

FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: **Gabriella Paterson-Griggs**

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MINUTES of the Meeting of **FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL** held on Monday 8th January 2024 in the Village Hall, High Street, Fletching (7 – 8.15pm).

PRESENT: Councillors R Hannay (Chair), D Greenish (Deputy Chair), A Abraham, N Collum, W Constantinou, S De St Croix and K Minch.

Also in attendance: Gabriella Paterson-Griggs (Clerk and RFO), Councillor Roy Galley (ESCC) and Matt Dowd (PCSO).

Members of the Public in Attendance: 0

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Borton and L Snelgrove and Councillor C Coleman (WDC)

24/1. SUSSEX POLICE - PCSO Matt Dowd

Matt Dowd, the temporary PCSO for the Parish, introduced himself to the meeting and explained that he would be covering the parish whilst the newly recruited PCSO for the Fletching, Little Horsted and Isfield area, Leon Greck, was being trained. He explained that the core role of a PCSO was to be the local police contact who could then raise any local issues with their colleagues and work with the Parish Council and residents to resolve them. He stated that the PCSO was there to support police officers and help the communities they served.

Matt reported that rural crime was a current focus which entailed mainly house burglaries but also farms and businesses – areas where there were unlikely to be any cameras to capture the offenders. He advised that anyone living in these areas should ensure everything is locked away.

It was noted that if any police issues in the area should be reported through the usual channels but to also let the PCSO know.

Councillor Galley raised the issue of speeding in particular on the A272 and in Church Street and that he had been trying to request speed spot checks but to no avail. Matt recommended that community speedwatch be used in the first instance but that he would enquire as to which areas had been approved for spot checks and that if there was a particular area that was seen as an issue he could request that it be considered.

It was **AGREED** that the new PCSO, Leon Greck, be invited to a future meeting once he had finished his training.

Note: Matt Dowd left the meeting at 7.11pm at the end of this item.

24/2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

24/3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the last meeting held on 4th December 2023 were a correct record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

24/4. MATTERS ARISING

There were none.

24/5. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR CHRISTINA COLEMAN

Councillor Coleman had given her apologies but had circulated an update to all councillors prior to the meeting for information. It was noted that she was no longer the Chair of Wealden District Council having resigned from the position to concentrate on being a Green Party candidate for the next general election.

24/6. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR GALLEY

Councillor Galley reported that he had also circulated an update prior to the meeting. He reminded councillors that the Draft Local Transport Plan was out for consultation and encouraged responses.

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He also confirmed that he continued to nag about the poor quality of the roads in the area including Ruston Bridge Road (which was due to have patching repairs and would then be resurfaced) and that he was meeting with Balfour Beatty later in the week. In response to a question, he explained that the decision as to which road should be patched was based on various ESCC policies and that the roads were red, amber, green classified. Concern was raised by one councillor that the method being used by the contractor was not to the standard that it should be. Councillor Galley agreed to raise this at his meeting.

24/7. SPEED SURVEY

The data requested from Sussex Police, as reported at the previous meeting, had been received and was circulated to the councillors on the day of the meeting. It was noted that the data showed that the average speed through the village ranged from 20.8 to 26.2mph which was within the 30mph speed limit. Given the results it was, therefore, **AGREED** not to go ahead with the planned speed surveys in Fletching village.

In respect of the junction of the A272 and Golf Club Lane it was **AGREED** that a request for more information be made about the proposed works being carried out by ESCC along the A272 later in the year to ascertain exactly where along the road they were taking place.

24/8. WORKING GROUPS / EXTERNAL GROUPS

- i. *Neighbourhood Plan*: Councillor Hannay reported that in total 125 responses had been received to the questionnaire which represented 1 in 4 households. He explained that the next stage was to analyse the responses and draft policies that were based on the evidence as well as flesh out a vision and objectives. These would then be brought back to the Parish Council and be reported to the public. It was noted that engagement would continue with the Planning Policy team at Wealden DC and that quotes would be obtained from the consultants based on the data analysis and the draft local plan.
- ii. *Fletching Recreation Ground Committee (FRGC)*: The Clerk reported that the pavilion refurbishment works were due to start the following week and were due to be completed by April when the cricket season would be starting. It was also reported that improvement to the drainage of the football pitch were being looked into through a possible grant from the FA.

