BIDBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE BIDBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL ON 28 SEPTEMBER 2026 STARTING AT 7.00 PM

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

In Attendance – Neil Harris (Clerk)

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were received from County Councillor Moreland, and Borough Councillors Ellis and Johnson

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 27 July 2026**

It was **Agreed** that the minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 2026 be approved as a correct record and signed.

4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 2026**

There were no matters arising

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

As there was no County Councillor or Borough Councillors present there was no report to the meeting

6. **Public Participation**

A member of the public raised concern about last minute changes to the planning application for the cricket pavilion which included an external lighting scheme and were the Council aware of the changes and would this lead to nighttime use. The Chairman responded that the pavilion would only be operational in accord with its daylight hours and that there would be no nighttime use. The member of the public indicated that he would write to the Chairman.

The matter of parking in Spring Lane was raised and how bad it had been recently particularly last week. It was indicated that this matter was being discussed later on the agenda

In response to a question Councillor Stevens indicated that the Bidborough Ridge Flats owned by Town and Country were to be sold by auction in the near future.

7**. 26/01952/FULL - 75 Bidborough Ridge, Bidborough**

It was **Agreed** to raise no objection to Planning Application 26/01952/FULL.

8. **Finance**

(1) **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
Architectural Office Michael Dillon Ltd	Cricket Pavilion – Submission of Planning and completion of Package 1 works - Paid	3400.00	680.00	4080.00
MDH Horticultural Contractors	Village Green Hedge and footpaths Bidborough Ridge and Woodland Way and Rectory Drive and Recreation Ground - Paid	550.00	110.00	660.00
CTP Consulting Engineers	Southern Lychgate – Design of Permanent Remedial Works - Paid	480.00	96.00	576.00
Lloyds Bank	Bank Service Charge – Paid 18 August	4.25	0.00	4.25
SSE Energy Solutions	Streetlights Energy Costs for July - Paid	109.43	5.47	114.90
Neil Harris	Payroll for August - Paid	1067.25	0.00	1067.25
Southern Scaffolding Limited	10 Weekly inspections of scaffolding to the South Lychgate at the Church at £70 per visit (£700) plus a credit for overcharging £10 on 42 previous visits (£420) - Paid	280.00	56.00	336.00
Pallet Handling Ltd	Payment for works to the Kissing gate at other entrance to Brockhurst Field - Paid	395.00	79.00	474.00
Bidborough Village Hall	Cost for hire of Hall - Paid	48.81	0.00	48.81

MDH Horticultural Contractors	ANRG works – August - Paid	360.00	72.00	432.00
MDH Horticultural Contractors	Lengthsman Contract – August - Paid	1090.00	218.00	1308.00
HMRC	National Insurance and Tax Payment – Month 5 - Paid	388.25	0.00	388.25
SSE Energy Solutions	Streetlights Energy Costs for August - Paid	122.63	6.13	128.76
Lloyds Bank	Bank Service Charge – Paid	4.25	0.00	4.25
St Johns Ambulance	School Defibrillator Adult Pads	150.00	30.00	180.00
Neil Harris	Payroll for September	1052.40	0.00	1052.40
HMRC	National Insurance and Tax Payment – Month 6 -	388.25	0.00	388.25
Southern Scaffolding Limited	10 Weekly inspections of scaffolding to the South Lychgate at the Church at £70 per visit	490.00	98.00	588.00

Income Received since last meeting

Name	**Reason for Income**	**Net**	**VAT**	**Gross**
Bank	Interest – August	40.36	0.00	40.36
Bank	Interest – September	36.12	0.00	36.12
Newsletter	7 Payments	340.00	0.00	340.00
TWBC	Second Precept Payment	40,000.00	0.00	40,000.00

Transfers between Council Accounts

Account	**Account to be Transferred to**	**Reason**	**Amount**
Business Reserve	Community Account	Fund approved expenditure	4000
Business Reserve	Community Account	Fund approved expenditure	1350
Business Reserve	Community Account	Fund approved expenditure	1150
Business Reserve	Community Account	Fund approved expenditure	3000

(2) **Budget Report**

The Council considered the Financial Budget Comparison report detailing expenditure and income received by the Council up to the end of August as submitted by the Clerk.

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

9. **Birch Wood Land**

There was nothing to report

10. **Bidborough HIP and Submission for funding to TWBC**

The Clerk reported that the finance for the HIP VAS scheme had been confirmed and that work was now scheduled in Tranche 3 for the work which would be in the Summer of next year.

