BIDBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE BIDBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL ON 26 OCTOBER 2026 STARTING AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Summers (Chairman), Councillors Cole and Stevens

In Attendance – Neil Harris (Clerk) and Borough Councillor Mark Ellis

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Eames, Hinds, Marriott and Mrs Vidler and County Councillor Moreland.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Stevens stated that he 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.

3. **Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 28 September 2026**

It was **Agreed** that the minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2026 be approved as a correct record and signed.

4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2026**

(1) Minute 21 - PC Danny Barnes

Councillor Cole reported that the PC Danny Barnes clinic was being held on 21 November between 9 and 11am either outside the shop or in the Village Hall depending on the weather.

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

Borough Councillor Mark Ellis reported that Local Government Reorganisation had ground to a halt and that the Borough Council were waiting to hear from Government as to what would be happening next. There would be no shadow elections next year and that the Borough and Parish Council elections scheduled for that year will take place as normal, which would include Bidborough Parish.

A discussion then ensued with Councillor Cole on 30 Woodland Way and Councillor Ellis indicated that Councillor Johnson had taken this up and was looking at S215 notices with the Borough Council.

6. **Public Participation**

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

7. **26/02178/FULL – Abrahams, Franks Hollow Road, Bidborough**

It was **Agreed** to raise no objection to Planning Application 26/002178/FULL.

8**. 26/02297/TPO - 67 Bidborough Ridge, Bidborough**

It was **Agreed** to raise no objection to Planning Application 26/002297/TPO.

9. **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
McCabe Ford Williams	Payroll Services July to September 2026 - Paid	60.00	12.00	72.00
MDH Horticultural Contractors	ANRG works – September - Paid	360.00	72.00	432.00
MDH Horticultural Contractors	Lengthsman Contract – September - Paid	1360.00	272.00	1632.00
Fox Managed Solutions Limited	Do not Climb Warning sign x 2 - Paid	249.73	49.95	299.68
Streetlights	Annual Maintenance Contract – Payment 2 - Paid	416.10	83.22	499.32
Pierson Agriculture	Gang Mowing Recreation Ground and Peter Roberts Field, Flail Hedgecutting in Bidborough Ridge and Brockhurst Field - Paid	750.53	150.10	900.63
Kent County Playing Fields Association	Annual Subscription - Paid	20.00	0.00	20.00
Lloyds Bank	Bank Service Charge – Paid 19 October 2026	4.25	0.00	4.25
Forvis Mazars	Fee in respect of External Audit	420.00	84.00	504.00
Kall Kwik	Printing of Autumn Newsletter	640.00	0.00	640.00

SSE Energy Solutions	Streetlights Energy Costs for September	137.14	6.86	144.00
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
Mark Pro Cleaning	Jet Wash of Play Park	750.00	150.00	900.00
Site Engineering Services Ltd	Provision of Monitoring Services to the Church Wall	370.00	74.00	444.00
Councillor Sandra Summers	Donation for Poppy Wreath for Council at Remembrance Day Service	50.00	0.00	50.00

Income Received since last meeting

Name	Reason for Income	Net	VAT	Gross
Bank	Interest – October	47.81	0.00	47.81
Newsletter	2 Payments	100.00	0.00	100.00
Allotments	5 Payments	97.80	0.00	97.80

Transfers between Council Accounts

Account	Account to be Transferred to	Reason	Amount
Business Reserve	Community Account	Fund approved expenditure	2000
Business Reserve	Community Account	Fund approved expenditure	3800

(2) **Budget Report**

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

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

10. **Birch Wood Land**

There was nothing to report

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

Councillors Cole and Stevens reported that there had been no reply from the School on the TRO proposal for a single yellow line in Spring Lane in the vicinity of the School.

It was **Agreed** that as a last step to get a reply from the School before making a decision on whether to proceed with the TRO proposals that the Clerk write to the School for their comments on the proposal being put forward by the Council.

12. **Church Lychgates**

The Council considered the report of the Clerk setting out the current position on the Church Lychgates and the need to make a decision on the contract.

It was **Agreed** that the matter of the Church Lychgates be deferred to a special meeting of the Council to be held in November.

13. **Play Park Jetwash**

The Clerk reported that the work had been completed to a satisfactory condition

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

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

The Clerk reported that the Birdsmouth post and rail structure was set in concrete.

It was **Agreed** that the quote received from Pallet Handling for the Birdsmouth post and rail set in concrete as a replacement of the post and chain at the top of the High Street at a cost of £2100 + VAT be approved

15. **AGAR – External Audit Report**

The Council considered the External Auditors report which indicated that the Council had a clean bill of health though noted that the Council had said no to Assertion 10 and expected that to be dealt with by next year. The Clerk reported that the Council had already done the work which would allow it to answer Yes in next years submission.

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

16. **Lengthsman Contract**

Councillor Stevens raised some concerns about the work being undertaken in respect of the contract particularly with the very dry weather this year.

It was **Agreed** that the Clerk and Councillor Stevens review the details of the contract building in an ability to vary work arising from weather changes with reasonable notice and report back to Council at the completion of the review.

17. **Cricket Pavilion**

The Chairman of the meeting reported that the Chairman of the Council had met with Michael Dillon, Rodger Poulsom, Eli Clarke (new BCC Chair from 2027), Justin Clarke

(president of BCC) and Stephen Hebditch on 8 October to talk through next steps though representative from the BSA were invited but were unable to attend.

She reported that to get to the point of being able to get accurate costings for the build, Michael would need to put together detailed drawings and draw up a building spec. This was covered in Stage 4 of his quotation. She advised that the Council had no funds left to meet these costs and (post meeting) the BSA agreed that they would meet the cost for this. Michael has therefore now been instructed to proceed to the next stage. He is looking to get a draft spec done by January so that it could go out to tender late Spring 2027.

A fund raising group was also being put together comprising the BSA, Council, BCC and other sports clubs together with members of the community. A plea for volunteers to join this group went out in the bi-annual newsletter issued this month.

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

18. **Bowls Club Sign**

The Clerk reported that he had received concerns about unauthorised access to the Bowls Club site and that it would be an appropriate step to put in place a sign with the following wording on the gate to the site.

"This is Private Property
Access is allowed only with permission from Bidborough Sports Association
Please email clerk@bidboroughpc.org.uk to seek permission."

It was **Agreed** that the Bowls Club sign with the above wording be approved at a cost of £209.44

19. **30 Woodland Way**

Councillor Cole updated the Council on the current position in respect of 30 Woodland Way and that he had had no real success on following up on the will option.

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

20. **Bin and Waste on Recreation Ground**

Discussion ensured on the red bin and waste that had been left on the Recreation Ground. Some of the waste had disappeared and the Clerk reported that TWBC would not take away the bin as it was not theirs and Councillor Cole reported that the School had said that it was not theirs. Therefore, the only option left was to get a licensed waste company to take it away and the likely cost of that was in the region of £350. Councillor Mrs Summers indicated that she would see if there was an alternative option.

It was **Agreed** that if Councillor Summers is not able to find an alternative option that the Clerk be authorised to hire a licensed waste company to dispose of the bin and associated waste at a cost in the region of £350.

21. **Poppy Wreath**

It was **Agreed** that Councillor Mrs Summers be authorised to give a donation of £50 for the poppy wreath for Remembrance Sunday and that she be reimbursed by the Council.

22. **Speedwatch**

Councillor Cole reported that he had completed his training and that there were 3 qualified people for Speedwatch but that more volunteers were needed.

23. **Duration of Meeting**

7.00pm to 8.48pm