

# FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Gabriella Paterson-Griggs

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**MINUTES** of the Meeting of **FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL** held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024 in the Pavilion, Fletching Recreation Ground, Fletching (6.30 – 7.55pm).

**PRESENT:** Councillors R Hannay (Chair), D Greenish (Vice-Chair), A Abraham, R Borton, N Collum and W Constantinou.

Also in attendance: Gabriella Paterson-Griggs (Clerk and RFO) and Councillors C Coleman (WDC) and R Galley (ESCC)

Members of the Public in Attendance: 1

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S De St Croix and K Minch.

## **24/121. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

## **24/122. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the last meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024 were a correct record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

## **24/123. MATTERS ARISING**

The Actions List as prepared and circulated by the Clerk was noted.

## **24/124. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Councillor Galley reported that the East Sussex County Council (ESCC) Full Council meeting was the next day where there would be a discussion about the priorities and resources for the forthcoming year.

With regards to the works on Gold Bridge due to take place on 17 July, Cllr Galley stated that he would be meeting with ESCC Highways officers to gain further information. He also agreed to ask the officers about the possible clash between the proposed new signage, the village gates and the existing signage on the A272 at Piltdown as the Parish Council, despite asking several times, had not received an answer about this particular point and the works were due to start on 15 July.

## **24/125. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

Councillor Coleman reported that the Council was concerned about the recent announcement from the new Chancellor about planning, housing numbers and onshore wind turbines. It was not known, at this stage, how this would affect the Local Plan – a letter was expected from the Government.

In respect of the Local Plan it was noted that all the written submissions were now on the portal and officers were preparing a report to be considered by the Local Plan Sub Committee – the date of the meeting had not yet been set. Councillor Coleman also reported that at the Cabinet meeting taking place the following week a decision would be made for Wealden to formally join the Wild Ouse project. She stated that Wealden Council had received a very positive rating in its recent Local Government Association Peer Challenge and that the Social Housing Regulation Act was now in force, the implications for the Council in terms of compliance and finances were being investigated. It was noted that the Green Wave project working group was meeting the following week to kick start the project which was looking at a green line travel route between Uckfield and Lewes.

With regards to the pollution issues in Shortbridge Road it was reported that the Portfolio Holder had instructed the Council to take legal action against the Environment Agency and the Garage under the Environmental Pollution Act 1990 and the Public Health Act 1936.

## **24/126. PLANNING APPLICATION RECEIVED**

The following application was discussed. See Minute 24/133 (iv) below for further information.

WD/2024/1346/F Little Wild, Sharpsbridge Lane, Piltdown TN22 3XG

## **24/127. WORKING GROUPS / EXTERNAL GROUPS**

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- i. *Neighbourhood Plan*: Councillor Hannay reported that the Consultants had produced a report but the Steering Group had not had a chance to respond as yet. It was agreed that there would need to be an understanding of Wealden's response to the Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan consultation, particularly in respect of the Ashdown Business Park expansion and Owlsbury as well as other policies eg. dark skies, before the neighbourhood plan policies could be developed further.
- ii. *Fletching Recreation Ground Committee (FRGC)*: The Councillors were impressed with the refurbishments that had taken place at the Pavilion and noted the future proposals. The Clerk reported that a new waste collection contract was now in place for the general waste and recycling at the Pavilion.
- iii. *Ashdown Forest Parish Liaison Meeting*: the notes of the meeting, as circulated with the agenda, were noted.
- iv. *Code of Conduct Training*: Councillor Hannay fed back on the training he and the Clerk attended put on by Wealden District Council. He reported that one of the principle issues for the Parish Council to consider was the granting of funds to the FRGC through the usual grants process given that the Parish Council is the sole trustee of the charity. It was **AGREED** that the FRGC should, each year, set its budget for the forthcoming financial year in September which would highlight any shortfall which could then be considered by the Parish Council as part of its budget setting exercise in November/December. This would remove the FRGC from the grants process.

## 24/128. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

*Wealden District Council – Sandbag Policy*: Councillors considered the email received from Wealden's Director of Place, circulated with the agenda, where it was explained that Wealden was in the process of updating its sandbag policy and was looking at what space was available across the District for storing sandbags more locally so that properties at immediate risk of flooding from flash floods would have quicker access to sandbags. Fletching Parish had been identified as an area where flooding has occurred. At the time of the meeting it was not known which area in the parish this related to.

Councillor Constantinou stated that the Parish Council should not get involved in sandbag distribution as those that needed them would already have them and would be known to Wealden. However, it was **AGREED** to reply to Wealden that the Parish Council agreed in principle to the proposals but was not making a commitment at this point in time.

## 24/129. FINANCE AND ASSETS

- i. The invoices and payments for July 2024 were **AUTHORISED** and the Council's current financial position and bank reconciliation were noted.
- ii. CIL Monitoring Report 2023/24 – the annual return was **APPROVED** by the Parish Council.

Note: Councillor Collum arrived at the meeting at 7.13pm prior to the following items of business

## 24/130. CIL FUNDS - PROJECTS

- i. *Replacement Litter Bins – Fletching Village*: The Clerk presented a report, sent out with the agenda, setting out the proposal for replacing the concrete litter bins in Fletching High Street with ones that would fit better into the street scene and the moving of one into a more appropriate location. The proposal also included additional bins - one within the children's play area on the recreation ground and one by the vehicle gate to the recreation ground (this would be combined with the dog poo bin currently in that location). It was noted that the installation costs were not yet known as these were awaited from Wealden District Council. The cost of the bins was estimated to be £2512 and there would be an increase in the current quarterly charge made by Wealden for emptying an additional bin.

