

# FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Lorna Thwaites

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## ORDINARY MEETING OF FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL - Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020

1 member of the public was in attendance. No questions were received.

Council Members in Attendance: Cllrs Rothery, Minch, Greenish, Collum, Hannay, Constantinou, Shaw and Borton.

District and County Cllr Galley and L. Thwaites, Clerk and RFO

Cllr Kerwood was absent.

## MINUTES

### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence as reported at the meeting. **None RECEIVED**

### 2. STANDING ORDERS

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the Standing Orders for Remote Meetings during COVID-19 restrictions.

### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Declarations of Interest were **RECEIVED** in respect of items on the Agenda, as required by the Members Code of Conduct. Cllrs Greenish & Minch **DECLARED** a personal interest in planning application WD/2020/0690/F (neighbour and friend). Cllr Constantinou **DECLARED** a personal interest in item 13 (he lives at Stephen's Farm and has an interest in the sign being installed).

### 4. MINUTES

Minutes of the following meetings, as circulated with the Agenda were **RESOLVED** as a correct record and signed by the Chair:

- i. Ordinary Meeting of Fletching Parish Council 03 March 2020,
- ii. Extra-Ordinary Meeting of Fletching Parish Council 18 March 2020,
- iii. Actions agreed by email 6 April 2020.

### 5. REPORTS

i. A report was **RECEIVED** from District and County Councillor Roy Galley. Local communities are working well and there are more helpers than requests for help. Garden and bulky waste collections have been restored. Cllr Galley has received notifications that work has been started on Daleham Lane - some structural damage to the bridge is currently being repaired. There has been an Increase in fly tipping in the district. Cllr Galley has received a further email from a concerned resident regarding traffic speeds and the speed limit on the A275 near Trading Boundaries.

Cllr Constantinou raised a concern over drainage by Flitteridge Farm and Cllr Galley **AGREED** to follow this up.

Cllr Collum raised a question over the location of the Solar Electric Forecourt proposed for land at Copwood Farm. The Council discussed the location and if development was allowed on the proposed site.

Cllr Borton raised his personal concerns over broadband issues in the parish near to the Peacock Inn. Cllr Galley has written to the Director of Transport concerning these issues and has been advised that there is a new contract and details are currently being finalised.

ii. The Council **RESOLVED** to support Cllr Galley in his campaign to re-open the Household Amenity Site in Maresfield. The Clerk was asked to write to Rupert Clubb and Cllr Claire Dowling.

### 6. MATTERS ARISING

i. The signed Code of Conduct was **RECEIVED** from Cllr Wes Constantinou.

ii. An update on the bench for Cherry Tree Cottages including the protective leg collars, installation, and proposed method for securing the bench was **RECEIVED** from Cllrs Hannay and Constantinou: The bench has arrived and is currently stored. Cllr Constantinou advised that all manufacturers are currently closed for the purchase of the leg collars. Cllr Constantinou **AGREED** to send the details of the leg collars and manufacturers to the Clerk so she can raise an order once the factories are open again.

iii. An update from Cllr Hannay on the Fletching Coronavirus Volunteer work was **RECEIVED**: 69 households have offered their assistance and 18 households have expressed needs. All needing support have received it and are continuing to receive help where required. There has been lots of support from local services offering help with deliveries or widening their range. The Parish Council would like to express their thanks

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for all the support shown to the local community. The Council also thanked the volunteers who assisted with the grass cutting at the Burial Ground.

## 7. FINANCE

- i. Payments for May were **AUTHORISED** and the bank reconciliation **RECEIVED**.
- ii. Banking arrangements for 2020/2021 were **AUTHORISED** and it was **AGREED** that Cllr Greenish would be added as a signatory.
- iii. Direct debit payments as per the schedule provide by the Clerk were **AUTHORISED**.
- iv. The end of year 2019/20 actual vs. budget statement was **AUTHORISED**.
- v. The payment of the Clerk's remaining annual leave from 2019/20 was **AGREED**.

## 8. BURIAL GROUND

A report from the Clerk and Cllr Hannay was **RECEIVED**: An interment recently took place and 2 grave spaces have been purchased. Cllr Hannay raised the need to conduct a survey of some of the older gravestones that may need some attention. The matter of a new padlock for the gate was raised.

## 9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1. Comments for applications reviewed by Cllrs with delegated planning responsibility were **RECEIVED**:

i. WD/2019/0656/F - Land adjoining Copwood House, Rocks Road, Uckfield

Fletching Parish Council have viewed this application (from the road) and make the following comments:

It is important that the two oak trees are protected from the work and from any vehicular traffic impaction on their roots.

The Council is concerned about access onto a very busy road where cars are travelling at speed. There are two openings – opposite and close-by onto Beeches Farm Road and these give concern for highway safety. The Council would like clarity on the following:

1. The design of the access.
2. Whether having three vehicular accesses off the highway in close proximity raises traffic safety issues
3. The proposed use and frequency of use of the access

Fletching Parish Council **OBJECT** to this application based on these observations and the current information supplied.

ii. WD/2020/0960/F - Hope Cottage, Goldbridge Road, Piltdown

Comments from FPC: Using DC19 this is a residential conversion. It is subordinate to the main building. DC19(2) It is not intrusive to the landscape or detrimental to the rural setting and cannot be seen from anywhere except the main house.

There is no alteration to the size. It is an alteration to the garage built in 1996. The alteration is simply to the fenestration and the internal layout, the roof remains the same.

