

# FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Gabriella Paterson-Griggs

E-mail: clerk@fletching-pc.org

Website: www.fletching-pc.org



MINUTES of the Ordinary Meeting of **FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL** held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022 in the Village Hall, High Street, Fletching (7 - 9pm).

PRESENT: Councillors C Rothery (Chairman), D Greenish (Vice-Chairman), R Borton, N Collum, D Kerwood, A Shaw and W Constantinou.

Also in attendance: Gabriella Paterson-Griggs (Clerk and RFO)

Members of the Public in Attendance: 31

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K Minch and R Hannay.

## 22/146. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

## 22/147. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022 were a correct record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

## 22/148. MATTERS ARISING

- i. *Firle Parish Council – Speed Data Monitoring Unit:* The Clerk updated the meeting following feedback received from the Clerk to Firle Parish Council. Firle PC decided not to go ahead with the purchase of the unit due to various reasons including cost and logistics. Instead, Firle commissioned a speed monitoring survey through ESCC. Councillors agreed that the Clerk investigate the costs etc. and report back to the next meeting.
- ii. *Parish in Bloom – judging update:* The Clerk reported that the judge had visited Fletching on 16 June and had been very impressed with what he had seen when she and Councillor Minch showed him round. It was noted that the results would be announced in September 2022. The Parish Council thanked Mr and Mrs Thomas, Lady Collum, Fletching School and Nigel Symington for their input into the visit.
- iii. *Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations:* The Clerk reported that she had sent out thank you letters to all involved in the celebrations and these had been well received.

Note: Councillor Shaw arrived at the meeting at 7.10pm during discussion of the above item.

## 22/149. PILTDOWN VILLAGE PROJECT

A proposal, put together by Amanda Abraham on behalf of Piltdown residents, to recognise Piltdown as a village and accordingly reduce the speed limit to 30mph was circulated with the agenda. At the meeting Mrs Abraham explained that the main purpose of the campaign was to see a reduction in the speed limit on both the A272, which was currently 40mph, and the other roads in Piltdown which were the national speed limit of 60mph. It was noted that along the A272 the speed limit was 30mph for every other village.

Jo Emerson, the secretary of the Piltdown Residents' Association, confirmed that there had not been an official speed monitoring survey undertaken on the A272 and that community speed watch was only able to be carried out in certain locations. However, a speed monitoring survey had been undertaken on Golf Club Lane and Shortbridge Lane but the cameras were considered to not have been placed in the correct places by those undertaking the survey.

Councillors endorsed a reduction in the speed limit as it was considered that the situation would only be exacerbated with the additional developments being approved by the District Council within the vicinity. It was noted that an application would need to be made to ESCC to request a reduction in the speed limit.

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Councillors did raise concern as to the implications, particularly in terms of planning, if Piltdown obtained village status. The Clerk explained how electoral boundaries were determined and it was noted that any change to the status of Piltdown would not have an effect on the parish boundary.

It was AGREED that the Clerk contact Wealden and ESCC to determine any implications and the next steps and liaise with Amanda Abraham and report back to the next meeting.

## 22/150. REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Councillor Galley was not able to attend the meeting so no update was received.

## 22/151. PLANNING APPLICATIONS - RECEIVED

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

### WD/2017/0120/F Land at Golf Club Lane, Piltdown TN22 3XB

Proposed stable and storage buildings with associated yard and access track.

*The applicant relies on Saved Wealden Planning Policy DC 12 (applications for small-scale stables) which states that "proposals should not be sited in prominent or isolated locations". This site comprises unspoilt open countryside lying between Piltdown Golf Club to the north and the Old Post to the south, both Listed Grade II. The site is located within open countryside, beyond the limits of any substantive settlement with a development boundary. The proposal would, by virtue of its isolated location relative to any substantive settlement, represent an inappropriate scattered form of development within open countryside.*

*If Wealden District Council is minded to approve the application, then the Parish Council would wish to see (i) a less prominent siting of the stables within the site and (ii) a condition making the planning consent personal to the applicant [given the very specific nature of the proposal and its particular dependence on the applicant] and/or (ii) a time limited consent. The Parish Council OBJECTS to the application*

## 22/152. WORKING GROUPS / EXTERNAL GROUPS

- i. *SLR Meeting Notes:* The notes of the SLR meeting held on 22 June, circulated with the agenda, were noted.
  - a. *Daleham Lane / Splaynes Green Flooding:* Councillor Constantinou reported that he was still awaiting a meeting with the Environment Agency and that a site meeting was being set up with ESCC and Wealden DC drainage officers.
  - b. *Parking Restrictions – Fletching High Street:* the Clerk reported that ESCC had confirmed that introducing parking restrictions was a scheme that could be developed through the Community Match initiative. She also explained that the first step for the Parish Council to take, in the process of obtaining parking restrictions was to commission a feasibility study from ESCC at a cost of £500 + VAT.

It was AGREED that the Clerk commission a feasibility study from ESCC.

- c. *Working Group against Overdevelopment:* Councillor Greenish reported back on the meeting he had attended that had been organised by Chidingly Parish Council. It was noted that there was a high attendance and that the purpose of the Group was to challenge the housing figures that had been set by Government for inclusion in the Wealden DC Local Plan. A letter had been sent to Michael Gove MP but a reply was still awaited.
- d. *Central Parish Cluster Group:* Councillor Collum attended the meeting in the place of the Chairman and reported that in respect of the housing numbers there was nothing that the parishes could do until applications were received where objections could be raised. It was

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noted that the Local Plan was still being delayed due to waiting to hear from the Secretary of State on the proposed housing numbers.

