

Berwick Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Berwick Parish Council held at the Berwick Inn on 26th July 2018 at 7:30pm

21. Present

Cllrs B Smith (Chairman), Keith Winter and Sally Carnie.

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

22. Apologies for absence

Councillors V Borrough and Chris Bird sent apologies for their absence which were duly accepted by the Parish Council.

District Councillor P Ede also sent apologies for his absence.

The meeting was then suspended.

23. Reports from County Councillor

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

24. Report from the District Councillor

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

25. Public Question Time

Mr Cooper asked if everyone is aware that Wealden Full Council passed its Local Plan on the 18th July and he asked if the Parish Council was consulted on the latest figures and if it was not why not.

The Parish Council is waiting to receive official notification that Wealden District Council has approved the Plan and is waiting for the information which it will be given to enable it to make its comments. This stage of the process (which is determined by statute) relates to certain specific questions about soundness and legal compliance but we understand other comments can be added.

The total allocation for Berwick is 95, 12 of which have already been completed and committed, 33 have already been allocated and there is a windfall allowance of 50 which means there will be another 83 houses built over the next ten years, radically altering the nature of Berwick Station which has now been defined as a Core Area.

Mr Hale asked how the residents will know about the Plan. As it stands the Plan will be an agenda item for the September Meeting and it will be advertised in the usual way. It will also be on the website, details will appear in the village magazine and Mr Cooper agreed to put a leaflet through every door in the Parish once the Clerk has more details.

Mr Cooper also asked if everyone is aware the Plan includes The Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA). SHELAA is an essential piece of

Initial _____

Berwick Parish Council

evidence which is required to support the Local Plan process. It is a technical assessment which considers the availability, suitability and achievability of land in the District for possible development. Land north of the railway line has been deemed suitable on the grounds of sustainability. Mr Cooper asked how that can be.

It was also noted that not everyone is against development and some who objected in the last consultation were not from the village.

Residents also asked if the public question time can be extended in the future. The public question time can be extended at a meeting at the discretion of the Parish Council.

The meeting was then re-opened.

26. Planning Applications

There were no planning applications for commenting on at this meeting.

27. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual General Meetings both of which were held on 24th May 2018 (previously distributed).

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual General Meetings both of which were held on 24th May 2018 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

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

All matters' arising were included elsewhere on the agenda.

29. Reports from Parish Councillors

i: Berwick Playing Field – This was covered in Minute 35.

ii: Highways and Transport Matters – The Clerk attended a meeting about the A27 which had been organised by the Surrey and Sussex Association of Local Councils. The general consensus of the meeting was that all the Parish Councils along the A27 should be united in their approach to any proposed new road or indeed the widening or duelling of the existing road. Trevor Leggo, Chief Executive, agreed to attempt to set up a meeting between the three local MPs; Maria Caulfield, Nus Ghani, Stephen Lloyd, Highways England and representatives of Parish Councils along the A27 in order to gain clarity about what is actually being discussed.

The Clerk also asked how everyone was finding the new Govia Thameslink timetable. It is still a problem for residents so Councillors asked the Clerk to file a complaint and invite the Timetable Manager to the next meeting to find a way forward.

Councillor Smith told everyone the road closure that had been planned for this week was postponed because there wasn't enough time to re-route all seven Cuckmere Buses in the time available because they have to have licences to run on other roads.

Berwick Parish Council

Councillor Smith said she has received complaints from residents of Upper Berwick because it takes a long time to turn onto the A27. The Clerk will write to Highways England to see if anything can be done.

30. Reports from Outside Bodies

- i: Village Hall Committee – There was no report from the Village Hall on this occasion.
- ii: Cuckmere Community Bus – One bus has been sold and a new one has been ordered. More drivers are still needed.
- iii: Tree Warden – There was no report from the Tree Warden on this occasion.
- iv: Cuckmere Community Flood Forum – There was no report from the Community Flood Forum on this occasion.

31. Finance

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

		£
101058	ESCC - Grass Cutting	348.00
101059	Mass Media - Website	42.00
101060	HMRC - PAYE	641.60
101061	ESCC - Pension	468.51
101062	A Stevens - Salary - June	320.68
101063	A Stevens - Salary - July	321.08
101064	Cuckmere CCB - Grant	100.00
101065	Parish News - Grant	100.00
101066	Cuckmere Flood Forum - Grant	70.00
101067	Wicksteed - Play Park Inspection	54.00

- ii: Approval of Accounts to date - Councillors resolved to approve the accounts to the 29th June 2018.

32. Co-option of New Parish Councillors

Councillors resolved to co-opt Mr Dexter Robinson onto Berwick Parish Council.

33. Proposal to Review the Parish Boundary

Berwick Parish Council has been approached by Alciston Parish Meeting and Selmeston Parish Meeting and asked to review its boundary to include the villages of both Alciston and Selmeston.

Councillors agreed to circulate a questionnaire to residents which was distributed by the Clerk which details the advantages to residents and asks for their views. If residents object to the proposal the plans will not go ahead. If residents agree the next stage would be to apply to the District Council for either a Community Governance Review probably in 2020 or a Grouping Order which should take a year.

Initial _____

Berwick Parish Council

34. Speed Survey Results

Councillors compared the Speed Survey Results in July 2017 with those from May 2018. They agreed to commission another survey in May 2019 so they could make a fairer comparison.

35. Berwick Recreation Ground

Councillors considered the Annual Risk Assessment and agreed to ask Foster Landscapes to carry out the necessary repairs.

36. Local Heritage List

The South Downs National Park Authority is looking to create a 'Local Heritage List' which will cover the entire park. It is one way of identifying non-designated heritage assets. In practice, it does not provide any extra direct controls – it isn't the equivalent of listing. However, paragraph 135 of the NPPF says that, should a planning application be submitted which affects the significance of a non-designated heritage asset, that effect should be taken into account when determining the application.

If the LHL is to be successful, it needs to be based on a rigorous and transparent system and the first step in achieving this is to establish the criteria against which potential additions to the LHL can be assessed.

To that end, a draft set of criteria and a guidance note which attempts to explain them have been prepared. They can be found at <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning/supplementary-documents/>

If anyone has any suggestions they are asked to notify the Clerk.

37. General Data Protection Regulations

Councillors resolved to have a separate Parish Council email address to comply with the recommendations in the General Data Protection Regulations.

38. Questions from Parish Councillors

Councillor Carnie asked if someone from Planning could be invited to attend the next Parish Council Meeting to answer questions about the Local Plan. The Clerk will ask Wealden.

There was no further business and this meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date: _____

Initial _____

Berwick Parish Council