

# Berwick Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Berwick Residents held at the Berwick Village Hall, Berwick on Thursday 25th May 2017

**Present:** **Parish Councillors:** Cllrs B Smith (Chairman) and S Carnie.  
County Councillor N Bennett, Alastair Deighton (Firle Estates), A Stevens (Clerk) and 2 members of the public were in attendance.

**APM.01.05.17** **Welcome:** Councillor Smith, Chairman of the Parish Council, welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.

**APM.02.05.17** **Apologies:** Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Winter and Burrough.

**APM.03.05.17** **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2016.** The Minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2016 had been signed as a true and accurate record at a subsequent Full Council Meeting and were duly noted for this meeting.

**APM.04.05.17** **Chairman's Report:** The Chairman thanked the Clerk, the Parish Councillors and the County and District Councillors for all their help and support over the past year.

**APM.05.05.17** **County Matters:** Councillor Nick Bennett circulated the following report prior to the meeting and invited questions and comments;

'East Sussex County Council and Skills East Sussex (the county's employment and skills board) were successful in securing funding from the Careers and Enterprise Company for Progress – a new project aimed at equipping people with the skills needed by business and preparing them for the world of work. The project is running between April 2016 and July 2017 and includes work experience for pupils in years 10 and 11, visits to businesses, work readiness programmes, tailored support for young people wishing to access apprenticeships and the STEMfest project, aimed at encouraging students to study science, technology, engineering and maths.

Funding was also secured to allow Business East Sussex – the county's 'growth hub' to continue for two further years. The service is aimed at supporting businesses at all stages of growth, and helps businesses to find all the information, advice and support they need in one place. Since launching in July 2015, the service has engaged with more than 1,100 businesses. More information is available [www.businesseastsussex.org.uk](http://www.businesseastsussex.org.uk). In addition, Locate East Sussex has helped 35 companies start up, relocate or expand in East Sussex during 2016-17.

New computer terminals have been installed at all of the county's 24 libraries, improving the Council's network of free to access PCs and enabling people to use the internet and email, search for jobs and look up a wide range of information. Among those benefitting from the upgrade are users of the 'IT For You' scheme which offers advice and support on using IT to prepare a CV and apply for work. In addition, the library at Seaford is benefitting from a new café, as part of the £6 million Warwick House development.

A number of positive educational results were reported in the summer, including improvements in GCSE and A level results. At Key Stage 1, the percentage of East Sussex pupils achieving the expected standard was higher than the national average in reading, writing and mathematics. At Key Stage 4 our Progress 8 score was +0.04, significantly higher than the national average of -0.03. 87.1% of primary schools are judged to be good or outstanding, an increase of 10.1 percentage points since August 2015. 77.8% of secondary schools and 100% of maintained special schools are good or outstanding against national averages of 77.6% and 93.2% respectively.

# **Berwick Parish Council**

East Sussex was awarded £13.2 million from the Government's Local Growth Fund in February 2017, following a bid by the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP). East Sussex County Council will receive £8.2 million for the East Sussex Strategic Growth Project to create new employment developments in areas including Bexhill and Eastbourne. £5 million has been granted towards a £44 million redevelopment of the Devonshire Park area including a new conference complex. More than 1,000 new jobs are expected to be created as a result.

East Sussex County Council is one of seven local authorities which have agreed to form a partnership called Transport for the South East (TfSE). The vision for this new body is for strategic transport planning for the whole area, unlocking economic growth and improving lives for residents. To begin with, TfSE will run in shadow form as it develops its strategy and operation, consulting with transport operators, businesses and the public. With government agreement, TfSE could move to full operation from 2019.

A new seven-year contract for the provision of highway services in the county began on 1st May 2016. The contract with Costain CH2M replaced the existing arrangement of three separate contractors being responsible for highways, street lighting and traffic signals. The new contract has seen the introduction of a new website and online system for people to report highways issues; [www.eastsussexhighways.com](http://www.eastsussexhighways.com). In the first 6 months of the contract East Sussex Highways completed over 220 planned road works, 10,000 minor works, laid 64 miles of tarmac, answered 26,000 calls and progressed major works in areas such as Hailsham and Uckfield.

