

## **BIDBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE BIDBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL ON 24 FEBRUARY 2025 STARTING AT 7.00PM**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs Vidler (Chairman) and Councillors Cole, Eames, Hinds, Marriott, Stevens and Mrs Summers.

**In Attendance** –Neil Harris (Clerk)

#### **1. Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was received from County Councillor McInroy

#### **2. Declarations of Interest**

Councillors Stevens and Mrs Vidler stated that they were Trustees of the Friends of Bidborough Charity but that there was no interest to be disclosed in any of the items on the agenda.

#### **3. Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 27 January 2025**

It was **Agreed** that the minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed.

#### **4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2025**

There were no matters arising

#### **5. Report of the Borough and County Councillors**

There were no County Councillor or Borough Councillors present at the meeting.

#### **6. Public Participation**

The issue of speeding along Bidborough Ridge and the need for a Zebra Crossing was raised and Councillor Stevens stated that the Council had taken up these issues with the Kent County Council.

#### **7. 25/00156/TPO – Ridgelands Cottage, Penshurst Road, Bidborough**

It was **Agreed** to raise no objection to application 25/00156/TPO.

## 8. Payment List

It was **Agreed** that the Payment List as set out below be approved and that the income received and transfers between accounts be noted: -

### Expenditure For Approval

Name	Reason for Invoice	Net	VAT	Gross
Vision ICT	Email Hosting for April 2025 to March 2026	160.00	32.00	192.00
Thompson Tree Care	Pond Clearance Works	350.00	70.00	420.00
Neil Harris	Payroll for February	947.70	0.00	947.70
HMRC	National Insurance and Tax Payment – Month 11	273.96	0.00	273.96
April Skies Accounting Ltd	Interim Audit 2024/25	275.00	0.00	275.00
SSE Energy Solutions	Streetlights Energy Costs for January	157.44	10.92	168.74
Parkinson Partnership	VAT Advice for Arthur Nicholson Recreation Ground	850.00	170.00	1020.00

### Income Received since last meeting

Name	Reason for Income	Net	VAT	Gross
Bank	Interest – January	103.00	0.00	103.00

### Transfers between Council Accounts

Account	Account to be Transferred to	Reason	Amount
Business Reserve	Treasurers	Fund approved expenditure	900

## 9. Budget Report

The Council considered the Financial Budget Comparison report detailing expenditure and income received by the Council as submitted by the Clerk.

It was **Agreed** that the report be noted.

#### **10. Birch Wood Land – Ash Dieback Survey and Quote**

The Clerk reported that the Ash Dieback tree works would be starting on 17 March.

It was **Agreed** that the report be noted.

#### **11. Bidborough HIP and Double Yellow Lines Consultation – Update Report**

The Clerk reported that 51 responses had been received to the double yellow line's consultation with 25 in favour, 25 against and 1 don't know. This was a low turnout with no positive result. The response had been sent to KCC to see whether they would wish to take the proposals forward in light of the response.

It was **Agreed** that the report be noted.

#### **12. Church Bank**

The Clerk reported that he had arranged a meeting with a representative from Savills, representing the Diocese, to discuss the Church Bank and that Councillor Stevens was also attending.

It was **Agreed** that the report be noted.

#### **13. Church Wall and Gates**

The Clerk reported that he was meeting with Councillor Stevens on site to look at the Church Wall and Gates to consider the best way forward,

It was **Agreed**

(1) that the report be noted

(2) that Bob Gibson from the PCC be invited to attend that meeting and the meeting with the Diocese on the Church Bank.

(3) that the lampposts, lights and path in the Churchyard be considered as part of this meeting

#### **14. Signage at Entrances to Arthur Nicholson Recreation Ground**

The Clerk reported that on his site visit he was also going to look at the signage to the entrances to the Arthur Nicholson Recreation Ground to determine the best approach for resolving this matter.

It was **Agreed** that the report be noted.

### **15, Bidborough Primary School Spring Fair**

The Council had been asked by the Bidborough PTA whether it could use the Peter Roberts Field for the Bidborough Primary Spring Fair on the afternoon of 16 May.

It was **Agreed** that the request from Bidborough PTA to use the Peter Roberts Field for the Bidborough Primary Spring Fair on the afternoon of 16 May be agreed.

### **16. Tunbridge Wells Counselling Centre – Donation Request**

The Chairman indicated that the investigation made by Councillor Marriott suggested that a donation would not be appropriate. She also indicated that in future the Council should work to a donations policy.

It was **Agreed**

(1) that the request for a donation from the Tunbridge Wells Counselling Centre be refused but that they be offered a free space in the Parish Newsletter

(2) that in future donations will be made to the Royal British Legion in respect of wreaths, Kent Air Ambulance, and bodies with a direct connection to Bidborough

### **17. Council Insurance**

The Clerk reported that he was currently within the process of seeking quotes in respect of the Council's insurance but with there being no meeting in March would not be able to complete the process of Council approval before the deadline date of 1 April.

It was **Agreed** that the Clerk be given delegated authority to approve the appointment of the Council's Insurers subject to first having consulted and acting in accord with the wishes of the Council.

### **18. Interim Audit 2024/25 – Internal Auditors Report**

The Council received the Internal Auditors Interim Audit report which showed a generally healthy position for the Council.

It was **Agreed** that the Internal Auditors Interim Audit 2024/25 report be accepted.

### **19. Cricket Pavilion**

The Chairman of the Council updated the Council on progress on this project and that the Architects contract was in the process of being signed by all parties. She also updated the

Council on the fundraising and grants position including that it was hoped that a fete would be held in September.

It was **Agreed** that the report be noted.

## **20. Neighbourhood Watch**

The Chairman stated that Councillor Cole had agreed to take on responsibility for Neighbourhood Watch. Councillor Cole indicated that he would be putting an article in the Spring Newsletter on Neighbourhood Watch and was looking at how he could best use the databases and information being held.

It was **Agreed** that the report be noted.

## **21. 30 Woodland Way**

Councillor Cole also indicated that he was taking up the matter of this empty property with TWBC but as yet was not getting an adequate response. He also indicated that, if necessary, he would take this matter up with Borough Councillor Ellis.

It was **Agreed** that the report be noted.

## **22. Hedge Trimming Issue at the Recreation Ground**

The Chairman indicated that she had liaised with all the relevant parties and that the Council would need to be present at the cutting of the hedge to ensure that it was cut to everybody's satisfaction.

It was **Agreed** that the report be noted.

## **23. The Glebe – Council Houses and Flats**

Councillor Stevens said he had taken up this issue with the Borough Council and now with the Housing Association in order to resolve concerns.

It was **Agreed** that the report be noted.

## **24. Duration of Meeting**

7.05pm to 8.38pm