

Berwick Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Berwick Parish Council held at the Berwick Village Hall on 28th November 2019 at 7:30pm

48. Present

Cllrs K Winter (Chairman), V Burrough, B Smith and S Carnie.

County Councillor N Bennett, Alison Stevens (Clerk) and two members of the public were also in attendance.

49. Apologies for absence

Cllr D Robinson sent apologies for his absence which were duly accepted by the Parish Council.

50. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interests nor were there any changes to the Register of Interests.

The meeting was then suspended.

51. Reports from the County Councillor

County Councillor Bennett had nothing new to report on this occasion.

52. Report from the District Councillor

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

53. Public Question Time

There were no questions from the public on this occasion.

The meeting was then re-opened.

54. Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 19th September 2019 (previously distributed).

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 19th September 2019 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

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

The organiser of this year's Mucky Weekender, Charles Vine, has written to the Parish Council to follow up on the event. He said;

'We had no traffic issues at all, no one was ill and there were no issues at all with any trouble. The atmosphere of the event was extremely happy and several of our neighbours attended the event and enjoyed it. One was over 80!

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Local businesses including hotels, pubs and taxis definitely benefitted from the event.

However, whilst no one heard anything in Arlington and the sound was not even audible in much of Upper Dicker, we understand that it did carry to Berwick.

Sound is a strange thing and I have since learnt a little more about it and if there were any issues for Berwick residents, I would want to address them and be clear about what happened to ensure it doesn't happen again.

Apparently, sound can be deflected from a pocket of hot air and bounce back down to the ground in an unpredictable way'.

The Parish Council understands that some residents in Berwick and its neighbouring Parishes were affected greatly by the noise, and complaints were made to Environmental Health as a result. Environmental Health has confirmed the organisers are aware they will need to apply for a different type of licence – a Premises Licence – next year which will give officers a greater chance of controlling the noise levels.

56. Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered;

WD/2019/2318/F - Gatehampton, Station Road, Berwick, BN26 6SZ - Demolition of garage and summerhouse and erection of a two storey terrace of three dwellings and a two storey detached dwelling – Berwick Parish Council objects to this application because;

- It is an overdevelopment of the site.
- The design is out of keeping with the neighbouring properties.
- Timber cladding has a limited life span and will not have a long lasting positive effect.
- Councillors understand from an earlier report that the sewage system cannot cope and 15 more properties have been built since then already.
- This application will mean at least ten cars (including Gatehampton) will use a domestic drive and will enter and exit onto an already congested road, which cars block because of the railway crossing.
- The new houses are too close to neighbouring properties.
- The new development overlooks neighbouring properties because the land they will be built on, is raised.

Councillors also asked for an update on the following application;

WD/2019/1801/F - Flat 4 (former Berwick Stores building), Station Road, Berwick BN26 6TA - Proposed division of existing two bedroom flat to provide x2 one bedroom flats.

The Parish Council understands a decision has yet to be made. The Clerk will ask the Planning Officer for an update.

57. Reports from Parish Councillors

- i: Berwick Playing Field – There was nothing new to report on this occasion.
- ii: Highways and Transport Matters – Councillor Winter reported a pothole on the left hand side by the entrance to Arlington Reservoir. The Clerk will report it to Highways.

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Councillor Smith said there is still flooding at Crossways Cottage in Station Road and the drainage work carried out by ESCC does not seem to have worked. The Clerk will report the matter to ESCC and the Cuckmere Flood Forum.

It was also noted that areas in the parish which flooded recently, have not been known to flood before.

58. Reports from Outside Bodies

- i. Village Hall Committee – The Village Hall Committee;
 - has agreed the Parish Council can fit a defibrillator to the outside wall of the hall if it decides to as long as it (the Parish Council) meets all the costs involved and insures it.
 - Asked if the hedge can be trimmed around the playing field. The Clerk will ask the Village Hall Committee to confirm which hedge they are referring to, so she can establish ownership.
- ii. Cuckmere Community Bus – Councillor Smith said;
 - four new drivers have been trained this week and a new bus has been ordered. The Bus Operator plans to order another bus later next year.
 - Passenger numbers are good. She will bring figures of the actual numbers to the next meeting.
 - Cuckmere Community Bus receives excellent service from the garage it uses.
- iii. Tree Warden – Mr Carnie reported;
 - Local paths remain clear despite the recent stormy conditions.
 - Some local residents are complaining about the partial hedge cutting of the field between Downsway and the garage. Apparently they asked the tractor driver and he said he was instructed to only cut a proportion (about a third of the depth). Residents feel this has left the hedge looking very untidy and villagers wonder why the cutting has changed.

The Clerk subsequently asked Firlie Estates and they said that whilst they do not interfere with individual hedge-cutting decisions, they will make enquiries of the farming contractor.
- iv. Cuckmere Community Flood Forum – There was nothing new to report on this occasion.
- v. South Downs National Park – There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

59. Finance

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

		£
101101	Mass Media - Website	123.59
101102	WDALC - Subscription	10.00
101103	A Stevens - Salary	327.05
101104	A Stevens - Salary	327.45
101133	CCB - Grant	100.00
101134	ESCC - Pension	162.20

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101135

HMRC - PAYE

654.80

- ii: Approval of Accounts to date - Councillors resolved to approve the accounts to the 31st October 2019.
- iii: Councillors resolved to continue with the existing verge cutting arrangements for 2020. It was also noted the hedge alongside the road at the Berwick Way needs cutting. The Clerk will ask ESCC to cut it and if not Mr Hecks, a local contractor.
- iv: Councillors resolved to consider providing a defibrillator in the village and asked the Clerk to bring prices to the meeting in January.
- v: Councillors discussed updating the play equipment in the Recreation Ground and agreed that Councillor Winter will find out what residents would like via WhatsApp.
- vi: Having carefully considered the budget proposals for the ensuing year, Councillors resolved the precept for 2020-2021 will be £14356.

60. Questions from Parish Councillors

There were no further questions from the Parish Councillors.

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

Signed:

Chairman

Date:

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