

BIDBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE BIDBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL ON 27 MARCH 2023 STARTING AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Thorne (Chairman) and
Councillors Hawksfield, Moore, Shepherdson, and Mrs Summers

In Attendance – Neil Harris (Clerk) and Borough Councillor Sankey

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor McInroy and Borough Councillor Allan

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Moore and Shepherdson disclosed that they were Members of the Cricket Club.

3. Minutes of the Meetings of the Council held on 27 February 2023

It was **Agreed** that the minutes of the meetings held on 27 February 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2023

There were no matters arising.

5. Report of the Borough and County Councillors

Councillor Sankey indicated that he would submit through to the Council a report on the position re the TWBC budget.

6. Public Participation

The public had an opportunity to raise questions with the Council and for Councillors and the Clerk to respond where appropriate: -

- That a date for the annual parish meeting will be fixed in the near future
- That Conflicts of Interest would be discussed at the Trust meeting and legal advice had been sought.
- The Parish Newsletter was being discussed later in the agenda and the option of retaining it in its current format had been agreed at the last meeting.
- Agendas for future meetings of the Trust and the Council will appear on the website.

7. Payment List

It was **Agreed** that the Payment List as circulated at the meeting and as set out below be approved: -

Name	Reason Invoice No.	Net	VAT	Gross
Ashdown Garden Services	Garden Maintenance - March	500.00	0.00	500.00
Ashdown Garden Services	Grass Cutting – February/March	822.00	0.00	822.00
Gallagher	Insurance	943.45	0.00	943.45
NPower	Street Lighting Electricity costs – February - Paid	92.74	4.64	97.38
Pierson Agriculture	Gang Mowing, Flat topping Brockhurst field, Hedge cutting	818.38	163.68	982.06
Savills	Annual Rent	5.00	0.00	5.00
Unipar Services	Tuning Fork Purchase for Bidborough Speedwatch	61.00	12.20	73.20
Neil Harris	Payroll and mileage for February/March (including 7 additional days in March taking payment up to end of financial year)	1213.23	0.00	1213.23
HMRC	National Insurance and Tax Payment Month 12	453.89	0.00	453.89

8. Planning Application - 23/00446/Full – 9 Home Farm View, Penshurst Road, Bidborough

It was **Agreed** to raise no objection to planning application 23/00446/Full - 5 Home Farm View, Penshurst Road, Bidborough.

9. Planning Application - 23/00463/Full – Realm Park, Barden Road, Bidborough

It was **Agreed** to raise no objection to planning application 23/00463/Full - 5 Realm Park, Barden Road, Bidborough.

10. Coronation Seat and Memorial Plaque

Mr Ray Skinner reported that the cost of the repair work to the Coronation seat was £219, and the 2 plaques as illustrated at the meeting was £446. It was noted that the expenditure was within the budget of £1000 allocated for this project.

11. Coronation Commeration

The Chairman indicated that she had been liaising with the PTA at the School who had looked at a bookmark for each child, but which was now not available.

It was **Agreed** that the particular item of commeration for the Schoolchildren be determined by the School but that the Council would support whatever was decided with a grant of up to £500 or the equivalent of 50% of the item of commeration.

12. Hanging Baskets around the Village

The Clerk reported that a price had been received from the Council's current contractor CJS for supporting 12 Hanging baskets in the village for
June to October - £900
All Year - £1800

It was **Agreed** that the price of £1800 from CJS for the whole year be approved.

13. Parish Council Archives

The Chairman reported that the existing filing cabinet in the Village Hall Storeroom was not lockable, and the Clerk advised that a lockable filing cabinet was essential. The Chairman indicated that she had a lockable filing cabinet that she was happy to donate to the Council.

It was **Agreed** that offer from the Chairman to donate a filing cabinet be accepted and it be placed in the Storeroom replacing the current cabinet

14. Allotments – Potential Tree Works

The Chairman reported that there was a series of tree works required at the allotments

It was **Agreed** that Thompson Tree Care be asked to price for the work and if the price is reasonable that the Chairman be authorised to accept the quote.

15. Trust Meeting - Arrangements

The Council considered whether the Trust meeting as it was not a Council meeting could be held in public. The Clerk advised that the Trust meeting was not subject to Local Government rules but despite that there was no reason why the meeting could not be open to the public because as the Trust was in effect formed of the Council the rules for Local Government should apply

It was **Agreed** that the position be noted and that the Trust be recommended that their meetings be open to the public

16. Newsletter

Discussion ensued on whether with the election imminent that the publication of the Newsletter be deferred until after the election.

It was **Agreed** that the publication of the Newsletter be deferred until after the election.

17. KSS Air Ambulance Charity

The Clerk reported that he had received correspondence from KSS Air Ambulance Charity asking for financial support for the provision of this very useful service

It was **Agreed** that a grant of £300 be made to the KSS Air Ambulance Charity

18. Exclusion of the Press and Public – Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

It was **Agreed** that the press and public be excluded from the meeting in accordance with the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to enable the Council to consider confidential information in respect of an employment issue.

19. Confidential Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 February 2023

The Council considered this matter in private.

20. Employment Matter Legal Advice Costs

The Council considered the request from the Chairman of the Council for reimbursement of the legal fees she had incurred at the outset of the employment matter that the Council had subsequently taken forward. She felt that the request for reimbursement was reasonable as the matter on which the advice had been sought was an employment issue for the Council, and which was subsequently taken forward by the Council. She stated that all the advice received was subsequently made available to the Council either directly or in work taken which was used by the Council in dealing with this matter. Additionally, advice was also sought and received in the preparation of the papers for the Council meeting held on 31 January 2022.

The Chairman indicated that the total cost of the advice received was £9030.

It was **Agreed** that, subject to confirmation that the invoices had been paid, that the Chairman be reimbursed £9030 as requested above.

21. Duration of Meeting

7.00pm to 9.04pm