- e. *ESALC Chairman's Forum*: Councillor Rothery explained that he had been unable to attend the forum meeting but that he had sent to the Clerk the slides circulated in respect of Operation London Bridge.

## 22/153. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- i. *Request to plant a tree in the Playground at the Recreation Ground*: It was reported that a parishioner had asked whether a tree could be planted in the Recreation Ground to celebrate the birth of her daughter. Councillors, although sympathetic to the idea, were concerned that if this was approved a precedent would be set and that there was not enough space on the Recreation Ground to support additional trees being planted.

It was AGREED not to grant the request to plant the tree in the playground or on the recreation ground but that other areas within the Parish Council's ownership would be explored.

- ii. *Fletching Recreation Ground – issues reported*: It was explained that the volunteers that clean up on a Monday after the ground being used at a weekend had experienced an increase in the amount of dog waste not being picked up by owners. Also, that the dedicated dog waste bins were not always being used as waste was being put into the pavilion bins. The Clerk confirmed that she had contacted Wealden DC and the dog waste bins had now been emptied and additional signage was being considered. Councillors agreed that No Dog Waste sticker should be purchased for the pavilion bins and that the issue be highlighted in the next edition of the Parish Magazine.

## 22/154. FINANCE AND HR

- i. The invoices and payments for July 2022 were AUTHORISED and the Council's current financial position and bank reconciliation were noted.

## 22/155. BURIAL GROUND

- i. There had been no requests made in respect of the Burial Ground since the last meeting.

## 22/156. PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

- i. *Flitteridge Farm*: Wealden DC Planning Enforcement confirmed that it was still waiting for a response from the agent in respect of this site. A further update would be available at the next meeting.
- ii. *Moses Farm, Goldbridge Road, Piltdown*: Wealden DC Planning Enforcement were informed about a new vehicular access that had been created at Moses Farm onto the A272 and photos had been submitted.

## 22/157. PLANNING APPLICATIONS - DECISIONS

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

*Applications Approved*

- i. **WD/2022/0706/F Piltdown Golf Club, Golf Club Lane, Piltdown TN22 3XB**

Change of existing 40 grassed overflow car parking spaces to a geogrid reinforced grass finish over rootzone and a low fines drainage layer to provide an all-weather permeable grassed surface. (APPROVED – 6 June 2022)

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ii. **WD/2022/0335/F Flitteridge Farm, Daleham Lane, Fletching TN22 3TQ**

Extension of existing commercial building together with the associated provision of vehicular parking and landscaping. (APPROVED – 24 June 2022). Note: The Parish Council attended PCN and spoke against the approval of this application.

iii. **WD/2021/1959/F – Millstones and Millstones Cottage, Batts Bridge Road, Piltdown TN22 3XR**

Alterations and extensions to the existing dwelling. Conversion of existing garage into ancillary habitable room. Creation of a pedestrian access. Alterations to the existing gated access. Addition of an outside swimming pool. Hard and soft landscaping. (APPROVED – 4 July 2022)

Response to Parish Council

*In this instance, while the Parish Council's objections to this proposal have been noted, it is considered that taking account of the above and on balance, the impact of the development, along with other material planning considerations, indicate that conditional planning permission should be granted.*

iv. **WD/2021/3090/LB – Mays Cottage, High Street, Fletching TN22 3ST**

Proposed single storey rear extension. (LISTED BUILDING CONSENT GIVEN – 1 July 2022)

Note: there is an associated planning application – WD/2021/3089/F that was still awaiting a decision at the time of the Parish Council meeting.

v. **WD/2022/0545/F – Fletching Lodge, High Street, Fletching TN22 3SS**

To construct a garden pergola above existing path/walkway. (APPROVED – 29 June 2022)

*Applications Refused*: None since the last meeting

*Applications withdrawn*: None since the last meeting

## 22/158. LAND REGISTRATION

Councillor Greenish reported that the letter had now been received from the Bishop and the application to register the burial ground had been submitted.

## 22/159. FLAGPOLE

The Clerk reported that back that two licences would be required from ESCC. The quote received from Hampshire Flags was approved and it was AGREED that a flagpole be purchased and the licences applied for.

## 22/160. FINGERPOSTS

The Clerk reported that the new fingerpost at the junction of Rocks Lane and Beeches Farm Road had been broken and would need one new finger. She also stated that ESCC had been in touch with regards to licensing the land the fingerposts were on and confirmed that this was not something it would now do as it was a historic agreement with Framfield parish. However, an agreement was to be created that would allow parishes to take on the responsibility of maintaining fingerposts in its area.

## 22/161. SPLAYNES GREEN

- i. *Phone Box* – the Clerk reported that the phone box was made of cast iron but that the windows were covered in paint where care had not been taken when it was repainted. It was AGREED that a new door be purchased by the Parish Council after which a decision would be made as to its future use.

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## 22/162. ITEMS FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE

It was AGREED that the following articles be submitted by the Clerk for the next edition of the Parish Magazine:

- Dog waste on the recreation ground
- Tree advice from Councillor Constantinou
- Purchase of a new flagpole

## 22/163. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

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

## 22/164. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is due to be held on:

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 7pm in the Village Hall.