Councillors welcomed the proposal and **APPROVED**:

- (a) the locations of the new bins;

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- (b) the procurement of the replacement bins;
  - (c) subject to the Chairman approving the installation costs when received, the installation of the new bins; and
  - (d) the increase in the quarterly charge for the additional bin.
- ii. *Fletching Pavilion Refurbishment*: The Clerk explained that there were still some outstanding costs for the pavilion refurbishment and there would be additional costs to ensure the pavilion met the requirements for hiring it out to the public. It was requested that the Parish Council consider allocating some of the CIL funds to the refurbishment project. Councillors **AGREED** in principle to the request subject to an indication of the amount required. The Clerk to report back to the next meeting with more detail.

## 24/131. BURIAL GROUND

- i. Councillors noted the interment that was due to take place in the Burial Ground.

## 24/132. ENFORCEMENT – PLANNING

- ii. *Flitteridge Farm*: The Clerk reported that Wealden enforcement was currently looking into a building that appeared to have been extended. It was stated at the meeting that, recently, a caravan had appeared in the field where the caravans had been removed from. The Clerk to report back to the Enforcement Team.
- iii. *Lay-by Opposite Piltdown Service Station*: It was reported that, despite the visit from the Wealden Street Scene Officer, at least three of four cars were still being parked daily in the layby and blocking access to the post box. It was noted that the cars were now taxed. The Parish Council asked Councillor Coleman to confirm with the legal department whether the legislation allowing a car to be for sale on the public highway related only to those with a physical 'for sale' in the window or included those that were listed for sale on the internet but not displaying a physical notice. Councillors discussed the issue but were not able to find a solution. Councillor Galley agreed to talk to ESCC about the layby once the Parish Council had decided what it wanted to do about it.

## 24/133. PLANNING APPLICATIONS - RECEIVED

It was **RESOLVED** to make the comments as set out after each application in respect of the following:

### i. **WD/2024/1266/LB Sheffield Park Garden, Sheffield Park TN22 3QX**

Removal of non-historic felt flat roof covering and insulation to then replace with new insulation of the same thickness and a renewed felt roof covering.

*This was viewed from the outside and it was observed that the repairs to the balcony cannot be seen from the exterior approach and any view from the windows of the balcony will remain the same as the existing. The balcony itself is an extension of the original building. The Parish Council SUPPORTS the application.*

### ii. **WD/2024/1366/LB Churchgate House, High Street, Fletching TN22 3SS**

Repair of timber windows and replacement timber windows.

*This is a listed building in a conservation area. The building is of some age, earlier than 19<sup>th</sup> century but has been much altered in its earlier life as a butcher's shop requiring large display windows. Two thirds of the west facing wall was rebuilt in the 1990s in order to change the windows.*

*The current windows are not correct for an earlier building - they are too large, but obviously it is inappropriate correcting them now. However, they should not be copied except in the case of the one near the church as this one was not changed in the 1990s but it should now be replaced with glazing bars removing the sheet glass.*

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*The correct window is on the south side – the upper ones have been enlarged and are not correct. Again, it is not suggested that these should be corrected but any repairs should include smaller panes and glazing bars.*

*The Parish Council SUPPORTS the application subject to the comments above*

iii. **WD/2024/1425/LB The Griffin, High Street, Fletching TN22 3SS**

Replacement of existing dilapidated trade kitchen cookline extract flue and air intake, forming new lobby into trade kitchen. Repositioning of stud walling within second floor laundry/boiler room, entrance plaque signage, 2 no electric charging bays and improvements to disabled customer parking.

*Delegated Authority was given to the Planning Group to submit comments on behalf of the Parish Council in respect of this application which had only just been received.*

iv. **WD/2024/1346/F Little Wild, Sharpsbridge Lane, Piltdown TN22 3XG**

Proposed single storey side extension, enlargement of side dormer window, side extension to provide main entrance vestibule, roof lights, proposed swimming pool and related development.

*This is not a listed building and is not in a conservation area. The original farmhouse is of some age but has been considerably extended and altered. The current proposed extension to the kitchen is a further extension of an extension in the same style as an earlier extension. It is mainly a catslide roof, although a section will be a flat roof which will be planted, which is appropriate for the old building. The barn attached to the east appears not to be original so the roof lights would be acceptable. The swimming pool is attached to a modern building and will be hidden by planting which is important. The Parish Council SUPPORTS the application.*

## 24/134. PLANNING APPLICATIONS - DECISIONS

Planning decisions **RECEIVED** from Wealden District Council since the last meeting:

*Applications Approved* – none since the last meeting

*Applications Refused* – none since the last meeting

*Applications Withdrawn*

i. **WD/2024/0348/F Moons Farm, Sharpsbridge Lane, Piltdown TN22 3XG**

Construction of 20M x 40M equestrian arena, stable block comprising 5 no. stables and hardstanding. (WITHDRAWN 12 June 2024)

## 24/135. VE DAY 80 – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025

The national arrangements for the VE Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations due to take place on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025, which include a beacon lighting, were noted.

## 24/136. FLETCHING BONFIRE SOCIETY SUMMER FETE

It was confirmed that the Parish Council would have a stand at the Fletching Bonfire Society Summer Fete taking place on the Recreation Ground on Saturday 20 July 2024. The Chair to send out the rota to those councillors who were able to help on the day.

## 24/137. ITEMS FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE

It was agreed that the following items be included for the next edition of the Parish Magazine:

- Replacement litter bins
- VE Day 80 – save the date
- Pavilion update
- Issues within the parish to be reported to the Clerk rather than on social media

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## **24/138. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

It was requested that Councillors contact the Clerk with any other items they wish to be considered at the next meeting.

## **24/139. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

The next meeting of the Parish Council is due to be held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm in the Pavilion on the Recreation Ground. (There is no meeting being held in August)