

Berwick Parish Council

Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Full Council Meeting of Berwick Parish Council held on Tuesday 24th August 2021 at 6:30pm. This meeting was held at Berwick Village Hall.

35. Present

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

Alison Stevens (Clerk) and five members of the public were also present.

36. Apologies for absence

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

37. Declaration of Interests

Councillor Winter declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the pre-consultation for the proposed upgrade to the radio base station at Stonery Farm. He did not take part in the vote.

The meeting was then suspended.

38. Public Question Time

Residents asked;

- If the changes proposed for the existing radio base station at Stonery Farm will help to improve the service. The upgrade is part of Telefonica's network improvement program to provide enhanced 2G, 3G and 4G coverage, and future 5G coverage.
- Why the work in the Wick Street application (WD/2021/177/F) is necessary because it will mean the roads will be dug up in the winter and whilst the improvements are still being made to the A27. This application will add to the existing chaos, which is already bad enough as it is. They also questioned claims made in the application that the work is needed to make the scheme commercially viable.
- For an update on planning application WD/2021/0440/F. The Clerk said she will ask the Planning Officer.
- For an update on WD/2016/1659/MAJ and whether it is normal for an application to take this long to go through. There are no new updates at this stage. Councillor Robinson confirmed the planning application process can take years.
- What is happening about the hedges alongside the footpath outside Gatehampton because they still haven't been cut back. The Clerk has reported the problem to ESCC Highways, a general notice asking all residents who have hedges alongside public paths to keep theirs cut back has been put in the village magazine and Councillor Smith has spoken to the owner of this particular hedge and asked her to cut it back.

Ms Challinor announced that, along with others, she has set up 'Berwick Station Gardeners'. She said the gardeners have approval from Network Rail to make the station look more welcoming and invited anyone who would like to join them to contact her at; Anne.Challinor@NHSPProfessionals.nhs.uk.

The meeting was then re-opened.

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39. Planning Applications

Councillors commented on the following applications;

WD/2021/1854/F - 13 Downsway, Station Road, Berwick, BN26 6TD - Single storey flat roof rear Extension – Berwick Parish Council objects to this application because it is a massive over-development. Councillors feel the needs of the owners could be better met by reconfiguring the property.

SDNP/21/04050/LIS - March House, The Village, Berwick, BN26 6SR - Removal and replacement of existing clay tiles to the whole roof – Berwick Parish Council has no objections to this application as long as it meets the Listed Buildings Requirements.

WD/2021/1777/F - Land to the west of Wick Street, Arlington, and beneath the highway of Wick Street, Lower Wick Street, Langtye Lane, The Street, and land to the East of The Street adjoining The Selmeston Network Rail Substation, Selmeston - Installation of underground cable and associated works from Cuckmere Community Solar Farm to the Selmeston Network Rail Substation – Berwick Parish Council objects to this application because;

- It will cause considerable damage to the roads, trees, and hedgerows which does not justify the 5% saving in efficiency. There is enough capacity in the grid so this amount of destruction is really not necessary.
- The construction method being used is 'cut and cover' which will result in the roads being made impassable within 18 months because it will cause cracks which will make it impractical for two cars to pass.
- The work on the A27 will still be underway, work will also be taking place on the A22 and at the Berwick Roundabout. This application will add to the traffic chaos they are already causing, especially in Common Lane and Arlington. It also noted that it still floods at Lower Mays Farm which will add to that.

Councillors commented on the follow Pre-Application Consultation –

Proposed upgrade to existing radio base station installation at Stonery Farm, Common Lane - The proposed works comprise the removal of 3No Antennas and their replacement with 3No Antennas, all to be installed on the existing Lattice Tower – Councillors broadly support the proposals which they understand will improve the coverage in the area without changing the appearance of the existing mast.

40. Questions from Parish Councillors

There being no further questions, the meeting closed at 7.00pm.

Signed:

Chairman

Date:

Berwick Parish Council