

# Berwick Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Berwick Parish Council held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7:00pm. This meeting was held in Berwick Village Hall.

59. Present

Cllrs K Winter (Chairman), S Carnie, V Burrough, B Smith and T Mills.

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

60. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

61. Declarations of Interests

Councillor Winter declared a pecuniary interest and did not take part in either the discussions or the votes for Planning Application WD/2022/2330/F or the proposed base station installation at Stonery Farm.

Councillor Carnie declared a pecuniary interest in item 12iii and did not take part in the discussion or the vote.

The meeting was then suspended.

62. County Councillor's Report

County Councillor Bennett said;

- It is budget setting time at the County Council. The County Council is set to increase its share of the Council Tax by 5% which includes 3% for Adult Social Care.
- If the rise is agreed there will be no need to make any further savings.

63. District Councillor's Report

District Councillor David Watts said;

- South East Water is to attend the next Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting to report on its Draft Management Plan. He invited everyone to attend and/or submit questions for him to ask via the Parish Clerk.
- Southern Water attended the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January to address concerns members had about the recent flooding at Hellingly and the amount of sewage water which is being discharged into our rivers and the sea.
- Wealden's Dementia Alliance started in 2016. It is progressing well and has just been officially recognised for its work.
- The District Council has recently received a grant of £157,000 to help support the installation of electric car charging points in its car parks.

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- The Local Plan has been delayed because the District Council is still waiting to hear what its housing allocation from Central Government will be.

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

South East Water sent apologies for their absence. Its representative was unable to attend because he had Covid.

65. Public Question Time

Mr Vaughn and Mr Horswell described their application WD/2023/0118/F which is for a phased development at Stonery Farm.

The site already has planning permission for four dwellings. They plan to reduce that number and build two instead, one will be their forever home and the other will be a granny annex. Anything that can be restored will be. The flint and brick design is in keeping with its agricultural heritage.

A resident asked the Parish Council to write to the new owners of Gatehampton and ask them to cut back their hedge because it is partially blocking the footpath. Another asked by email why the hedge at the Berwick Way has been cut so low. Councillors agreed they preferred the new height because it makes walkers and cyclist feel safer.

The meeting was then re-opened.

66. Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

The draft minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022 were read by all, confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

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

All matters arising were included elsewhere on the agenda.

68. Planning Applications

i: The Parish Council commented on the following planning applications;

WD/2023/0118/F - Stonery Farm, Common Lane, Selmeston, BN26 6SU - A phased development for the partial demolition and replacement/conversion of the existing farmhouse and adjacent redundant farm buildings to provide a single residential dwelling (phase 2) and the conversion and extension of the existing t-shaped barn to provide a separate residential dwelling (phase 1) with associated landscaping – Berwick Parish Council has no objections to this application on any planning grounds.

WD/2022/2330/F - Stonery Farm, Common Lane, Selmeston, BN26 6SU - Conversion of existing chicken shed into 1 No. 3 bed dwelling & 1 No. 4 bed dwelling. Revised designs to approval  
WD/2021/1404/F - Berwick Parish Council has no objections to this application on any planning grounds.

It was also noted that Planning Application WD/2021/0440 has been submitted for Appeal. Councillors agreed they had nothing new to add to their original comments.

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ii: Base Station Installation at Stonery Farm - Berwick Parish Council has no objections to the proposal which will improve 3G and 4G network coverage in the area.

69. South East Water Draft Management Plan Consultation - Councillors resolved to respond individually to the consultation. Details of the consultation can be found at; <https://www.southeastwater.co.uk/about/our-plans/future-water>

## 70. Reports from Parish Councillors

- i. Berwick Playing Field – Councillors 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 will arrange for the tree to be bought from and planted by English Woodlands.
- ii. Highways and Transport Matters –
  - a) The Feasibility Study has been delayed because ESCC is now looking at the safety at Station Road/Common Lane. The report is being held back to avoid duplication.
  - b) There was nothing to report from 20's Plenty. Councillor Mills said he will report back when he knows more.
  - c) 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. The Clerk will also arrange for a 'no parking on the grass' sign to go on the fence.

## 71. 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 roller blinds instead. The aim is to improve the acoustics for meetings.
- ii. Cuckmere Community Bus – There are currently seven buses operating and there are plans to buy another one soon. Its winter timetable was recently voted the best in the country. More drivers and passengers are needed
- iii. Tree Warden – There were no tree issues to report. Mr Carnie asked Parish Council to consider making a contribution towards a chain saw training course he has attended so he can clear obstructions over public footpaths in the future. Councillors turned down his request because the footpaths are owned by the County Council.
- iv. Cuckmere Community Flood Forum – It was noted that the new cycle path was totally submersed when the river burst its banks near Alfriston recently.
- v. South Down National Park – There was nothing to report on this occasion.

## 72. Finance:

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

101286	Mass Media - Website	50.40
101287	Brunel Engraving – Plaque	117.18
101288	Champagne TS – Outside Maintenance	170.00
101289	A Stevens Salary - November	667.25
101290	A Stevens Salary - December	487.24
101291	HMRC – PAYE	453.00
101292	ESCC - Pension	347.98

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- ii. Approval of accounts to date – Councillors resolved to approve the accounts to the 30<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

Councillors resolved to officially thank Carole Vine for her excellent work as Booking's Secretary for the Recreation Ground.

- 73. 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.
- 74. Vanguard Way Association – Councillors resolved to become an Affiliate Member of the Vanguard Way Association.
- 75. Defibrillator – Councillor Mills agreed to risk assess the defibrillator each month. The Clerk will let residents know their location in the next edition of the Parish News.
- 76. Questions from Parish Councillors

Councillor Mills asked if it is possible to do something about the rubber matting at the railway crossing because it becomes too slippery to walk on when the weather is icy. The Clerk will ask Network Rail.

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'.

There were no further questions and this meeting closed at 7.55pm

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

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