

Berwick Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Berwick Parish Council held at the Berwick Village Hall, on Thursday 23rd March 2017 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs B Smith (Chairman), V Burrough and C Bird.

Lord and Lady Lloyd, County Councillor N Bennett, Mr Medlock from Berwick Stores. Alison Stevens (Clerk) and 16 members of the public were also present.

Minutes

BP.01.03.17 Apologies: Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Carnie and Winter and were accepted by those present. District Councillor Ede also sent his apologies.

BP.02.03.17 Declarations of Interest and changes to the Register of Interest: No declarations of interest were declared nor were there any changes to the Register of Interests.

The meeting was then suspended.

BP.03.03.17 Public Question Time:

County Councillor Bennett said that;

- along with our MPs, he is lobbying Government Ministers to change the funding formula for schools to protect local schools with less than 200 pupils.
- he has also been looking to see if any funding is available to extend the Berwick Way. Funding may be available from Highways England.

Mr Cooper reported;

- several signs in the Parish that need repairing. He will email a list to the Clerk for her to action as appropriate.
- he has also been looking into funding for the Berwick Way. The funding County Councillor Bennett is referring to is known as the 'Designated Fund Scheme', details of which can be found via Google. He said the money could come from the 2017/18 Designated Funds Budget which is linked to the A27 Improvements.

The meeting was then re-opened.

BP.04.03.17 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 23rd February 2017:

The minutes of the meeting held on the 23rd February 2017 were read, approved and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting by the Chairman.

BP.05.03.17 Clerk's Report on Matters Arising from the Meetings held on 12th January 2017 and 23rd February 2017:

All matters arising were included elsewhere on the agenda.

The meeting was suspended again to allow participation from the floor.

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BP.06.03.17 Planning Applications:

WD/2017/0347/F – Berwick Stores – Proposed remodel of the roof structure and replacement extension to rear and side elevations forming three additional flats. Residents said they object to this application because;

- 1: The flats will overlook existing properties.
- 2: The new development will overshadow neighbouring properties.
- 3: The access is not owned by the applicant and the legal right of access applies to the shop only. It means there will be no access to the eighth parking space.
- 4: There will be an 80% loss of light to neighbouring properties.
- 5: This application will set a precedent to convert other dwellings into flats.
- 6: There is not enough parking nor is there any parking provision for delivery lorries or visitors. Cars will therefore park in Station Road.
- 7: There are two water wells on site which are surrounded by buildings.
- 8: There is not enough drainage capacity.
- 9: Bin storage will be a health hazard. There will be at least ten bins and these will be stored by a resident's kitchen and upstairs window.
- 10: The proposed development is out of keeping with the neighbouring properties.
- 11: The proposals increase the footprint of the building.
- 12: There will be a loss of privacy for neighbouring properties.
- 13: There will be an increase in noise levels particularly in the evenings and at weekends.
- 14: The development is excessive, poorly thought out and will adversely affect the value of neighbouring properties.

In answer to the objections, Mr Medlock said;

- 1: The design has since been altered to make it look better.
- 2: The legal right of access is for the building and not just the shop.
- 3: The loss of light complies with the regulations.
- 4: The number of parking places complies with the recommendations suggested by Highways.
- 5: The drainage on site meets the water company's regulations.
- 6: Environmental Health has not raised any concerns about the bin storage arrangements.
- 7: There will be no significant increase in noise levels.
- 8: The lower ground floor finish will be flint as suggested at a consultation with the owner of one of the neighbouring properties.

Councillors were also concerned to see that new plans have been submitted by the applicant who then displayed them at this meeting. The revised plans alter the layout of the building.

Councillors agreed they support resident's concerns and object to this application on the strongest grounds possible for the same reasons.

The meeting was then re-opened.

BP.07.03.17 Reports from Parish Councillors:

- a) **Berwick Playing Field** – There was no report on Berwick Playing Field on this occasion.

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- b) **Highways and Transport Matters** – Speeding remains a problem in the Parish and a motorcyclist recently died following a collision with a Land Rover in Station Road. Councillors asked the Clerk to write to Highways to see if it is possible to have a traffic counter on the road to measure the increased volume of traffic through the village. It was also noted that there have been five accidents since the latest new homes were built.

Residents also asked the Clerk to write to Highways and ask them to repaint the 'Keep Clear' road markings and repair where the road dips, outside Railway Cottages.

Councillor Burrough said the Lower Wick Street sign has still not been repaired by Highways. The Clerk said she will continue to chase them.

BP.08.03.17 Reports from Outside Bodies:

- a) **Village Hall Committee** – Councillor Burrough said the Village Hall has now had three quotes to replace the heating in the hall. Councillors agreed to release the Solar Farm money (£8500) to them on receipt of the final invoice. Councillor Burrough also reported that bookings for the hall are down and encouraged residents to use the hall more.
- b) **Cuckmere Community Bus** – Cuckmere Community Buses has sold two buses and now has eight in use. The Sunday Summer Service starts on the 26th March. More volunteer drivers are always needed.

BP.09.03.17 Finance:

- a) **Approval of payments and receipts** – Members approved the following cheques for payment totaling £6230.55;

Cheque 100985	Jakk	£3216.24
Cheque 100986	SSALC	£ 96.00
Cheque 100987	HMRC	£ 624.57
Cheque 100988	HMRC	£ 622.80
Cheque 100989	ESCC	£ 292.18
Cheque 100990	A Stevens – Salary – February	£ 311.38
Cheque 100991	A Stevens – Salary - March	£ 311.38
Cheque 100992	Berwick Hall Hire	£ 64.00
Cheque 100993	Firle Estates	£ 50.00
Cheque 100994	Cancelled	
Cheque 100995	Chaffins	£ 642.00

- b) **Approval of accounts to date** – Members approved the accounts to 28th February 2017.
- c) **Appointment of Internal Auditor** – Members approved the appointment of Peter Frost as the Internal Auditor for the financial year 2016-2017.

BP.10.03.17 Berwick Recreation Ground:

- a) **Footway marker sign to advertise the recreation ground and the Village Hall**
- the sign is expected to be fitted at the end of March.

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- b) **Works to the bench, gates and ownership sign** – the bench has been fitted and the gates repaired. A wooden ownership sign is being designed to complement its surroundings.
- c) **Hedge cutting at the entrance to the Village Hall** – ESCC has visited the site and says no further work is required. The Parish Council will ask Firle Estates, as landowners, if they will cut it back further because it obscures drivers' vision when they leave the Hall. Residents suggested that double mirrors could be placed opposite the entrance as well. The Clerk will ask Highways for permission.

BP.11.03.17 Firle Estates:

- a) **Update on the cutting of the Station Road hedge** – The hedge was cut the day after the last meeting. Berwick Parish Council would like to thank Mr Deighton for organising the work.
- b) **Firle Estates Open Plan** – Councillors did not feel it was appropriate for the Parish Council to complete the questionnaire but agreed to talk to Mr Deighton at the next Full Council Meeting.

BP.12.03.17 Fingerpost Review: Two fingerposts have now been replaced. The Parish Council hopes to repair the third one in the next financial year.

BP.13.03.17 Flooding at Crossways: The flooding situation outside Crossways Cottage has been reported to Highways who have confirmed they are monitoring the situation.

BP.14.03.17 Questions from Parish Councillors: There were no questions from any Parish Councillors on this occasion.

BP.15.03.17 Close of Meeting; The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.30pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Signed: _____

Dated: 23rd March 2017

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