

# Berwick Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Berwick Parish Council held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 7:00pm. This meeting was held in Berwick Village Hall.

28. Present

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

5 members of the public were also in attendance

29. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr S Carnie. The reasons for her apologies were accepted by the Parish Council.

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

30. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interests.

The meeting was then suspended.

31. County Councillor's Report

County Councillor Bennett had circulated his 'State of the County Report' to councillors before the meeting. A copy of his report is available to read on the Parish Council's website.

32. District Councillor's Report

District Councillor Watts had also sent a report in which he said;

- i. Wealden is still aiming to produce its Local Plan before Christmas and is actively campaigning to get the housing numbers reduced.
- ii. The District Council has lost three Planning Appeals recently, two of which will cost a total of £750,000.
- iii. Wealden has reiterated its commitment to protect and enhance the environment and support for groups protecting nature.
- iv. National Recycling Week started on the 17th October. Wealden's recycling rates are higher than the national average.
- v. East Sussex County Council is making improvements to its Household Recycling Waste sites. The sites will remain open whilst the work is taking place.

33. Speaker Charles Vine – to talk about the Wick Street Festival 2023

Mr Vine answered questions about an event he is holding in September next year. He plans to hold many different events, such as food and drink festivals which will showcase local brands. He accepted that mistakes were made last time for which he apologised and said;

- i. A new Events Team is organising this year's festival.
- ii. There will be no music after 11pm and won't carry as much.

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The sound will be monitored, there will be bales of hay, the big tent will have sides and all speakers will be pointed down. Mr Vine will also be driving around to constantly monitor the noise levels.

- iii. This year's event is being held on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> and Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September and those attending are being invited to come down on the Thursday to help ease traffic flow.

The Chairman then thanked Mr Vine for attending who then left the meeting.

## 33. Public Question Time

In answer to a resident's questions the Parish Clerk confirmed;

- i. That those who comment on a planning application should receive notification if that application goes to Appeal. Any comments which have already been submitted will be sent to the Planning Inspector. Residents will have an opportunity to submit any additional comments they may have for the Appeal.
- ii. She will investigate the damaged fence at the entrance to the Berwick Way and report back.

The Chairman said the County Council has confirmed it will replace the gate near Beacon View.

Residents also commented on planning application WD/2021/0850/O. They said;

- i. The nine houses in this application will increase Berwick's allocation.
- ii. The land in question is brownfield which means there will be a loss of rural employment.
- iii. If it is allowed to go ahead it will create an opportunity to infill.
- iv. Access is also a concern.
- v. Some of the information presented is misleading. For example, the Traffic Report fails to mention there was a fatal accident adjacent to this site and the path mentioned is not a path, it's a verge.
- vi. The applicant is willing to make a financial contribution to secure a footpath link between the site and the established footway but this is not the same as actually providing a footpath.
- vii. The application is adjacent to Flood Zone 2 and it is not clear where the flood water will discharge to.

Changes to the format of the agenda were also requested because residents said they would like to be able to participate more in meetings. It was pointed out that Parish Council meetings are meetings held in public and are not public meetings. The public question time provides the opportunity to ask questions on any items on the agenda. The Chairman can also at his discretion suspend the meeting and invite comments from the floor but this has been misused in the past.

The meeting was then re-opened.

## 34. Minutes of the Parish Assembly and the Annual General Meeting both of which were held on the 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022, and the Extra Ordinary Meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

The draft minutes of all three meetings were read by all, confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

## 35. Clerk's Report on Matters Arising from those Minutes

Any matters arising were covered elsewhere on the agenda.

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## 36. Planning Applications

Councillors commented on the following planning application;

WD/2021/0850/O - Cranford Industrial Units, Station Road, Berwick, BN26 6TF - Demolition of the industrial units and construction of 9 no. terraced houses and associated parking on existing brownfield site – Berwick Parish Council objects to this application because;

- i. The land in question is brownfield and this will result in a loss of rural employment.
- ii. If it is allowed to go ahead this application will create an opportunity to infill.
- iii. Access is a concern. The Traffic Report fails to mention there was a fatal accident adjacent to this site. Speed reduction outside the development is needed.
- iv. The path mentioned is not a path, it's a verge and is therefore inadequate. Pedestrians are forced to walk on a very busy and dangerous road.
- v. The applicant is willing to make a financial contribution to secure a footpath link between the site and the established footway a little further along Station Road but this is not the same as providing a footpath.
- vi. The application is adjacent to Flood Zone 2 and it is not clear where the flood water will discharge to.
- vii. The application will increase traffic movement on an already busy road.
- viii. The design of the properties is not in keeping with the neighbouring properties.
- ix. This is an overdevelopment for this site. Nine properties are too many, the gardens are too small and there is not enough parking.