Our e-Sussex project to rollout faster broadband in previously isolated areas has improved access to services, jobs and education. Over 66,000 premises have been connected to improved broadband speeds in the first phase of works and the second phase to connect a further 5,000 of the hardest to reach premises in the county is underway.

## Keeping vulnerable people safe from harm

A new integrated service bringing health visiting and children's centres together was launched in June 2016. The new service aims to help families be self-sufficient in their communities by providing appropriate early intervention and support, and keep children aged 0-5 safe and healthy by providing accessible, comprehensive, high quality services, promoting social inclusion and equality and respecting diversity.

The percentage of court proceedings, to ensure timely decision making about long term care for children, completed within 26 weeks has increased from 22% in April 2016 to 63% in December 2016.

Many people affected by domestic violence and abuse who have used the specialist domestic abuse and sexual violence service (Portal) in the first half of 2016/17 say they are more in control of their lives and/or more optimistic about the future. East Sussex County Council supported the 16 Days of Action for the Elimination of Violence Against Women campaign, in November/December 2016. Over the 16 days a range of agencies, groups and individuals came together to work towards ending all forms of violence against women. The Council has been recredited as a White Ribbon authority recognising the Council's commitment to work to end violence and abuse and ensure survivors can access help and support.

Trading Standards have exceeded their target of 80 positive interventions for the year, including supporting victims of financial abuse and over 400 delegates have attended workshops run by Trading Standards in 2016/17 so far. Two recent successful

# Berwick Parish Council

prosecutions include one for a rogue trader who preyed on elderly people and another for a company director who duped investors into paying thousands of pounds for worthless franchises.

## Helping people help themselves

Significant progress has been made in delivering East Sussex Better Together (ESBT), the programme led by two local NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups (Eastbourne, Hailsham & Seaford CCG and Hastings & Rother CCG) and East Sussex County Council to transform health and social care services. In 2016 for example, six integrated locality based teams of health and care professionals were brought under single management to deliver more cohesive care, more quickly. We launched nurse-led Crisis Response Teams, helping to prevent unnecessary hospital admissions along with a new frailty service at East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust to support frail people to live independent and healthy lives out of hospital. In addition, Health and Social Care Connect (HSCC) a new integrated point of contact for adult health and care is receiving 8,000-9,000 enquiries a month.

Between April and December 2016, 100% of working age adults and older people supported by Adult Social Care received self-directed support. 98.2% of new clients who received short-term services to increase their independence made no further request for support. This means that more service users are planning how they want their social care needs met and have more control over their support. In addition in, 2016-17 so far, 2,872 people have been supported by STEPS, which helps people maintain independence within their own homes.

We took part in a national survey of carers sending surveys to 953 carers in East Sussex and receiving 535 responses. 73.9% of respondents said they were either extremely, very or quite satisfied with the support they receive from Adult Social Care, an improvement from 72.6% reported in 2014/15.

Public Health has been leading a programme of work to tackle the health effects of cold homes. Work included training frontline professionals to enable them to identify people living in cold homes and refer them onto appropriate services. 374 referrals to the Winter Home Check were made between October and December 2016. Public Health also developed a Stay Well this Winter campaign and helped to develop a Locally Enhanced Service for GP staff to help them identify patients at risk of fuel poverty.

## Making the best use of our resources

The Council's budget and Council Plan for 2017/18 were approved at the meeting of Full Council on the 7th February 2017. The budget includes spending of £365 million on services for East Sussex and a £95 million capital budget for one off projects. It also includes savings of £17 million, a 3 per cent Adult Social Care levy and a 1.99 per cent council tax increase.

