

BIDBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE BIDBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL ON 27 APRIL 2026 STARTING AT 7.00 PM

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

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

1. Apologies for Absence

An Apology for Absence was received from Borough Councillor Ellis

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Stevens and Mrs Vidler stated that they had been appointed as 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 30 March 2026

It was **Agreed** that the minutes of the meeting held on 30 March 2026 be approved as a correct record and signed.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 March 2026

There were no matters arising

5. Report of the Borough and County Councillors

County Councillor John Moreland reported that he had taken up the matter of the loss of Social Housing namely the Bidborough Ridge Flats and would report back to the Council in the near future. He also reported that the short focused inquiry into the water problems had concluded and a report would be issued shortly.

6. Public Participation

The Chairman indicated that as the Annual Parish Meeting was being held at 7.45pm which had an unlimited public participation section that there would be no public participation section within the Council meeting.

7. 26/00579/FULL – Home Farm, Penshurst Road, Bidborough

It was **Agreed** to raise no objection to Planning Application 26/00579/FULL.

8. 26/00728/FULL – Brockhill, Barden Road, Bidborough

It was **Agreed** to raise no objection to Planning Application 26/00728/FULL.

9. 26/00834/TPO – Ridgelands, Penshurst Road, Bidborough

It was **Agreed** to raise no objection to Planning Application 26/00834/TPO

10. Payment List

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

Expenditure For Approval

Name	Reason for Invoice	Net	VAT	Gross
Buss Murton Law	Professional Fees - Paid	90.17	18.03	108,20
Kent Air Ambulance	Donation	400.00	0.00	400.00
Information Commissioner	Data Protection Fee – Paid 24/4/26	47.00	0.00	47.00
CTP	Design of Permanent Remedial Works on Southern Lychgate	1113.75	222.75	1336.50
McCabe Ford Williams	Payroll Services January to March 2026	60.00	12.00	72.00
SSE Energy Solutions	Streetlights Energy Costs for March	151.38	7.57	158.95
Watts Construction Limited	Church Lychgate Inspection Works	810.00	162.00	972.00
Streetlights	Annual Maintenance Contract – Payment 1	416.10	83.22	499.32
Southern Scaffolding Limited	9 Weekly inspections of scaffolding to the South Lychgate at the Church at £80 per visit	720.00	144.00	864.00
CPS Office Supplies	Stationary for Clerk	65.54	13.11	78.65
MDH Horticultural Contractors	ANRG works – April	360.00	72.00	432.00
MDH Horticultural Contractors	Lengthsman Contract – April	1360.00	272.00	1632.00
Neil Harris	Payroll for April	1067.25	0.00	1067.25
HMRC	National Insurance and Tax Payment – Month 1	388.25	0.00	388.25

Lloyds Bank	Bank Service Charge – Paid 20 April	4.25	0.00	4.25
Councillor Karen Vidler	Petrol and car parking costs for attendance at Court Hearing at Wandsworth County Court	36.88	0.00	36.88
Councillor Karen Vidler	Lock for A Frame	4.00	0.00	4.00
Fox Managed Solutions Limited	Supply of A Frame and various signs	491.00	98.20	589.20

Income Received since last meeting

Name	Reason for Income	Net	VAT	Gross
Bank	Interest – April	38.86	0.00	38.86
Newsletter	2 Payments	90.00	0.00	90.00
HMRC	VAT Reclaim Payment	3636.22	0.00	3636.22
TWBC	Precept	40000.00	0.00	40000.00

Transfers between Council Accounts

Account	Account to be Transferred to	Reason	Amount
Business Reserve	Community Account	Fund approved expenditure	19500

11. Budget Report

The Council considered the end of year accounts for 2025/26 and noted that the Council still had reserves of just under £96000. The Clerk reported that he hoped to be in a position to report on the allocation of funds within the Reserves at the next Council meeting.

12. Birch Wood Land

The Clerk reported that Martin Derham had liaised with the resident regarding the self-seeded Cherry Tree and the Oak Tree and agreed a way forward that all parties were satisfied with.

13. Bidborough HIP and Submission for funding to TWBC

The Chairman indicated that there was nothing to report at this meeting.

14. Church Lychgates, Wall and Bank

The Clerk reported that progress was being made on the Faculty application.

15. Bidborough Ridge – Gap in Hedge

Councillor Stevens reported that he had been in touch with the individual who had damaged the hedge and that the fence works would be done in the near future.

16. Play Park Drainage

The Council discussed whether the work suggested within the quote was required at this stage and whether there were other options available to the Council. The Council felt that at this point in time it should proceed as follows and it was **Agreed** that

- (1) no action be taken on implementing the quote received from W Swift & Co
- (2) the Lengthsman contractor be asked to continue clearing the leaves accumulating in the gap by the fence
- (3) the previously requested quote for jet washing the play park be obtained from the Lengthsman contractor and implemented as appropriate
- (4) the Council's weed contractor in the Churchyard be asked to give a price for dealing with the weeds accumulating in and around the play park
- (5) discussions be held with the Diocese both with the Rector and Savills about the possibility of placing a fence at the end of the bank to help prevent water flow into the play park.

17. Peter Roberts Field – Basketball Hoop

Councillor Stevens reported that he had received a request for a basketball hoop to be provided in the Peter Roberts Field. It was **Agreed** that a Basketball Hoop be provided in the Peter Roberts Field at an appropriate location and that a quote for its provision be sought.

18. Cricket Pavilion

The Chairman reported that there was nothing new to report.

19. Brookhurst Field – Broken Fence next to Kissing Gate

Councillor Stevens reported that the Council should be receiving the requested quote from Pallet Handling in the near future.

20. Church Building – Hole to Side

Councillor Stevens reported that the hole to the side of Church Building had now been backfilled.

21. Flexible Voting Pilot

The Chairman and Councillor Mrs Summers informed the meeting of the Flexible Voting Pilot operating in Tunbridge Wells where people could vote at 3 locations in the Borough over the forthcoming weekend in addition to Election Day. Details of the scheme were on the Council's website.

22. Speedwatch

Councillor Cole reported that 3 people had responded to the call for volunteers and that there was now a team of 5 who should recommence operation in about a month's time.

23. Duration of Meeting

7.00pm to 7.46pm