## 37. Reports from Parish Councillors.

- i. Berwick Playing Field;
  - a) The broken goal post has now been repaired.
  - b) Councillor Mills said he will arrange a site visit between the Woodland Trust and Councillors Winter and Burrough and seek advice on what the best tree is to plant at the Recreation Ground. A tree up to the value of £100 will then be planted which will also have a commemorative plaque and be self-watering.
- ii. Highways and Transport Matters –
  - a) The Feasibility Study has been commissioned and will be circulated to councillors upon receipt.
  - b) Firlie Parish Council has decided not to purchase a speed monitoring unit. In the end councillors decided the cost and complexity of owning and sharing a unit was too great.
  - c) The Speed Survey was reviewed and its findings were noted by the Parish Council.
  - d) Councillors asked the Clerk to carry out some research on noise cameras. The cameras record sound and help identify road users who break the law by revving their engines unnecessarily or use illegal exhausts as they drive by. The Clerk will report her findings back to the next meeting.
  - e) Councillors agreed that the entrance where Berwick Way meets the new path is dangerous and discussed ways to improve safety. They felt the best solution would be to install staggered barriers and asked the Clerk to look into this for the next meeting.

## 37. Reports from Outside Bodies:

- i. Village Hall Committee – There was nothing new to report on this occasion.
- ii. Cuckmere Community Bus – The directors would like to order a new bus but are still waiting for funding confirmation. Volunteers drivers are desperately needed.
- iii. Tree Warden – The Parish paths remain clear. There have been no hazardous falls during recent weeks.
- iv. Cuckmere Community Flood Forum – The next meeting is to take place on the 14<sup>th</sup>

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November. Councillor Winter will represent Berwick Parish Council.

- v. South Down National Park – It was resolved to appoint Councillor Mills to represent Berwick Parish Council at SDNPA Meetings.
- vi. Parish Planning Cluster Meeting – The last meeting was cancelled because it fell within the Official Mourning Period.

## 38. Finance:

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

101258	J Champagne - Outside Maintenance	150.00
101259	Berwick VH - Hall Hire	50.00
101260	J Champagne - Outside Maintenance	1415.00
101261	ESCC - Traffic Survey	506.40
101262	ESCC - Feasibility Study	600.00
101263	Mass Media - Website	126.00
101264	Team 4 - Payroll	24.00
101265	A Stevens Salary - May	461.61
101266	A Stevens Salary - June	461.41
101267	HMRC - PAYE	371.60
101268	ESCC - Pension	329.60
101269	CCB – Grant	100.00
101270	CFF – Grant	70.00
101271	Mass Media - Website	100.80
101272	PKF Littlejohn - External Audit	240.00
101273	WDALC - Subscription	11.00
101274	A Stevens Salary - July	461.61
101275	A Stevens Salary - August	461.41
101276	HMRC - PAYE	371.60
101277	ESCC - Pension	329.60

- ii. Approval of accounts to date – Councillors resolved to approve the accounts to the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022.
- iii. To consider whether or not to switch to internet banking – Berwick Parish Council resolved to switch to internet banking.
- iv. Water grant for the supply of water from the Village Hall – Berwick Parish Council resolved to award a grant of £70 to the Village Hall Committee to help cover the cost of the water used by the caravan clubs.
- v. To appoint Peter Frost as the Internal Auditor for 2022-2023 – It was resolved to appoint Peter Frost as the Internal Auditor for 2022-2023.

39. Assets of Community Value – Councillor Mills has asked both publicans how they would feel if their pubs are nominated as Assets of Community Value. He has yet to receive a response from either and will chase them up.

40. Defibrillator – It was resolved that Councillor Mills will risk assess the defibrillator each month. The Clerk will find out if it is possible to get the alarm disabled.

## 41. Questions from Parish Councillors

Councillor Winter asked for the fingerpost sign on the corner of Station Road and Common Lane to be moved back because it is causing visibility problems for drivers.

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Councillor Smith asked;

- i. The Clerk to ask ESCC to cut the hedge along the Berwick Way.
- ii. When the bus shelter is being replaced in Berwick Village. The Clerk will find out.

There were no further questions and this meeting closed at 8.05pm

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

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