Councillor Stevens reported that the yellow line proposals were for double yellow lines in Bidborough Ridge around the substation and at the top of the High Street. In Spring Lane, the proposal was for a single yellow line for the peak times which still needed to be discussed with the school. These were the 3 schemes being taken forward.

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

11. **Church Lychgates**

The Council considered the report of the Clerk setting out the current position regarding the cost of the scheme and that there had been delays in obtaining comments from Historic England. When comments had been received it meant that the scheme needed to be changed and those changes were currently before the DAC for approval. It was hoped that the final cost of the scheme would be known by November, but the scheme would have to be delayed and would now not start until early Spring.

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

12. **Streetlights**

The Council considered the report of the Clerk on the need for it to replace 13 streetlights arising from the Restriction of Hazardous Substances Regulations which were coming into force in February 2027. It was not necessary to replace them all immediately but the funding for the replacement of the lights was covered in a later report on the agenda.

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

13. **Play Park Jetwash**

The Clerk reported that he had received 2 quotes for Jet washing the Play Park. The quotes were
Proclean - £950 plus VAT
Mark Pro Cleaning - £750 plus VAT

It was **Agreed** that the quote from Mark Pro Cleaning for jetwashing the Play Park at a charge of £750 plus VAT be accepted

14. **Post and Chain, High Street**

The Clerk reported that he had received 2 quotes from Pallet Handling for the replacement of the post and chain at the top of the High Street with the same or with Birdsmouth post and rail. The like for like replacement was £2979 plus VAT and for the Birdsmouth £2100 plus VAT. The structure of the Birdsmouth post and rail was discussed and whether it was set in concrete or similar.

It was **Agreed** that the Clerk go back to Pallet Handling and ask about structure of the Birdsmouth post and rail and whether set in concrete as a possible replacement of the post and chain at the top of the High Street.

15. **Cricket Pavilion**

The Chairman reported that the next step was to set up a fundraising committee of which Rodger Poulsom would be a member though having given up the chairmanship of the Cricket club. They were currently looking for people to join the committee.

In terms of the Bowls Pavilion and site the Council, Bidborough Sports Association and the Cricket Club were looking at ways of preventing unauthorised access.

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

16. **Current Financial Position**

The Council considered the report of the Clerk on the current financial position of the Council and how it could fund the additional expenditure arising from the Church Lychgates and Streetlights, including a possible public works loan board loan for the funding of the Church Lychgates

The Clerk indicated that he would be writing to various organisations/Trusts to see if there would be any funding support for the Church Lychgate project. He also indicated that he would be writing to the Diocese to ask for financial support but did not expect to be successful. The Council stated their support for this approach.

It was **Agreed** that the approach to funding the Church Lychgates and Streetlights as detailed in the report including the principle of taking out a public works loan board loan be approved but be finalised at the Precept meeting in November.

17. **Dates for Council Meetings in 2027/28**

It was Agreed that the dates for Council meetings in 2027/28 as set out below be approved: -

25 January 2027
22 February 2027
22 March 2027
17 May 2027 (Annual Meeting of the Council and Annual Parish Meeting)
28 June 2027
26 July 2027
27 September 2027
25 October 2027
29 November 2027
31 January 2028
28 February 2028
27 March 2028
24 April (Council Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting)

18. **30 Woodland Way**

Councillor Cole updated the Council on the current position in respect of 30 Woodland Way and that there had been no progress in respect of finding out what was happening through ascertaining whether the Council Tax was being paid. He indicated that his latest approach was to follow up through looking at the will with the assistance of a probate lawyer.

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

19. **Waste Bin at Alf's Corner**

Councillor Stevens reported that he had received a request for a waste bin at Alf's Corner. It was **Agreed** that the principle of the provision of a waste bin at Alf's Corner be approved.

20. **Bidborough School PTA Fireworks Display**

Councillor Cole reported that he had received a request from the Bidborough School PTA for their fireworks display on the Peter Roberts Field on 14 November with the display being undertaken by a professional company. They had submitted a satisfactory Risk Assessment.

It was **Agreed** that the request for the Bidborough School PTA for their annual fireworks display to be held on the Peter Roberts Field, with people viewing from the school grounds, on 14 November be approved.

21. **PC Danny Barnes**

Councillor Cole reported that PC Danny Barnes was looking to hold a face to face clinic for local residents and had suggested that he hold it before a Council meeting. Whilst there was no objection to this it was suggested that he would do better having a table outside the shop on a Saturday morning.

22. **Duration of Meeting**

7.00pm to 9.18pm