

Minutes of a meeting of Bilsington Parish Council held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021 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: S Hudson (Chairman), M Bilham, S Carrington, L Lawson, and R Thompson.

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

Also present: L Harman (ABC) D Robey (KCC candidate) & a planning consultant.

801. **Apologies for absence:**

Kent County Councillor M Angell.

802. **To receive any declarations of interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

**Councillor Hudson joined the meeting having experienced IT complications.**

803. **Minutes:**

The minutes of the virtual meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were submitted, agreed as a true record, to be signed by the Chairman at a later date.

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

Cllr Harman reported that she had been working with the local KALC committee on the consultation relating to the NPPF. The consultation includes local design codes and amendments to the permitted development rights..

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

M Angell did not attend or submit a report due to purdah restrictions on the KCC election.

806. **Planning:**

A discussion was held on the subject of Affordable and Local Needs Housing. It has been some years since the last Local Needs Housing Survey was undertaken, members were asked if they wished to undertake one.

**Resolved: The Parish Council does not wish to undertake a Local Needs Housing Survey.**

The Parish Council has received a letter from a Planning Consultant about the possibility of a small affordable housing scheme in the village. There was a joint scheme with Ruckinge in 2008 where a site was identified in each village, only the Ruckinge site was taken forward. The current owner of the Bilsington site, current access being between Cherrytree and Woodmead on Ruckinge Road, is keen to

progress a scheme having made approaches to English Rural Housing, Action for Communities in Rural Kent and Ashford Borough Council.

**Resolved: The Parish Council would not support a Local Needs Housing Survey or any development on the site proposed for the following reasons:**

**Any application would be contrary to Ashford Local Plan Policy HOU2 as Bilsington has not been identified as a Parish within the housing policies HOU3a or HOU5 of the Ashford Local Plan 2030.**

**The access to the site is too narrow as well as too close to the stretch of Ruckinge Road which is single track, visibility splays would be difficult to achieve.**

**The site is adjacent to the Village conservation area.**

**Any development on the site would be unsustainable as there are no services within the village, there is no mains gas, lack of medical facilities. The bus service is infrequent resulting in the need for the use of private cars on a regular basis.**

**The level of the site is considerably higher than the road.**

807. **Finance:**

Schedule of payments:

Staff costs January: £302.08

Staff costs February: £ 276.86

**Resolved: to authorise the payments in the schedule of payments.**

808. **NHS, Social Care & Frontline workers' day 5 July 2021:**

Discussion was held and it was agreed that as the 5<sup>th</sup> July is a Monday it would not be practical to hold an event on this day, further thought will be given to arranging something to acknowledge the day.

It was felt more appropriate to hold a community event towards the end of August discussion will be had with the Village Hall Committee.

809. **Other items for information:**

The current legislation permitting the use of virtual meetings is due to expire on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021. The Council's external auditors have recommended that the approval of the annual governance return should be undertaken at a virtual meeting before the legislation expires.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May following the Annual Parish meeting which will commence at 6.30pm both meetings to be held on the Zoom platform.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.22pm.