

Berwick Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Berwick Parish Council held on Wednesday 26th July 2023 at 7:00pm. This meeting was held in Berwick Village Hall.

24. Present

Cllr K Winter (Chairman), G Barham, S Carnie, T Mills and B Smith.

County Councillor N Bennett, Dick Broady (Community Safety, East Sussex Fire and Rescue), A Stevens (Parish Clerk) and a member of the public were also in attendance

25. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor V Burrough. The reasons for her apologies were accepted by the Parish Council.

District Councillor A Wilson sent apologies for her absence.

26. Appointment of Chairman

Councillor Carnie proposed and Councillor Smith seconded Councillor Winter for the role of Chairman. Councillor Winter duly accepted the role.

27. Declarations of Interests

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

The meeting was then suspended.

28. County Councillor's Report

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

29. District Councillor's Report

District Councillor Alison Wilson sent a written report which said;

'My apologies that I cannot attend this meeting. Below is a brief summary of matters of interest at WDC since the last meeting of Berwick Parish Council:

- 1) Following the water outages in the north of the district in June, an extraordinary meeting of Wealden District Council was held on 28 June to discuss the problems. It was unanimously resolved to ask WDC's chief executive to write to South East Water to ask for an explanation of the recent failures, and to ask for confirmation of the steps being taken to ensure that this does not happen again. WDC is also to write to OFWAT and to the Government to express its concerns over the failure by SE Water to maintain an adequate supply to existing residents, and to ask that the Government supports a reduction in housing numbers until such time as there is a long term solution to the water supply problems. It was noted throughout that this was not the first time the same areas (including Crowborough, Wadhurst, Marks Cross and Rotherfield) had been affected by water supply issues.

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WDC's Overview and Scrutiny Committee, on which I sit, will have the opportunity to ask further questions of the chief executive of SE Water at its meeting on 11 September.

- 2) The Alliance for Wealden (Lib Dems and Greens) are pleased to announce that an agreement in principle has been reached between ESCC, WDC and Freedom Leisure to keep Uckfield swimming pool open.
 - 3) At the Full Council meeting on 19 July, a motion was passed which asks WDC to explore ways to support community ownership of renewable energy projects. Evidence from Germany and Denmark, where community owned renewable energy projects are more common, shows that people are more motivated to support such projects where they can see the benefits for their community in terms of the supply of clean energy and their own energy bills. There are obvious concerns in this area about large scale solar farms, and I have been contacted by a number of residents asking about the options for putting solar panels on roofs, particularly those of commercial and farm buildings. This is a good solution to the question of where to place solar panels, and one which I hope can feed into the development of the WDC Local Plan in due course.
 - 4) Members of the Parish Council will be aware that Planning Committee South (meeting of 13 July) approved the retrospective planning application for the cabin in the garden of 11a Downsway.
30. Dick Broady, Community Fire Safety, East Sussex Fire and Rescue

Mr Broady reported that during 2018-19 there were 30000 house fires in the UK 45% of which did not have working smoke alarms. A third of all deaths were people over 65.

East Sussex Fire and Rescue (ESFR) therefore offers free home safety visits during which they;

- i. Give advice.
- ii. Fit new smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.
- iii. Check electrics.
- iv. Look at people's habits.
- v. Suggest the best route out of a home and recommend an assembly point.
- vi. Provide smokers blankets.

Letter box sealing, door braces, tremble alarms and silent alarms are also available to anyone experiencing domestic violence. A befriending service is also available.

Leaflets providing more information can be found at www.esfrs.org, or on the Parish Council's website, at Berwick Post Office or by calling 0800 177 7069

Businesses can benefit from Fire Safety Training and can find out more by calling 0303 999 1000.

31. Public Question Time

Mrs Palmer asked the Parish Council to consider:

- i: fitting 'please take your litter home with you' signs in the parish and:
- ii: running a competition to ask school children to design a poster to get the message out there too.

This was then covered under minute 35ii.

The meeting was then re-opened.

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32. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual General Meeting both of which were held on the 25th May 2023

The draft minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual General Meeting both of which were held on the 25th May 2023 were read by all, confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

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

All matters arising were covered elsewhere

34. Planning Applications

i: The following planning application was commented on;

WD/2023/1517/O - Cranford Industrial Units, Station Road, Berwick, BN26 6TF - Redevelopment of site for construction of 4 no. dwellings with associated car parking on existing brownfield site – Berwick Parish Council has no objections to this application because the number of dwellings has decreased and a footpath is included.

ii: Wealden Local Plan Scoping Document - It was resolved to submit a formal response from the Parish Council as part of the Wealden Local Plan Consultation.

35. Reports from Parish Councillors

- i. Berwick Playing Field – Councillors asked the Clerk to seek prices for a new vehicle entrance gate which she will bring to the next Parish Council Meeting.
- ii. Highways and Transport Matters – It was resolved to support the suggestions made in the public session to try and reduce the amount of litter in the Parish. The Clerk will ask prices to the next meeting.

36. Reports from Outside Bodies

- i. Village Hall Committee – There was nothing new to report from the Village Hall.
- ii. Cuckmere Community Bus – CCB is buying a new bus in the autumn and it has launched a new route which runs from Deanland to Hailsham and Eastbourne.
- iii. Tree Warden – Mr Carnie reported the footpath between the village hall and the railway station has been cleared for walkers.
- iv. Cuckmere Community Flood Forum – There was nothing new to report.
- v. South Down National Park – Vanessa Rowlands (Cuckmere Valley Parish Council) and William Meyer (Rodmell Parish Council) have been elected to represent East Sussex town and parish councils on the South Downs National Park Board.

37. Finance

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

		£
101309	Champagne TS - Grass Cutting	655.00
101310	Mass Media - Website	100.80
101311	A Stevens - Salary - May	487.24
101312	A Stevens - Salary - June	487.24
101313	ESCC - Pension	334.88

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101314	HMRC - PAYE	392.40
101315	CCB - Grant	100.00
101316	CFF - Grant	70.00

- ii. Approval of accounts to date – Councillors resolved to approve the accounts to the 30th June 2023.

38. Defibrillator – Councillor Mills checked the defibrillator, found it to be sound and has registered it on the Circuit.

39. Questions from Parish Councillors

On behalf of residents', Councillor Smith asked;

- 1) For the hedge to be cut back where the new path from the A27 meets Station Road and for warning signs to be put in place to warn drivers and pedestrians of each other's presence.
- 2) For two steps to be cut into the verge to help those on the path on the opposite side of the A27 who cross onto Pound Lane.

The Clerk will ask National Highways to address these issues.

It was also agreed that future Parish Council Meetings will take place on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

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

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date: _____