

Berwick Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Berwick Parish Council held on Wednesday 22nd November 2023 at 7:00pm. This meeting was held in Berwick Village Hall.

40. Present

Cllr K Winter (Chairman), G Barham, V Burrough and S Carnie.

District Councillor A Wilson and A Stevens (Parish Clerk). There were no members of the public present.

41. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T Mills and B Smith. The reasons for their apologies were accepted by the Parish Council.

42. Declarations of Interests

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

The meeting was then suspended.

43. County Councillor's Report

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

44. District Councillor's Report

District Councillor Wilson said:

- the Wealden Local Plan is progressing well and is expected to be submitted to Full Council on the 8th February.
- the District Council has just adopted its new Council Strategy. Planning is not directly addressed but is covered in more detail in the Local Plan.

In answer to Councillor's questions District Councillor Wilson confirmed roadside ditches are not due to be cleaned by Highways until late 2024. She offered to refer any specific concerns to them.

45. Public Question Time

There were no questions from any members of the public.

The meeting was then re-opened.

46. Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 26th July 2023

The draft minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 26th July 2023 were read by all, confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

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

All matters arising were covered elsewhere on the agenda.

48. Planning Applications - The following planning application was commented on;

SDNP/23/04543/LIS - Elm House, The Village, Berwick, East Sussex BN26 6SP - Erect detached garden building (demolish existing garden room/store room) – Berwick Parish Council has no objections to this application.

49. Reports from Parish Councillors

- i. Berwick Playing Field – Councillors resolved to replace the gate at the Recreation Ground because it is beyond repair. Work is expected to take place the week beginning 27th November.
- ii. Highways and Transport Matters – The winning poster was agreed and councillors resolved to award the winner a £20 WHSmith Book token. Because the standard of the remaining entries was so high it was decided to use them too and award each child a token for £15. The Clerk will check with Highways that the winning entry is suitable for displaying at the roadside, all other entries will be displayed around the village. The aim of the posters is to try and reduce the amount of litter in the parish.

It was also agreed to consider having a 'smiley face' speed warning device in the village for which the Clerk will bring prices to the next meeting.

50. Reports from Outside Bodies

- i. Village Hall Committee – There was nothing new to report from the Village Hall.
- ii. Cuckmere Community Bus – There was nothing to report from the Cuckmere Community Bus.
- iii. Tree Warden – There were no new updates from the Footpath Warden.
- iv. Cuckmere Community Flood Forum – Councillor Winter said he is going to attend the next Cuckmere Community Flood Forum Meeting and will report back in due course.
- v. South Downs National Park – There was nothing to report from the South Downs National Park Authority.

51. Finance

- i. Approval of payments to date – Councillors approved the following payments;

		£
101317	Berwick Village Hall - Hall Hire	80.00
101318	ESALC Ltd - Councillor Training	48.00
101319	Mass Media - Website	50.40
101320	WDALC – Subscription	11.00
101321	A Stevens - Salary - July	487.24
101322	A Stevens - Salary – August	487.24
101323	HMRC - PAYE	392.40
101324	ESCC - Pension	334.88
101325	Champagne TS - Grounds Maint	1200.00
101326	Mass Media - Website	50.40

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101327	Champagne TS - Grounds Maint	595.00
101328	A Stevens - Salary - September	487.24
101329	A Stevens - Salary - October	487.24
101330	ESCC - Pension	405.91
101331	HMRC - PAYE	471.74

- ii. Approval of accounts to date – Councillors resolved to approve the accounts to the 31st October 2023.
- iii. Verge cutting arrangements 2024 – It was resolved to continue with the existing verge cutting arrangements (Option 2) for 2024.
- iv. Councillors resolved the precept for 2024-2025 will be £16000. This represents an increase of approximately 70p a month per Council Tax Band D payer but helps to keep the precept in line with inflation. It will also enable the Parish Council to use its reserves to replace the play equipment in the Recreation Ground.

52. Defibrillator – There was no update on the defibrillators.

53. Questions from Parish Councillors

There have been several instances where the replacement bus service has refused to drop children off in the village which means they have to make their own way back from the A27 in the dark. It was also reported that replacement buses are not stopping when residents try and hail them. It was agreed the Clerk will draft a letter to ask the MP to take these matters up with the bus and train companies.

There were no further questions and this meeting closed at 7.50pm

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date: _____