24/9. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- i. *ESCC – Draft Local Transport Plan Consultation*: Details of the consultation on the draft plan had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. It was **AGREED** that the Parish Council would not respond to the consultation but that councillors could comment as individuals if they so wished.
- ii. *Working Group Against Over Development (WGOD)*: It was noted that a letter from WGod had been received by all councillors in respect of Wealden's draft regulation 18 version of the new local plan. A letter sent to Wealden DC from SABRE, circulated prior to the meeting was also noted. It was **AGREED** that a letter be sent to all District councillors reminding them of the views of the Parish Council in respect of the Ashdown Business Park and appropriate housing development within the Parish and asking them to take these into account when considering the draft Local Plan.

24/10. FINANCE AND ASSETS

- i. The invoices and payments for January 2024 were **AUTHORISED** and the Council's current financial position and bank reconciliation were noted.
- ii. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Level 1 Allowances as recommended by the Report of the Wealden Parish Independent Remuneration Panel.
- iii. The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the budget and precept level for 2024/25. The precept level being set at £34,615 for 2024/25.
- iv. The Chair signed the precept request which was due to be submitted to Wealden DC by 12th January 2024.

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24/11. BURIAL GROUND

The application for a burial plot and subsequent interment, that had been approved by the Chair due to the death and burial taking place prior to the meeting, was NOTED.

24/12. ENFORCEMENT – PLANNING

- i. *Flitteridge Farm*: The Clerk reported that following the concerns raised at the previous meeting a response had been received from the Planning Enforcement Office who had confirmed that there were no planning restrictions relating to the sale of paving slabs and that the mobile homes situated within the farmyard were lawful. In respect of the helipad it was noted that there had been no helicopter activity since 15 December 2023.

24/13. PLANNING APPLICATIONS - RECEIVED

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

- i. **WD/2023/2872/FA Moons Farm, Sharpsridge Lane, Piltdown TN22 3XG**

Variation of condition 6 of WD/95/0915/F to allow former garden store to remain a kitchen.

The Parish Council had NO COMMENTS to make on this application.

- ii. **WD/2023/2900/NMA Sheffield Park Garden, Sheffield Park TN22 3QX**

Non-material amendment to WD/2023/0139/F revised seating of bench type 2, 3, 4, 8 and 10.

The Parish Council noted that this application had been Approved but would have had no comments to make.

- iii. **WD/2023/2941/LB Sheffield Park Garden, Sheffield Park TN22 3QX**

Renewal of Oak Hall W/C facilities.

The Parish Council had NO COMMENTS to make on this application.

24/14. PLANNING APPLICATIONS - DECISIONS

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

Applications Approved

- i. **WD/2022/2216/F 29 Cherry Cottages, Fletching TN22 3YB**

New front porch and single storey extension. (APPROVED 12 December 2023)

- ii. **WD/2023/2151/F + 2152/LB North Park Lodge, Sheffield Park TN22 3RA**

A link between the dwelling and the ancillary accommodation in the garage along with a modest attached sitting room (a garden room) with a solid roof. (APPROVED 20 December 2023)

Applications Refused

- i. **WD/2022/2623/F Piltdown Poultry, Fairhazel, Piltdown TN22 3YE**

Conversion of existing barn into a single dwelling. (REFUSED 29 November 2023)

Applications Withdrawn – none since the last meeting.

24/15. ITEMS FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE

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

- Splaynes Green Phone Box – form last meeting
- Neighbourhood Plan update
- Precept setting
- Speed Survey not being undertaken

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24/16. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- Acorn Garage Site – concern was raised as to the state of the road and kerbs due to the current construction site and whether ESCC Highways could be contacted. The Clerk explained that this was a District Council matter as it related to the planning permission and that she would investigate further and report back to the next meeting.

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

24/17. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting would be held on Monday 5th February 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall