

Berwick Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Berwick Parish Council held on the Thursday 23rd July 2020 at 7:00pm. This was a virtual meeting held on Zoom.

1. Present

Cllrs K Winter (Chairman), V Burrough and D Robinson.

Mr Lars Graabek (Living Danish), District Councillor D Watts and Alison Stevens (Clerk) were also present. There were no members of the public in attendance.

2. Apologies for absence

Cllrs B Smith and S Carnie sent apologies for their absence which were duly accepted by the Parish Council.

3. Declaration of Interests

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

The meeting was then suspended.

4. Report from the County Councillor

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

5. Report from the District Councillor

District Councillor Watts said;

- Some of the planning rules have been relaxed to help businesses recover from the Coronavirus crisis.
- Wealden has also awarded over 3000 business grants to help businesses recover too.
- Wealden Planning Meetings are still going ahead, but virtually.

6. Public Question Time

Mr Graabek from Living Danish asked for feedback from the Parish Council on plans his client has to submit a planning application to build two small two bed bungalows in one of the front gardens at Princes Field. He asked the Parish Council to support the application because;

- The area needs more affordable housing.
- It would be within the development boundary.
- They will use local contractors to build the properties.
- The bungalows will be designed for the site.
- Once built, they will be an annex for their elderly parents.
- Each bungalow will have a low roof and will therefore have a low impact.
- Each can be landscaped so they are not visible from the street.

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Councillors said they feel;

- The application is not appropriate from a Town Planning perspective. The development is out of keeping because the design of the village is a linear one.
- There is another more appropriate site nearby.
- If it is allowed to go ahead it will set a precedent for more.
- Parking will be an issue. There is no mention as to where the cars from these properties will park. If they park on the road there will be access issues for the property behind.
- The application will see even more cars accessing an already dangerous road.

Mr Graabek left the meeting.

The meeting was then re-opened.

7. Minutes of the Full Council Meetings held on 23rd January 2020 and 2nd March 2020 (previously distributed).

The Minutes of the Full Council Meetings held on 23rd January 2020 and 2nd March 2020 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

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

All matters arising were covered elsewhere on the agenda.

9. To confirm the rollover of all existing appointments and subscriptions

Councillors resolved to rollover all existing appointments and subscriptions. The legal requirement to hold an Annual General Meeting was removed this year because of the lockdown situation.

10. Planning Applications

There were no applications for consideration at this meeting.

SDNP/20/02314/HOUS - Barn Cottage Alfriston Road Berwick BN26 5QS – Partial demolition and erection of replacement single storey pitched roof extension – Berwick Parish Council has no objections to this application on any planning grounds.

11. Reports from Parish Councillors

i: Berwick Playing Field – The Recreation Ground was closed at the beginning of lockdown because the play equipment had to be closed off and it was the only way to stop people using the equipment. As the lockdown continued, the equipment was taped off so the rest of the ground could stay open. Some of the lockdown measures have now eased and the Parish Council is now allowed to re-open the play equipment as long as it has been risk assessed from a Covid-19 point of view and any appropriate measures are put in place. The Parish Council risk assessed the area and put in place the measures recommended in the risk assessment which they felt were appropriate. Councillors agreed no further measures are necessary at this stage but agreed to monitor the situation.

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ii: Highways and Transport Matters – ESCC Contractors are currently using Arlington Speedway as a depot whilst the resurfacing works are taking place. Any complaints about traffic driving through the village can be directed to County Councillor Bennett via the Parish Clerk.

12. Reports from Outside Bodies

- i. Village Hall Committee – The Hall has received a £10000 Business Grant from Wealden District Council to help it through the Coronavirus Crisis. It has also saved money on business rates. The hall will be re-open for bookings from 29th July.
- ii. Cuckmere Community Bus – There was nothing new to report on this occasion.
- iii. Tree Warden – There was also nothing new to report on this occasion.
- iv. Cuckmere Community Flood Forum – The Parish Council understands the Water Levels Management Board has raised the funds needed to undertake at least one shingle clearance at the mouth of the Cuckmere but the Environment Agency (the EA) has stopped them using their PSCA (Public Sector Cooperation Agreement). The Board now feels it has three options;
 1. To get the EA to fulfil its obligations and do the de-shingling.
 2. If that cannot happen the WLMB will ask to take over responsibility for the river: to de-main the river.
 3. The WLMB will withdraw from the Cuckmere River if no progress has been made by October 2020 and refund all those who have contributed towards the work. This is the least preferred and most serious option.
- v. South Downs National Park – There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

13. Finance

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

		£
101159	Norvett - Defibrillator Installation	264.00
101160	CCB - Grant	100.00
101161	Champagne TS- Grass Cutting	392.00
101162	Firle Estates - Rent	50.00
101163	Mass Media - Website	151.20
101164	A Stevens - Salary	436.45
101165	A Stevens - Salary	436.25
101166	HMRC - PAYE	327.20
101167	ESCC - Pension Contributions	318.64
101168	Flood Forum - Grant	70.00

- ii Councillors resolved to approve the Annual Governance Statement 2019-2020.
- iii: Berwick Parish Council resolved to confirm its Exemption Status for the year 2019-2020.
- iv: Councillors resolved to approve the accounts, the risk management document, the asset schedule and the internal audit arrangements for the financial year to 31st March 2020.
- v: Berwick Parish Council resolved to appoint Peter Frost as the Internal Auditor for the financial year ending 31st March 2021.
- vi: The Chairman and Clerk met contractors at the Recreation Ground and received four quotes to update the equipment. The Clerk will find out what grants are available.
- vii: Councillors resolved to accept the proposal to increase the rent of the Recreation Ground to £100 pa.
- viii: Councillors agreed the caravan charges for the forthcoming year will be £7.50 per night

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per caravan.

14. Accessibility Regulations

Councillors agreed there will also be an Accessibility Statement on the website which asks anyone who is experiencing any difficulties to contact the Clerk so she can send them the information they need but in a different format. This will allow the Parish Council to assess whether it needs to precept for a new website.

15. Questions from Parish Councillors

There were no further questions from the Parish Councillors.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.00pm

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date: _____

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