

PLUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON JULY 18TH 2011

Present

M Newman – **Chairman**
A Wickham – **Vice Chairman**
Debbie Breach
Tony Evans

Chris Housman
Tim Maddrell
Clair Bell – Ashford BC
and one parishioner

- 1 Apologies for absence were received from David Hocking and Helen Missing.
- 2 There were no alterations to members Register of Interests.
- 3 There were no declarations of interest on agenda items.
- 4 Item raised by parishioner present.
Madrona Nursery presented a planting plan for a variety of shrubs along the boundary fence surrounding the village hall lawn. It was noted the estimated cost was £289 for supply only. Councillors also asked for a price including planting.
It was agreed to purchase the shrubs and decide on the planting options in due course.
- 5 The minutes of the meeting held on June 20th were approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 6 Local Needs Housing.
The revised proposals from English Rural Housing were considered and **it was agreed** that the new scheme was acceptable, however before confirmation to ERH the Chairman said there should be a village presentation of the proposals. This would be in the Village Hall on August 13th from 10am to 12 noon.
The Council would make its final decision at the meeting on September 19th.
- 7 Village hall refurbishment.
Councillors noted the new windows that were in situ and agreed the final result as excellent. The resanded and resealed floor also looked excellent. It was noted that it would benefit from recoating about every two years.
A continuous pelmet would be installed and the hearing loop would be “behind” it. The proposed colour scheme (suggested by Debbie Breach and Helen Missing) was noted and all agreed it would look very attractive.
It was also noted that dates for redecoration had been agreed.
Estimates for cavity wall insulation were expected soon.
- 8 Noise levels from the Hall.
Mike Whatman drew attention to a complaint from a neighbour concerning noise levels, particularly from band practices.
Various attenuation measures were discussed and Mike Whatman agreed to get some estimates. In the meantime he would talk to the “offender” and the neighbour to mitigate the nuisance.
It was agreed that midweek band practices must end by 10pm.
- 9 Recreation Ground.
It was noted the new playground was formally opened on July 16th.
Fencing to protect the play area from errant cricket balls was subject to finding a supplier – two had withdrawn.
The proposed move of the old equipment to Thorne Estate was awaiting a working party to undertake the move. It was noted that the “teens” would like a meeting place shelter and a “half pipe”. Park Leisure has been asked for estimates.
- 10 Sports Pavilion. The application for extensions and alterations to the Pavilion had been submitted to Ashford BC. **It was agreed** to supply cleaning materials for the pavilion. A Symonds would be asked to make his requests to the Clerk.

- 11 Traffic Review meeting report.
The public meeting had been held (in the Pavilion) on July 16th. About 40-50 parishioners attended. The vast majority supported the Traffic Review and its conclusions. Public feedback was that “gates”, pinch points and inter active signs are favoured but speed bumps and pedestrian crossings are not. The Chairman said there had been support for a “Speedwatch” and if volunteers came forward it could be organised.
It was mentioned that many local road signs are obscured by overgrown hedges. If the Clerk is advised of locations he will follow up with KCC.
It was agreed to ask County Councillor, R King, to investigate under the “Member Highway Fund” options for traffic calming on Forge Hill. The Chairman would draft a letter to R King and seek councillors comments before sending.
It was noted that NALC (National Association of Local Councils) supported our proposal for a national 50mph limit on minor roads. This had been passed to Government.
- 12 Broadband.
Nothing further to report.
- 13 Dering Wood.
Tony Evans agreed to arrange a joint Pluckley/Smarden meeting.
- 14 Planning (See attached)
It was noted that the Westwell Leacon Biogas scheme would be discussed by Ashford BC on September 21st. All objectors could attend.
Chris Housman reported on his attendance at an Ashford BC planning training session which he said was very worthwhile. Copies of the notes would be available via the Clerk.
- 15 Finance (see attached)
All the payments were approved.
- 16 Q1 outturn.
This was noted.
- 17 Ashford Borough Councillors report.
Clair Bell commented on the sheltered housing scheme proposed for Smarden and said discussions on eligibility were taking place. She also said the initial presentation had not been handled well and further work was needed.
On the question of lobbying she said there was no objection to this at Ashford BC provided it was conducted appropriately.
- 18 Clerks report.
Mr Smith mentioned the withdrawal of the Biddenden –Ashford (via Pluckley) Saturday bus service. The Monday to Friday service would continue to operate.
He also requested that the Council consider a proper notice board outside the Village Hall. He was asked to get estimates.
- 19 Correspondence.
The box was made available to councillors.
Mike Whatman agreed to attend the Parish Forum as the Chairman was unavailable.
- 20 Next meeting.
September 19th. (No August meeting)

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