

## **BIDBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE BIDBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL ON 7 APRIL 2025 STARTING AT 7.00PM**

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

**In Attendance** –County Councillor McInroy and Neil Harris (Clerk)

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

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Eames

#### **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.

All Councillors stated that they knew the applicant in respect of planning application 25/00546/FULL, but Councillors Stevens and Mrs Summers stated that they had an interest in this application and would not participate or vote on it.

#### **3. Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 24 February 2025**

It was **Agreed** that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed subject to Minute 10 being amended to add the thanks of the Council to the Birchwood Association and volunteers.

#### **4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2025**

There were no matters arising

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

County Councillor McInroy stated that Operation Brock had been reinstated. He also stated that he was not standing in the next KCC election in a few weeks' time and that it had been a great pleasure representing the Parish and its residents for the last 8 years.

The Chairman thanked him for all his advice and advocacy on behalf of the Council over the last 8 years and it was **Agreed** that a vote of thanks be given to County Councillor James McInroy for all the work he had done for the Parish over the past 8 years.

## **6. Public Participation**

A member of the public asked whether the matter of Kerry Thorne's expenses claim was being discussed at tonight's meeting. The Chairman indicated that it was being discussed at in closed session at the end of the meeting.

The Council was also asked did it have a policy in respect of Agricultural buildings being converted to dwellings and becoming urbanised. The Chairman said the Council did not have policy but was mindful of it. There was then a brief discussion on the application before the Council that night.

### **7. 25/00342/FULL – Reservoir House, Hayesden Lane, Bidborough**

It was **Agreed** to raise no objection to application 25/00342/FULL.

### **8. 25/00395/FULL – Printstile Place, Penshurst Road, Bidborough**

It was **Agreed** that the Council object to the application on the grounds that

1. the design of the proposed development is not in keeping with surrounding properties
2. the footprint of the proposed property is significant and is an over-development of the site
3. it is proposed within the green belt and within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and we do not see that this development aligns with the objective of enhancing/conserving natural beauty
4. it will have an urbanising impact within an otherwise rural location

### **9. 25/00533/FULL – Barn to the South of The Cottage, Franks Hollow Road, Bidborough**

It was **Agreed** that the Council object to the application on the grounds that

1. whilst there is not a significant increase to the property footprint itself, there is significant development of the outside space including a detached garage and enhanced driveway leading to an over-development of an otherwise very rural site
2. there is no updated arboriculturally report included in the application and the council is concerned about the impact on existing tree stock and the feel and look of the site

### **10. 25/00546/FULL – Sundial, High Street, Bidborough**

It was **Agreed** to raise no objection to application 25/00546/FULL.

## **11. 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**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Reason for Invoice</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Gross</b>
Lloyds Bank	Bank Service Charge - Paid	4.25	0.00	4.25
Gallagher	Council Insurance – 2025/26 – Paid in accordance with instructions from Council	1162.23	0.00	1162.23
Neil Harris	Payroll for March – Paid in accordance with agreed procedure	932.85	0.00	932.85
HMRC	National Insurance and Tax Payment – Month 12	273.96	0.00	273.96
EMP Chartered Surveyors	Professional Services for Bidborough Cricket Pavilion - Paid in accordance with instructions from Council	875.00	175.00	1050.00
SSE Energy Solutions	Streetlights Energy Costs for February	142.55	9.86	152.41
MDH Horticultural Contractors	Cutting of Hedge to left of Pavilion with netting and waste removal	500.00	100.00	600.00
Kent Association of Local Councils	Annual Membership Subscription	517.59	103.52	621.11
Kent County Council	Birchwood Conservation Work	1140.00	0.00	1140.00
MFW	Payroll Services – January to March 2025	60.00	12.00	72.00
Kall Kwik	Printing of Parish Magazine	702.00	0.00	702.00

**Income Received since last meeting**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Reason for Income</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Gross</b>
Bank	Interest – March	88.10	0.00	88.10
Cemetery	2 Ashes Plots	200.00	0.00	200.00
Newsletter	9 Payments	440.00	0.00	440.00
HMRC	VAT Reclaim	2119.61	0.00	2119.61

### Transfers between Council Accounts

Account	Account to be Transferred to	Reason	Amount
Business Reserve	Treasurers	Fund approved expenditure	1800

### 12. 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.

### 13. Birch Wood Land – Ash Dieback Survey and Quote

Martin Derham of the Birchwood Association reported that part of the work following the Ash Dieback survey had been completed with further work needed to be done in the autumn. He also mentioned the possible work needed to be done on the Dam.

The Clerk reported that the invoice for the Ash Dieback tree works had been received and that he was awaiting confirmation from Martin Derham that the works had been undertaken as set out on the invoice.

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

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

Councillor Stevens indicated that he had nothing to report.

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

### 15. Church Bank

The Clerk reported that he and Councillor Stevens had met with a representative from Savills, representing the Diocese, to discuss the Church Bank. It had been a useful meeting, and that Savills had stated that the Diocese would like to explore the option of a new Agreement. They also supported the idea of a survey and were willing to fund it.

It was **Agreed** that the survey of the Bank proceed and that it be noted that the Diocese would fund the survey.

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## **16. Church Wall and Gates**

The Clerk reported that he had met with Councillor Stevens and had looked at the Church Wall and the Lych Gates and felt that a survey was required to ascertain the exact condition of the wall and gates.

He had asked the company who had done the survey of the wall to the other side of the Lych Gate namely CTP Consulting Engineers to give a price for the survey including the Church Bank. They had quoted a price of £2150 including the Church Bank.

It was **Agreed**

(1) that the survey of the Church Wall and Lych Gates be undertaken

(2) that the quote for the survey from CTP Consulting Engineers in the sum of £2150 be accepted.

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

The Clerk reported that he had looked at both the entrance points to the Recreation Ground and that 2 posts were needed to which the signs could be placed. He was also working on the wording of the signs.

It was **Agreed** that the Clerk proceed with the purchase and fixing of 2 posts, one at each end.

## **18. Kent Air Ambulance**

The Clerk reported that a donation request had been received from Kent Air Ambulance.

It was **Agreed** that, in accordance with Council policy, a donation be made to the Kent Air Ambulance and that the donation be set at the last donation sum plus 10%

## **19. West Kent Mediation – Donation Request**

The Council considered the donation request from the West Kent Mediation

It was **Agreed** that the request for a donation from the West Kent Mediation be refused as it was not in accord with Council Policy.

## **20. Possible Insurance Claim**

The Clerk reported that an Insurance claim had been received from Hyacinth Ricketts via her Solicitors and that he had referred to matter to the Council's Insurers.

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

#### 21. Local Plan Modifications Consultation

The Council were informed that they had an opportunity to comment on the Local Plans Modifications.

It was **Agreed** that consideration of the Local Plans Modifications be deferred to the next meeting of the Council.

#### 22. Cricket Pavilion

The Chairman of the Council updated the Council on progress on this project and that there would be a presentation of the current proposals at the meeting on 20 May. Following that consultation the proposals would be amended and come back to an event on 20 July at the Pavilion, which will also be a fundraising event. It was hoped that the planning application would be submitted by August.

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

#### 23. VE Day Beacon

Councillor Stevens reported that the VE Day Beacon would not be lit as there was something on that day which prevented it from happening.

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

#### 24. Neighbourhood Watch

Councillor Cole reported the latest position in respect of his reinstatement of Neighbourhood watch.

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

#### 25. Duration of Meeting

7.00pm to 9.30pm