

# Berwick Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Berwick Parish Council held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7:00pm. This meeting took place in Berwick Village Hall.

## 54. Present

Cllr K Winter (Chairman), G Barham, V Burrough and T Mills.

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

## 55. Apologies for absence

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

## 56. Declarations of Interests

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

The meeting was then suspended.

## 57. County Councillor's Report

County Councillor Bennett said;

- It is budget setting time at the County Council.
- There is likely to be a significant investment in environmental work.
- Reserves will be used to balance the budget for the first time.
- After the next financial year there will be a gap of £60m which is due mainly to a huge demand in Adult Social Care and the Special Needs Criteria.

## 58. District Councillor's Report

District Councillor Wilson said the first draft of the Wealden Local Plan has been released to the public. It is included with the meeting papers of the Local Plan Sub-Committee Meeting which is being held on the 29th January, and it will then be considered by Full Council on the 8th February.

A public consultation will run for eight weeks from mid-March. Events are also being planned in Horam, East Hoathly, Uckfield, Crowborough, Hailsham, Heathfield and Frant.

Berwick has been allocated 10 houses on land to the north of the Recreation Ground and 27 on land west of Berwick Station.

## 59. Public Question Time

There were no questions from any members of the public.

The meeting was then re-opened.

# Berwick Parish Council

60. Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023

The draft minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 were read by all, confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

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

All matters arising were covered elsewhere on the agenda.

62. Planning Applications – There were no planning applications for commenting on at this meeting.

63. Reports from Parish Councillors

- i. Berwick Playing Field – The new entrance gate has been fitted. The Parish Council has received some very favourable feedback about it.
- ii. Highways and Transport Matters – It was resolved to ask residents to display the litter posters on their fences to help deter people from dropping litter in the parish. The posters will be distributed via WhatsApp. Anyone without a laminator will be able to contact the Clerk for copies.

64. Reports from Outside Bodies

- i. Village Hall Committee – There was nothing 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 attended the latest Cuckmere Community Flood Forum Meeting. The Water Levels Management Board finally has permission from the Environment Agency to dredge the Cuckmere river.
- v. South Downs National Park – There was nothing to report from the South Downs National Park Authority.

65. Finance

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

		£
101333	Long Man Landscaping – new gate	1156.04
101334	Mass Media - Website	50.40
101335	ESCC - Pension	352.62
101336	A Stevens - Salary - November	694.04
101337	A Stevens - Salary – December	513.02
101338	Gift Vouchers – Poster Competition	95.00

- ii. Approval of accounts to date – Councillors resolved to approve the accounts to the 29<sup>th</sup> December 2023.
- iii. Councillors also resolved to replace the three speed detector devices in Station Road with ones that show drivers' speed with a smiley face to indicate whether or not they are driving too fast. They would also like a fourth fitted as they leave the village.
- iv. It was also resolved that Councillor Mills will look into upgrading the play equipment at the Recreation Ground and report back after he has met potential contractors.

# Berwick Parish Council

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

67. Questions from Parish Councillors

Councillor Burrough asked for the hedge at the solar farm to be cut for safety reasons. The Clerk will ask Highways to do it.

Councillor Barham asked for Station Road to be cleared outside the Village Hall. Contractors working on adjoining field have left debris which includes mud, waste, brick debris and clay over the road and pavements. The Clerk will ask Firle Estates, who the Parish Council understand owns the land, to clean it.

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

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

Date: \_\_\_\_\_