lane, Bilsington** – Partial roof extension with dormer window to facilitate loft conversion.

Resolved: The Parish Council unanimously support the application.

- e. **21/01507/AS 1 Monument Terrace, Ruckinge Road, Bilsington** – Change of use of land to residential and siting of mobile home for ancillary annexe accommodation (retrospective).

Resolved: The Parish Council unanimously object to the application on the grounds that the land is beyond the built confine of the village and should remain as agricultural land.

The Parish Council would be prepared to consider the siting of the mobile home if it were to be sited within the curtilage of 1 Monument Terrace with a condition that occupancy was for overspill accommodation for family as at present.

841. **Finance:**

Schedule of payments:

P Setterfield £170.38 reimbursement purchase of defibrillator pads

Information Commissioners Office £40.00

Staff Costs £365.11

Resolved:

1. **To authorise the payments in the schedule.**
2. **To make a provision in the next year's budget to set up a reserve fund for the purpose of maintaining sufficient funds to replace defibrillator parts.**

842. **Parish Council Insurance:**

Report BPC/21/06 brings to the Parish Council details for the annual renewal of its insurance policy.

Resolved:

- 1. To receive and note Report BPC/21/06**
- 2. To receive and note the quotations provided**
- 3. To accept the quotation from Zurich Municipal on a 3 year long term agreement.**

843. Flagpole:

The Village Hall Committee have agreed that a flag pole can be installed in the garden at the front of the hall.

The Parish Clerk is asked to get quotes for a flag pole and to approach the Borough Council Ward Member for a contribution to the cost from her ward member grant.

844. Highways:

The drainage issues at the crossroads are still being investigated, the initial survey has identified a blockage which is due to be dealt with. No update has been received from Kent Highways in respect of the improved road markings identified through the Highways Improvement Plan.

During the last weekend there was an accident at the crossroads where a car travelling on the Bonnington to Ruckinge Road was written off as a car coming down Ashford Road was blinded by the sun and failed to see the stop sign or the road markings. The matter has been brought to the attention of the County Councillor as the previous member funded improvements to the junction to reduce accident risk.

Borough Councillor Harman arrived.

845. Other Items for Information:

Arrangements are being put in place for the lighting of the Christmas tree on 5th December 2020.

It is intended that a training session on the use of the defibrillator will be organised shortly.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm.