

Berwick Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Berwick Parish Council held on Thursday 23rd March 2023 at 7:00pm. This meeting was held in Berwick Village Hall.

77. Present

Cllr S Carnie (Acting Chairman), V Burrough, B Smith and T Mills.

District Councillor D Watts, A Stevens (Parish Clerk) and two members of the public were also in attendance

78. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor K Winter. His apologies were accepted by the Full Council.

County Councillor N Bennett also sent apologies for his absence.

79. Declarations of Interests

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

The meeting was then suspended.

80. County Councillor's Report

County Councillor Bennett sent a corporate response ahead of the meeting. A copy of his report is available from the Clerk on request.

81. District Councillor's Report

District Councillor David Watts;

- Said the planning application for a solar farm on land north of Claverham Farm (WD/2021/2617/MEA), was Refused by Planning Committee South today. He spoke out against the Decision at the meeting. The application has also been called in by Maria Caulfield MP.
- Reported that the last Planning Meeting of the current administration will be the Planning Committee North meeting on 30th March. There will be no planning meetings at Wealden during April because of the pre-election period (purdah).
- Asked everyone to keep an eye on the updates on the Ukraine situation which can be found on the Wealden District Council website.
- The Local Plan has been delayed until the end of the summer because the District Council is still waiting to hear what its housing allocation from Central Government is going to be.
- Confirmed RIS 3 is on hold because there is no money for it at the moment.

82. Public Question Time

Residents reported;

Berwick Parish Council

- i. Some fly tipping in Common Lane. The Clerk will ask Wealden to remove it.
- ii. The barrier is broken at one end of the Berwick Way. The Clerk has already reported this and the broken seat to Rights of Way and will chase them up.
- iii. The hedge outside Gatehampton is still partially blocking the footpath. The Clerk has written to the owners and asked them to cut it back.

The meeting was then re-opened.

83. Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 26th January 2023.

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

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

The Clerk reminded everyone that this is an election year for Parish Councils and that completed nomination forms need to be with Wealden between 21st March and 4pm on the 4th April.

85. Planning Applications

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

Councillor Carnie asked if there was any news on when work is starting at the land at Station Farm. The Clerk had previously asked Planning at Wealden and received the following response;

'Following resolution to grant planning permission at Committee, subject to a Section 106 legal agreement, that legal agreement is now being drafted. After which, planning permission can be granted as set out in the committee resolution'.

86. Reports from Parish Councillors

- i. Berwick Playing Field – Councillors previously resolved to plant an established flowering cherry tree because as an established tree it would have a much better chance of survival. There will also be a plaque to explain why it has been planted. Councillor Mills is arranging for it to be planted.
- ii. Highways and Transport Matters –
 - a) The Feasibility Study has been received and was carefully considered by councillors. The study will be used when the Council has more Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
 - b) There was nothing to report from 20's Plenty. Councillor Mills said he will report back when he knows more.
 - c) At the last meeting Councillors discussed ways to prevent vehicles driving on the verge at the junction of Station Road and Common Lane and asked Councillor Mills to put a note on any offending vehicles. They agreed this is the best approach and will monitor the situation to see if it improves.

87. Reports from Outside Bodies

- i. Village Hall Committee – Berwick Village Hall has agreed to reconsider its decision not to fit hanging curtains on the walls above the storage heaters if the Parish Council agrees to meet the costs. Councillor Burrough agreed to find out if it would be better to fit fire resistant blinds instead. The aim is to improve the acoustics for meetings. Padded boarding was also

Berwick Parish Council

suggested.

- ii. Cuckmere Community Bus – More drivers and passengers are still needed. One of the buses has been vandalised.
- iii. Tree Warden – Mr Carnie reported a tree that looks to be diseased in the Recreation Ground. The Clerk will ask a Tree Surgeon if it should be removed.
- iv. Cuckmere Community Flood Forum – There was nothing new to report.
- v. South Down National Park – There was nothing to report on this occasion.

88. Finance

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

101293	Queen's Canopy - Tree	375.78
101294	Queen's Canopy – Planting	325.00
101295	Mass Media - Website	68.40
101296	A Stevens Salary - January	487.24
101297	A Stevens Salary - February	487.24
101298	ESCC – Pension	347.98
101299	HMRC – PAYE	392.40
101300	Berwick Village Hall – Hall Hire	54.00

- ii. Approval of accounts to date – Councillors resolved to approve the accounts to the 28th February 2023.

89. Assets of Community Value – Councillor Mills has asked the Manager of the Berwick Inn how he would feel if the pub is nominated as an Asset of Community Value and he said he will talk to the owner and report back.

90. Defibrillator – Councillor Mills checked the defibrillator, found it to be sound and will register it on the Circuit. He will also check the pads are in date.

91. Questions from Parish Councillors

There were no further questions and this meeting closed at 7.40pm

Signed: _____

Acting Chairman

Date: _____

Berwick Parish Council