The applicants have acknowledged that there is likely to be a planning condition that the new accommodation can only be used as an annex to the main house. On the basis that such a condition is imposed, Fletching Parish Council **SUPPORT** this application.

2. Comments for the following applications and any others that arrive before the meeting **AGREED**:

i. WD/2020/0692/LB -Fermoy's, High Street, Fletching

Comments **AGREED**: FPC are happy with the design of the door. They have a concern about the application of a protective material. It is important that a varnish is not applied and only an oil which doesn't affect the weathering of the oak. The Council **RESOLVED** to **SUPPORT**

ii. Solar Electric Forecourt - Land at Copwood Farm, Rocks Road, Uckfield. The Council **AGREED** not to respond to the virtual consultation. Whilst the Council is supportive of measures to reduce carbon emissions there was insufficient information supplied with this consultation. The Council would like to understand more about the proposed location of the solar panels and there is a concern that the development might be on the wrong side of the bypass.

## 10. PLANNING DECISIONS

Planning decisions from Wealden District Council **RECEIVED**

i. WD/2020/0220/F - The Flying Engine, Mill Lane, Fletching - **APPROVED**

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ii. WD/2018/2578/F - Copwood Barn, Rocks Road, Uckfield - **WITHDRAWN**

## 11. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

i. An update on the interim grass cutting works by Countryman's was **RECEIVED**: Tim Jordan verbally advised the Council that he has ceased trading. FPC were contacted by Countryman's on Tim Jordan instruction, requesting them to complete his contracts until the end of 2020. The Council agreed to this arrangement. Cllr Hannay has met with a Countryman's supervisor and talked through the specification. To ensure Countryman's are clear that their contract with FPC will terminate at the end of 2020, it was **AGREED** that Cllr Greenish will prepare a communication to both Tim Jordan and Countryman's.

*Cllr Galley left the meeting at 20.38*

ii. The Council **RESOLVED** to seek quotes to appoint a grounds maintenance contractor on a 3-year contract starting 01 Jan 2021. The Council **AGREED** to advertise the contract on the parish council website; in the parish council magazine and on the noticeboard.

iii. The date of grass cutting works scheduled by ESH was **RECEIVED** as 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020 (subject to amendment by ESH)

## 12. PROJECTS

### 1. FLETCHING RECREATION GROUND

i. An update from Cllr Rothery on the Fletching Recreation Ground Custodian Trusteeship was **RECEIVED**: A meeting was held between FPC, FRGC and AiRS, who explained the process for the transferal of the trusteeship. The Parish Council will become the sole trustee of the Recreation Ground and will form a separate working group or committee to run the charity, reporting back to the Council. Council funds cannot be used for the recreation ground, but it will be able to apply for grants as previously.

ii. The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the draft resolution as prepared by AiRS and **AGREED** a target date of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

### 2. LAND REGISTRATION

i. An update from Cllr Greenish on the progress of the land registration work was **RECEIVED**: Slower progress has been made due to the current lockdown situation. Land registrations for the village hall and recreation ground have been lodged. There are two areas under investigation at the Burial Ground.

ii. Actions **AGREED** for the land registration: Cllr Greenish to draft a letter to the Diocese to send via Surrey Hills Solicitors.

### 3. PARISHES IN BLOOM

An update from Cllr Minch was **RECEIVED**: Cllr Minch is preparing supporting information and photos to send to SSEIB.

### 4. FINGERPOSTS

i. An update from the Cllr Constantinou with regards to the brickwork repairs at the Splaynes Green Fingerpost was **RECEIVED**: The Council **RESOLVED** that Mr Cottingham who is undertaking the brickwork repairs at Splaynes Green free of charge, could place a plaque at the base of the fingerpost. A thank you for the work will be in the Parish Magazine and the Clerk will write to Mr Cottingham.

ii. An update from the Clerk regarding JAKK and the restoration of the Splaynes Green Fingerpost was **RECEIVED**: JAKK have confirmed the price is the same as previously quoted. They would like to meet on site to see how the fingerpost can be removed and the works that are planned for the brickwork. Cllr Constantinou **AGREED** to meet with JAKK.

## 13. HIGHWAYS

To **RESOLVE** to apply for a concealed entrance sign for the entrance to Stephens Farm - Cllr Constantinou. The Clerk advised the Council that Concealed Entrance Signs are not provided by ESH but can be placed on private land by homeowners. Cllr Constantinou explained that he would like to place a sign (at his expense) on a post that is already in existence on Highways land. The Council **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would write to ESH to make enquiries regarding the use of the post. Cllr Constantinou **AGREED** to send details of the location and a photograph of the post to the Clerk.

## 14. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

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- i. Action in Rural Sussex - The Council **AGREED** to take up the free support for next 6 months.
15. **ITEMS FOR THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MAGAZINE AGREED:** Thanks to volunteers offering COVID-19 support and contact details; thanks for volunteers who helped with grass cutting in the Burial Ground; Countryman's taking over Tim Jordan's contract until the end of the year; Parish Council soon to seek quotes for a 3 year ground's maintenance contract; Parishes in Bloom; considerate use of footpaths.
16. **AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL were AGREED:**  
To RESOLVE to establish a committee of the parish council for the recreation ground and to AGREE next steps in appointing the committee.  
To RECEIVE an update from Cllr Galley on drainage issue at Flitteridge Farm  
To RECEIVE an update from Cllr Minch on the Footpaths project  
To RECEIVE an update on funding made available to local councils via the Secretary of State
17. **THE TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June.** The Council **AGREED** to start the meeting at 7pm via ZOOM.
18. **THE MEETING CLOSED at 21.38**