

Berwick Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Berwick Parish Council held on Thursday 24th November 2022 at 7:00pm. This meeting was held in Berwick Village Hall.

42. Present

Cllrs K Winter (Chairman), V Burrough and T Mills.

There was 1 member of the public in attendance

43. Apologies for absence

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

County Councillor N Bennett and District Councillor D Watts also sent apologies for their absence.

44. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interests.

The meeting was then suspended.

45. County Councillor's Report

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

46. District Councillor's Report

District Councillor David Watts sent a brief report in which he;

- i. Referred residents to the Wealden District Council website for updates on the Ukraine housing situation.
- ii. Said the new Local Plan is due out for consultation in January 2023.

47. South East Water – to provide an update on the proposed new reservoir

South East Water sent apologies their absence and plan to attend the Parish Council Meeting which is being held in January instead.

48. Public Question Time

In answer to a resident's question the Parish Clerk agreed to ask the Planning Department at the District Council if they have any updates on the following planning application;

WD/2016/1659/MAJ - Land at Station Farm, Station Road, Berwick, BN26 6TA - Erection of 33 dwellings, 3 shops and 2 offices and associated works.

The meeting was then re-opened.

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49. Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 26th October 2022.

The draft minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 26th October 2022 were read by all, confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

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

The Parish Council has asked Highways to repair the bench and broken fencing on the Berwick Way and replace the gate near Beacon View. The bus shelter has now been replaced by National Highways.

Station Road is to be closed from Monday 28th November to Friday 2nd December between the Drusillas Roundabout and Common Lane to allow National Highways to finish work on its new path.

51. Planning Applications

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

52. Reports from Parish Councillors

- i. Berwick Playing Field - Councillor Mills has looked into the costs of planting a tree to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and found it was more expensive than first thought so Councillors resolved to spend £250 to cover the costs. There will also be a plaque to explain why it has been planted.
- ii. Highways and Transport Matters –
 - a) The Feasibility Study has been delayed but should be with the Parish Council in time for the meeting in January.
 - b) At the previous meeting Councillors asked the Clerk to carry out some research on noise cameras. The Clerk subsequently contacted Maria Caulfield MP who sent the following update;
'Regarding the joining bid that Caroline Ansell and I made for a Noise Camera on Beachy Head Road and Birling Gap Road at East Dean, we will find out in the new year whether this bid has been successful.'

When we have more updates on this in the New Year, I would be happy to update the Parish Council on this and look into the possibility of further noise cameras across the constituency.

Do let me know if the Parish Council is concerned about anti-social driving along specific stretches of road in the parish and I could raise this with Sussex Police if needed'.

The Clerk identified Station Road and Common Lane and asked her to raise both of these with Sussex Police.

- c) Also at the last meeting, Councillors agreed that the entrance where Berwick Way meets the new path is dangerous and they discussed ways to improve safety there. The Clerk subsequently contacted National Highways who said that although the area has passed a road safety audit they will cut the vegetation back to help improve visibility.

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53. Reports from Outside Bodies:
- i. Village Hall Committee – Berwick Parish Council asked Berwick Village Hall to reconsider its decision not to fit hanging curtains or put artwork on the walls above the storage heaters because Councillors feel either would help improve the appearance of and the acoustics in the hall. They suggested a local artist could help with the latter and they would be prepared to consider a grant towards the costs.
 - ii. Cuckmere Community Bus – There was nothing new to report on this occasion.
 - iii. Tree Warden – There was nothing new to report about trees.
 - iv. Cuckmere Community Flood Forum – The latest meeting took place on the 14th November, the minutes of which will be circulated to members in due course.
 - v. South Down National Park – There was nothing to report on this occasion.
54. Finance:
- i. Approval of payments to date – Councillors approved the following payments;
£

101279	J Champagne - Outside Maintenance	595.00
101280	Cancelled	0.00
101281	Mass Media - Website	75.60
101282	A Stevens Salary - September	461.61
101283	A Stevens Salary - October	461.41
101284	ESCC - Pension	403.08
101285	Berwick Village Hall – Grant for water	70.00
 - ii. Approval of accounts to date – Councillors resolved to approve the accounts to the 30th October 2022.
 - iii. To consider whether or not to switch to internet banking – Berwick Parish Council has now registered for internet banking.
 - iv. Verge cutting arrangements 2023 – It was resolved to continue with the existing verge cutting arrangements (Option 2) for 2023.
 - v. Councillors resolved the precept for 2023-2024 will be £14750. This represents an increase of approximately 5p a week per Council Tax Band D payer but helps to keep the precept in line with inflation.
55. Assets of Community Value – Councillor Mills has asked both publicans how they would feel if their pubs were nominated as Assets of Community Value. He has yet to receive a response from either and will chase them up.
56. Consultation - ESCC Local Transport Plan 4 – Councillors resolved to respond individually to the Consultation. Details of which can be accessed at [East Sussex Local Transport Plan 4 - East Sussex –Citizen Space](#).
57. Defibrillator – Councillor Mills agreed to risk assess the defibrillator each month.
58. Questions from Parish Councillors

There were no further questions and this meeting closed at 7.37pm

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date: _____

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