

# BERWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Berwick Parish Council  
on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7pm  
This meeting took place in Berwick Village Hall

Present: Councillors Winter (Chair), Carnie, Smith, Burroughs and Mills  
County Councillor N Bennett, District Councillor A Wilson  
In attendance: Lynette Kemp (Clerk to the Council)

## 52. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Barham

## 53. Declarations of Interests – The were no declarations of interest or changes to the Register of Interest.

## 54. Confidential Items on the agenda

It was **RESOLVED** that agenda items 13f) and 16 were confidential items

There were no questions from members of the public

## 55. County Councillors Report: Cllr Nick Bennett

- A letter has been sent, signed by all local MPs, to the Minister regarding funding needs. Funding will not be based on the usual criteria but on deprivation.
- It is hoped there will be a clearer picture on finance before Christmas.
- Of a £1 billion budget £750 million is required to meet social care needs.
- There are difficult decisions to be made, the shortfall cannot be made up entirely by cuts.
- There will be more information about devolution on 19<sup>th</sup> December.

## 56. District Councillors Report: Cllr Alison Wilson

- WDC has launched the Sports Infrastructure Fund, looking at playing pitch provision across the District, certain pitches have been identified for funding, Berwick is eligible to apply, perhaps for an enhanced maintenance regime, play park equipment is not eligible.
- The third Climate Convention is to be held in Uckfield, this is aimed at organisations and is part of the Climate Change Strategy.
- The Household Support Scheme is now open to residents and provides support for those on Universal Credit.

## 57. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024, were read, approved and signed by the Chair for that meeting.

58. Clerk's report on Matters Arising from those Minutes

All items were included on the agenda.

59. Planning

- i. Planning applications received from Wealden District Council (prior to the publication of the agenda).  
No applications were received
  
- ii. Planning applications received from SDNPA (prior to the publication of the agenda).  
**SDNP/24/04769/HOUS - Comp Barn, Winton Street, Alfriston, East Sussex, BN26 5UL**  
Alterations to fenestration and landscaping and installation of a woodburning stove  
Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that there was **NO COMMENT** to make on this application.
  
- iii. Planning applications received between the date of publication of the agenda and the date of the meeting:  
**WD/2024/1994/PIP - Demolition and replacement of an existing dwelling and erection of 8 no. additional dwellings. Land adj. Cranford Industrial Estate, Station Road, Berwick BN26 6TF**  
Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** to **OBJECT** to this application and submit the following comments:
  - The proposed development does not fulfil the need in the area for smaller more affordable housing.
  - The entrance/exit is on busy 40mph road with vehicles accelerating from the 30mph section.
  - There have been flooding issues on the site in the past.
  - If, however, the application is approved Berwick Parish Council considers it imperative that a footpath is formed southwards enabling access to the village and station.
  
- iv. There were no decisions made by Wealden District Council or South Downs National Park since the last meeting.

60. Reports from outside bodies

- a) ESALC – the Clerk had recently attended the Conference and AGM.
- b) Wealden District Association of Local Councils – no report
- c) Village Hall Committee – Cllr Burrough reported that the 100 Club is doing very well, and draws will take place at various locations in the Parish.
- d) Tree Warden – the Tree Warden had nothing to report.
- e) Cuckmere Flood Forum – Cllr Winter had received the minutes of the previous meeting, nothing further to report.

- f) Cuckmere Community Buses – Cllr Smith reported that there are now eight buses, more drivers are required, and the standard fare is rising from £2 to £3.
- g) SDNPA – Cllr Mills reported that there has been no flooding in Alfriston since works were carried out on the riverbanks.
- h) Parish Cluster – no report.
- i) Working Group Against Overdevelopment – no report.

#### 61. Updates:

- a) Defibrillator - Cllr Mills to provide information to the Clerk who will undertake monthly risk assessments and register the defib with The Circuit.
- b) Playground Inspections – Cllr Barham continues to provide monthly risk assessments.
- c) Playground upgrade – Cllrs Mills and Barham will begin investigations regarding the playground upgrade.

#### 62. Parish Maintenance

- a) Verges/hedges – it was noted that the verges and hedges of the Berwick Way had been cut. The hedges have not been cut for a number of years and have been cut to the current height for safety reasons. It was also noted that visibility is impaired when emerging from Common Lane by a tree in a private garden, this is considered a safety issue.
- b) The Berwick Way – the Clerk was asked to obtain quotations for the repair of the wooden barrier at the southern end of the Berwick Way.
- c) The Recreation Ground including adjoining trees – it was noted that the trees from the neighbouring driveway overhang the edges of the recreation ground, a request will be made that they are trimmed.
- d) Noticeboard at the Post Office – the Clerk has carried out some tidying of the noticeboard and that was considered sufficient for the time being.
- e) Urban Grass Cutting Programme – following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Urban Grass Cutting Programme would remain at four additional cuts per year (a total of six cuts).

#### 63. Road Safety Issues

- a) Speedwatch – deferred to the next meeting.
- b) Road safety initiatives in neighbouring Parishes  
Initiatives under review in neighbouring Parishes will be discussed at a future meeting.

#### 64. Finance

- a) The following schedule of payments since the last meeting (25<sup>th</sup> September 2024) – **APPROVED**

101377	HMRC	Tax & NI	£235.40
101378	L Kemp	Salary Oct	527.94
101380	East Sussex Pension Fund	Pension Oct	161.81
101381	Cuckmere Community Buses	Grant	200.00
101382	WDALC	Subscription	11.14
101383	L Kemp	Salary Nov	£639.87
101384	East Sussex Pension Fund	Pension Nov	198.08
101385	Berwick Village Hall	Hall hire Nov meeting	20.00
DD	Team4	Payroll Inv 35964 Sept	12.00
DD	Team4	Payroll Inv 36159 Oct	12.00
			£2,018.24

- b) Bank reconciliations for August, September and October - **APPROVED**
- c) Accounts to date - **APPROVED**
- d) Draft budget for 2025-26 and the precept for the year – following discussion it was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the draft budget, the precept for 2025/26 will be £17255, this represents an increase of approximately 90p a month per Council Tax Band D payer.
- e) Increases in hire charges for caravan rallies at the recreation ground - following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the hire charge per caravan per night would increase to £10.
- f) Changes to NALC pay scales and back pay - noted
- g) It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Keith Robertson FCMA Internal Auditor to Berwick Parish Council for 2024-25.

65. Meeting Dates 2025 – the following meeting dates were agreed.

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025

26<sup>th</sup> March 2025

28<sup>th</sup> May 2025 - Annual General Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting

23<sup>rd</sup> July 2025

24<sup>th</sup> September 2025

26<sup>th</sup> November 2025pla

66. Questions from Councillors

There were no further questions from Councillors

67. Clerk's Contract of Employment – confirmed

68. The next planned Full Council Meeting will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm