

# Berwick Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Berwick Parish Council held at the Berwick Village Hall on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020 at 7:30pm

68. Present

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

District Councillor D Watts, Alison Stevens (Clerk) and six members of the public were also in attendance.

69. Apologies for absence

Cllrs D Robinson and V Burrough sent apologies for their absence which were duly accepted by the Parish Council.

County Councillor N Bennett also sent apologies for his absence.

70. Declaration of Interests

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

The meeting was then suspended.

71. Reports from the County Councillor

There was from the County Councillor on this occasion.

72. Report from the District Councillor

District Councillor Watts said the Wealden Local Plan has been rejected by the Planning Inspector because it;

- placed too much emphasis on protecting its rural environments.
- failed one of the requirements for legal compliance, that of the Duty to Co-operate.

Wealden Planners must now go back to using the National Planning Policy Framework and old saved policies. Applications that had been put on hold are now back and some will go ahead because they can no longer be defended. Infrastructure requirements will also need to be revisited.

Work has started on a new plan and some of the leg work in the old plan can be re-used. It is expected that the new Plan will be ready for submission in about two years' time.

Wealden is very disappointed with the Inspector's decision. Having taken legal advice it has decided not to challenge the decision because by doing so it will cause further time delays, it will cost the tax payer a lot of money and it would probably lose anyway.

In answer to questions Councillor Watts confirmed;

- Wealden Councillors will be voting to reject the Plan at their next Full Council Meeting.

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- The Government is reviewing building regulations to incorporate climate change.
- A new A27 will almost certainly lead to more development.
- If anyone has any further questions they can email him via the Parish Clerk.

District Councillor Watts then left the meeting.

## 73. Public Question Time

Mr Deighton, Estate Manager from Firle Estates, answered questions about the recent felling at The Old Brickyard. He said;

- This is the first stage of felling. More is planned but it is not known when or where yet.
- Wood from the trees that have already been felled is being stored until the spring so it has enough moisture content so it can be chipped. The wood needs to have the appropriate amount of moisture to prevent it shattering.
- The chipping process should take place in a day, during the day and should not take weeks.
- The chipper is off a modern tractor which burns diesel efficiently. It should not produce any diesel pollution.
- The work being carried out is part of normal forest operations.
- Only brush will be burnt and only then for a couple of hours.
- He will see if it is possible to store any logs away from houses in the future.
- More trees will be planted to compensate for those felled.

The meeting was then re-opened.

## 74. Minutes of the Full Council Meetings held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019 and 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 (previously distributed).

The Minutes of the Full Council Meetings held on 28th November 2019 and 6th January 2020 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

## 75. Clerk's Report on Matters' Arising from those Minutes

The Clerk told those present about the Good Neighbour Scheme. Anyone interested is invited to contact the Clerk for more details.

It was also noted that a van came off the road and ended up into the Berwick Way hedge recently.

## 76. Planning Applications

There were no applications for consideration at this meeting.

It was noted that, because the Local Plan has failed, the Station Farm application is now live again. At their previous meeting, Councillors discussed a request from Lord Lloyd to support his request to ask his solicitor to make further representation. Councillors discussed the matter and agreed their original objections still stand. They said they had nothing new to add and resolved to support Lord Lloyd's request, as long as all the costs are met by him.

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## 77. A27 East of Lewes

Councillors resolved to support the Plans from Highways England for a cycle path from Beddingham to Polegate and the completion of the Berwick Way but they pointed out a bus shelter shown in the Plans belongs to the Parish Council not Grant View and they asked the Planners to consider adding a pedestrian crossing by Leylands Barn.

Mr Deighton said there is to be a Public Exhibition on the A27 on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January in Selmeston between 3pm and 5.30pm. It is understood the event is being hosted by Highways England.

## 78. Reports from Parish Councillors

- i: Berwick Playing Field – There was nothing new to report on this occasion.
- ii: Highways and Transport Matters – The drainage pipe at the junction of Station Road and Common Lane, which has recently been renewed, is blocked again. The Clerk will report the matter to Highways.

It was also reported that the road also flooded in Arlington Road by the reservoir recently.

## 79. Reports from Outside Bodies

- i. Village Hall Committee – There was nothing new to report on this occasion.
- ii. Cuckmere Community Bus – Councillor Smith said;
  - One bus has just been sold. There are currently seven in use and another one has been ordered. The new bus cost £95000.
  - CCTV is now being considered because the yard has been broken into a few times.
  - More volunteer drivers are always needed.
  - Passenger numbers have declined although it was noted that if one passenger dies and they had been using the bus for two journeys a week that equates to 100 bus journeys a year.
  - Anyone can use their buses, you don't have to be a 'member'.
  - The County Card can be used on Cuckmere Community Buses.
- iii. Tree Warden – There was nothing new to report on this occasion.
- iv. Cuckmere Community Flood Forum – There was nothing new to report from the Flood Forum.
- v. South Downs National Park – There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

## 80. Finance

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

		£
101136	Mass Media – Website	75.60
101137	Berwick VH - Hall Hire	64.00
101138	A Stevens - Salary	327.05
101139	A Stevens - Salary	327.45

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101140

ESCC - Pension

324.40

ii: Approval of Accounts to date - Councillors resolved to approve the accounts to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.

iii: Councillors considered the prices submitted by the Clerk and resolved to;

- Order the AED Plus defibrillator at a cost of £1170 and an Aivia outdoor heated cabinet at a cost of £594 through the British Heart Foundation.
- Fit the defibrillator to an outside wall of the Village Hall.
- Provide a training session on how to use it.
- Risk assess the defibrillator once a month.
- Fund the defibrillator and its associated costs from the Community Infrastructure Levy.

v: Residents said they would like the Parish Council to consider fitting Adult Exercise Equipment in the Recreation Ground. The Chairman and Clerk will meet a play park specialist and see what they recommend.

## 81. Questions from Parish Councillors

There were no further questions from the Parish Councillors.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.15pm

Signed:

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Chairman

Date:

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