The Orbis partnership between East Sussex County Council and Surrey County Council aims to improve the quality and resilience of business services and provide savings to both authorities. In December 2016, the Orbis Joint Committee and the Cabinet approved in principle, Brighton and Hove City Council joining the partnership as a founding partner. This is aligned with our ambition to grow Orbis and is a positive endorsement of the partnership. In addition, plans to bring together the legal operations of Surrey County Council, Brighton and Hove City Council and East and West Sussex County Councils were signed off. The aim is to create greater resilience, reduce duplication, generate income and deliver savings of £1 million a year'.

# Berwick Parish Council

Councillor Bennett also said there has been a re-shuffle at County and he will now be the Lead Member for Transport and Environment.

**APM.06.05.17 District Matters:** There was no report from the District Councillor on this occasion.

**APM.07.05.17 Reports from Clubs and Associations:** Mr Jennings sent a report from Berwick Village Hall which was read out by the Chairman and said;

‘The current village was opened in 1994 to replace an ageing wooden hut which had by then reached the end of its useful life. The hall now offers a modern well-appointed community building with a changing room and showers which provide facilities for football teams using the village football pitch, unfortunately there are no local teams which regularly use the football pitch so this facility is not currently regularly used. There is also a large car park and access to the recreation ground.

The Hall is regularly used by several local groups including; Art Groups, Quilters, After School Children’s Club, Parish Council Meetings, Whist Drive, The Berwick Produce Association, Scouts & Brownie groups, Camping & Caravan Club, Berwick Anglers, plus for a number of local group’s management meetings and by many local residents for private family gatherings. The hall also provides the location for the local Polling Station for both National and Local Elections, the car park also provides a location for the visiting Mobile Library service.

Funding for the Hall primarily comes from its users with donations from local people including the generosity of; Jean Bradford, Peggy Lawrence & Linda Boys, plus the funds raised by the winter Bingo Nights, which still provide a popular evening’s entertainment, and the long standing 100 Club that add further income which helps to keep our current Hire Charges to a minimum.

Day to day running of the hall is carried out by a small group of 8 active volunteers who form the Hall’s Management Committee there is also a group of Trustees who look after the charitable status for the hall and provide support as and when required. The current Management Committee would benefit from some additional support and there is the opportunity for anyone interested in supporting their local community by giving a little of their time and enthusiasm to assist in maintaining this community asset. Our thanks go out to Thea Eastmead who is our current Lettings Secretary and who very effectively manages the Hall’s users, on a day to day basis, without Thea’s services the hall would not be nearly as well used as it currently is. The remaining management functions are performed by 7 other committee members, ideally the Management Committee would like to see a minimum of 10 people managing the Hall and they would be more than pleased to welcome any local resident who think they could help with running of this community resource’.

**APM.08.05.17 Open Forum:** Residents asked;

- if the Parish Council has a representative on the Cuckmere Community Flood Forum. The Parish Council will consider appointing a representative at the next meeting.
- who is responsible for maintaining the Berwick Way. ESCC is responsible for maintaining the Berwick Way.
- if there are there any plans to extend the Berwick Way. County Councillor Bennett said the only source of funding is linked to the A27 improvements. £3m has been allocated to identify the best possible solutions. A lengthy discussion ensued as to what the best options are.

# **Berwick Parish Council**

- what is happening about the provision of a path at the front of Leylands Barn. The issue appears to be a boundary one. County Councillor Bennett, Alastair Deighton and the Clerk will see if their records show the definitive boundary.
- if the Parish Council has received any updates to the Berwick Stores planning application. It has not.
- why in 2008 the sewage works were reported to be at 50% capacity and suggested it is an issue that could be raised at the Community Flood Forum.

Councillor Carnie suggested the Parish Council should run a recruitment drive to co-opt more councillors. The Clerk and the Chairman will draft an article for the Village Magazine.

**Close of Meeting:** Councillor Smith thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The meeting concluded at 20:10pm.

**Signed as a true record of the meeting:**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_