

BIDBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE BIDBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL ON 27 OCTOBER 2025 STARTING AT 7.00 PM

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

In Attendance – County Councillor Moreland, and Neil Harris (Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence

No Apologies for Absence were received

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Stevens and Mrs Vidler stated that she had been appointed as a Trustee of the Friends of Bidborough Charity but that there was no interest to be disclosed in any of the items on the agenda.

Councillor Marriott stated that his wife was a Church Warden and that he was a member of the Bidborough Church but felt that this was not an interest that precluded him from speaking and voting on matters relating to the Church and its churchyard.

3. Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 29 September 2025

It was **Agreed** that the minutes, including the confidential minutes, of the meeting held on 29 September 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2025

There were no matters arising

5. Report of the Borough and County Councillors

County Councillor John Moreland reported that the Kent County Council's Strategic Business Case for Local Government Reorganisation in Kent and Medway had been published and that he would send a copy of the document to the Council. He also stated that he would send a link to the Kent Fire and Rescue Service Council Tax proposals as well. He also indicated that there was a Fostering Campaign taking place as well.

6. Public Participation

There were no questions from Members of the public.

7. Planning Consultations

There were no planning consultations for the Council to consider.

8. Payment List

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

Expenditure For Approval

Name	Reason for Invoice	Net	VAT	Gross
Lloyds Bank	Bank Service Charge – Paid 20 October	4.25	0.00	4.25
Cagne	Grant of financial support of £100 approved at last meeting - Paid	100.00	0.00	100.00
MFW	Payroll Services – July to September 2025	60.00	12.00	72.00
Kent County Playing Fields Association	Annual Subscription	20.00	0.00	20.00
Pierson Agriculture	Bidborough Ridge Summer Cut, Gang Mowing ANRG and Peter Roberts Field	527.73	105.55	633.28
CTP Consulting Engineers	Inspection of Retaining Wall, Lychgates and Bank and Remedial Design work on Southern Lychgate	1210.00	242.00	1452.00
Complete Weed Control	Weed control to Church Wall and Paths	405.00	81.00	486.00
Thompson Tree Care Ltd	Clear Fallen Damson Tree and tidy in Spring Lane	220.00	44.00	264.00
Thompson Tree Care Ltd	Removal of Willow Tree pushing on fence in Peter Roberts Field	590.00	118.00	708.00
MDH Horticultural Contractors	ANRG works – October	540.00	108.00	648.00
MDH Horticultural Contractors	Lengthsman Contract – October	2070.00	414.00	2484.00
Neil Harris	Payroll for October	1067.25	0.00	1067.25
HMRC	National Insurance and Tax Payment – Month 7	388.25	0.00	388.25
Streetlights	Payment 2 of Annual Maintenance Contract	400.10	80.02	480.12

Income Received since last meeting

Name	Reason for Income	Net	VAT	Gross
TWBC	Precept – Second payment	38485	0.00	38485
Bank	Interest – October	66.87	0.00	66.87
Newsletter	2 Payments	150.00	0.00	150.00

Transfers between Council Accounts

Account	Account to be Transferred to	Reason	Amount
Business Reserve	Community Account	Fund approved expenditure	10750

9. Birch Wood Land

The Clerk stated that there was nothing to report and Councillor Eames indicated that the entrance gate to Birchwood Gate was damaged and needed to be replaced or repaired. It was **Agreed** that Pallet Handling be asked to quote for the work.

10. Bidborough HIP and Submission for funding to TWBC

The Clerk reported that the costings for the schemes in the HIP had not been received as yet but he believed were due at the end of the month. If not received he would follow up with KCC.

11. Church Lychgates

The Clerk reported that he was currently in the process of signing contracts with Helen Dye for the hire of her services as agreed at the last Council meeting. Once this had been completed work would commence on pushing forward with the faculty process.

Councillor Stevens reported that he had agreed a new weekly inspection fee for the scaffolding of £70 reduced from £125

It was **Agreed** that the report be noted and the revised weekly inspection fee for the scaffolding of £70 be accepted.

12. Church Wall and Bank

The Council considered the report from CTP with a respect to the works required to the Church Wall and the outcome of their inspection of the Church Bank.

The result of the inspection of the Eastern Retaining Wall found no real issues and recommended that this wall be surveyed again in 5 years. However, in respect of the Western Retaining Wall there was a significant amount of work required some of which would require

faculty approval. In respect of the Bank there was nothing identified but felt that the Council should consider appointing a geotechnical consultant to undertake a topographic survey of the Bank.

It was **Agreed**

(1) to note the position in respect of the Eastern Retaining Wall and to undertake a further survey in 5 years' time

(2) that in respect of the Western Retaining Wall the works as detailed in the CTP report, attached to these minutes, including the faculty approval required for the Helix Helibar work be agreed and undertaken by the Council

(3) that the Council discuss and agree a way forward with the owner of No 1 for the regular pollarding of their Leylandii bush

(4) that the Clerk discuss with Savills, the Diocese's Surveyor the recommendation from the report. '

13. Capital Projects – Council Funding Available

The Council considered the report of the Clerk setting out the financial position of the Council and the funding available to the Council to enable it to fund potential commitments from a number of issues including the Church Lychgates. Depending on the cost of these projects the Council noted that it had the options of increasing the precept and/or a Public Works Loan Board loan if required.

It was **Agreed** to note the report.

14. Cricket Pavilion

The Chairman reported to the Council that it had been agreed to remove the Balcony but with the Bowls Club folding there could be changes to the design and there was a meeting on Wednesday to consider the matter further.

15. Remembrance Sunday

The Chairman reported that she would not be able to attend at Remembrance Sunday

It was **Agreed** that the Vice Chairman attend in her stead, and Councillor Mrs Summers be authorised to make a donation payment of £50 to the RBLI for the wreath and that she be reimbursed by the Council.

16. Memorial Bench - Churchyard

Councillor Stevens stated in response to a question from the Chairman that the bench would be maintained by the family.

17. Meetings with Chairmen of Speldhurst and Rusthall Parishes

The Chairman stated that she had met with the Chairmen of Speldhurst and Rusthall Parishes about topics such as local government reorganisation and felt that it would be good to continue to meet so all could benefit from their experience and knowledge.

18. Village Green Hedge

It was **Agreed** that it be ascertained if the cutting back of this hedge was part of the contract with MDH.

19. 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.

20. Duration of Meeting

7.00pm to 8.20pm