

Berwick Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Berwick Parish Council held at the Berwick Village Hall on 23rd November 2017 at 7:30pm

56. Present

Cllrs Beryl Smith (Chairman), K Winter, Chris Bird, S Carnie and V Burrough.

Alison Stevens (Clerk) and two members of the public were also in attendance.

57. Apologies for absence

County Councillor N Bennett sent apologies for his absence.

The meeting was then suspended.

58. Reports from County Councillor

There was no report from the County Councillor on this occasion.

59. Report from the District Councillor

There was no report from the District Councillor on this occasion.

60. Public Question Time

Mr Clapson said;

- a gate and hanging post has been removed from the footpath adjoining Lord Lloyds access road. It was located at the end of the path which runs from the railway station behind Washere close to the lane above the village hall and is the responsibility of ESCC footpaths and Rights of Way Department. The Clerk has reported it to Rights of Way and she will ask them for an update.
- There are three large potholes between Woodside and the 40mph speed limit in Station Road and the cats eyes have been removed leaving sunken holes. The Clerk will report the potholes and sunken holes to Highways.

The meeting was then re-opened.

61. Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on the 12th September 2017 and 18th October (previously distributed) and Clerk's Report on any Matters Arising from those Minutes.

The Minutes of the Full Council Meetings held on 12th September 2017 and the 18th October 2017 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

62. Clerk's Report on Matters' Arising from those Minutes.

All matters' arising were included elsewhere on the agenda.

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63. Planning Applications

There were no planning applications for consideration at this meeting.

64. Reports from Parish Councillors

i: Berwick Playing Field – Lord Lloyd had invited Councillor Winter to carry out a site visit to look at the tree works he had recently had carried out. Councillor Winter confirmed he will take a look and report back to the Clerk. The trees border the playing field and needed cutting back because they were encroaching onto the football pitch.

ii: Highways and Transport Matters – Councillor Winter said he thinks the fingerpost sign at Common Lane has been positioned in the wrong place. He will carry out a site visit and send photographs to the Clerk.

Councillor Smith reported that Station Road will be closed;

- on 30th November for two nights between 7pm and 6am for resurfacing work. Councillors asked the Clerk to find out which stretch of the road will be affected.
- from 1am on 9th December 2017 to 4:30am on 11th December 2017 (15m either side of Berwick Level Crossing) to allow Network Rail to carry out engineering works. Councillors asked the Clerk to see if it will be closed all three nights.

65. Reports from Outside Bodies

i: Village Hall Committee – The new heating had been due to be installed in September but the heaters quoted for have now been withdrawn so the Trustees are looking at alternatives. The Village Hall roof has been repaired though.

ii: Cuckmere Community Bus – The Cuckmere Community Bus needs to buy two new buses They recently trialled one but the trial was unsuccessful.

iii: Tree Warden – Councillor Burrough reported some trees which are causing concern in Lower Wick Street, Selmeston. She will report them to Selmeston Parish Council.

iv: Cuckmere Community Flood Forum – There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

66. Finance

i: Approval of payments and receipts – Councillors approved the following payments;

101025	Berwick Village Hall - Hall Hire	72.00
101026	Chaffins - Boundary Hedging	696.00
101027	Jakk - Recreation Ground Sign	132.00
101028	SSALC - ESALC AGM	48.00
101029	WDALC - Subscription	10.00
101030	Littlejohn - Auditor	120.00
101031	A Stevens - Salary - October	314.59
101032	A Stevens - Salary - November	314.59
101033	ESCC Pension Contributions	300.66

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ii: Approval of Accounts to date - Councillors resolved to approve the accounts to 31st October 2017.

iii: Councillors approved the following grant applications for 2018-2019 –

	£
Parish News	100.00
Cuckmere Community Bus	200.00
Cuckmere Flood Forum	70.00
Sussex Air Ambulance	150.00
Sussex Victim Support	50.00
Wealden Citizen's Advice	150.00

iv: Councillors resolved that subject to any late government legislation, the precept for 2018-2019 is increased by 1% to £13938 to help keep the precept in line with predicted expenditure.

67. Berwick Recreation Ground

i: to agree a water supply contribution to the Village Hall – Councillor discussed whether or not to contribute a sum to the water bill at the Village Hall to compensate them for the water used by the Caravan Club. Councillors asked what the annual water bill is and whether the club used the facilities the same number of times this year. Once they have this information they will make a decision.

ii: to agree a winter deadline for caravan users - Councillors agreed the caravan season should be restricted from 1st May to 30th September with the months of May and September being subject to cancellation on the grounds of wet weather.

68. Consultations –

i: A27 Consultation – Highways England consulted on plans to improve the A27 east of Lewes in 2016. They considered all the responses and have now announced the preferred route for the improvement scheme. Details about the preferred route can be found on www.highways.gov.uk/A27EastofLewes

ii: Library Consultation – Councillor agreed that the libraries and the mobile libraries are a much needed resource because many users are not able to drive to other libraries and public transport is often unreliable or non-existent and they would like them to continue. Details of the ESCC Library Strategy can be found on www.eastsussex.gov.uk/librarystrategy.

iii: South Downs National Park Local Plan – Councillors had no comments to make and felt they were not qualified to comment on the compliance and legal soundness of the Plan.

iv: Police and Crime Commissioner Consultation - Mrs Bourne has launched a county-wide consultation to ask the public if they would be prepared to pay more for policing in Sussex.

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The consultation closes on Friday, 5 January, and the results will help inform a decision which will be reviewed by the Police & Crime Panel at its meeting in January. Councillors agreed that whilst they are not in principle against paying more, they would need to know more detail. Responses to the consultation can be made on www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/public-consultations

69. Questions from Parish Councillors

At the July Meeting Mr Deighton from Firle Estates agreed to replace the hedge of the neighbouring property to the Village Hall with a fence so it will improve visibility for drivers when they leave the hall. Upon investigation he found a fence within the hedge and agreed to clear the hedge. Councillors asked the Clerk to find out when the work is being carried out.

Councillors also noted the hedge has been cut at the Berwick Solar Farm so the farm is now visible from the road. They asked the Clerk to refer the matter to Enforcement Wealden.

There was no further business and this meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date: _____

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