

FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Gabriella Paterson-Griggs

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MINUTES of the Meeting of **FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL** held on Monday 3rd July 2023 in the Village Hall, High Street, Fletching (7 – 8.32pm).

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

Also in attendance: Gabriella Paterson-Griggs (Clerk and RFO) and Councillor Christina Coleman (District Cllr)

Members of the Public in Attendance: 0

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Abraham, D Kerwood and K Minch and Councillor Roy Galley (ESCC)

23/123. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of Interest RECEIVED in respect of items on the agenda, as required by the Members' Code of Conduct:

There were no Declarations of Interest

23/124. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the last meeting held on 5th June 2023 were a correct record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

23/125. MATTERS ARISING

Burial Ground Regulations: Councillor Hannay reported that a meeting had been set up with Church Officials to discuss the regulations in order to obtain parity between those related to the churchyard and those related to the burial ground. The revised regulations would be brought to a parish council meeting for approval.

23/126. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR CHRISTINA COLEMAN

Councillor Coleman reported that an extraordinary Full Council meeting had been called at Wealden District Council (WDC) in respect of the water crisis that had affected Crowborough and Rotherfield in particular. She confirmed that a letter would be sent to South East Water setting out the Council's concerns at the recent failures to maintain an adequate water supply to parts of the District and asking South East Water to, amongst other things, confirm that steps were being taken to ensure there were no recurrence of the failures.

In respect of the Local Plan, Councillor Coleman explained that a decision had been made to proceed with the Local Plan and that the first stage of the process was the sustainability appraisal consultation. She confirmed that the Council was actively looking at ways to reduce the housing numbers. In response to a question on timing of the Local Plan being finalised Councillor Coleman explained that there were a number of unknown factors at present and that there could be changes following a general election which was due to be held next year.

Councillor Coleman also informed Members that she had attended a Sussex Nature partnership meeting to find out how the new biodiversity net gain requirement would be achieved when, as part of the Environment Act, it came into effect in November and had to be applied to every planning application.

It was noted that a Ward walk would be taking place later in the week with officers from WDC and that a Community Forum would be held in the Village Hall in early September.

With regards to the Neighbourhood Plan Councillor Coleman confirmed that WDC would offer advice and assistance and would meet with the steering group but would not be able to offer financial assistance. She also advised that it was important to identify areas of strategic importance, which could include hedgerows, and include them in the neighbourhood plan. Both AiRS and CPRE would be able to assist with this.

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23/127. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR GALLEY

Councillor Galley had given his apologies for the meeting.

23/128. WORKING GROUPS / EXTERNAL GROUPS

- i. *Fletching Recreation Ground Committee (FRGC)*: The Clerk gave an update on the current situation with the insurance claim following the water leak at the pavilion. It was noted that works were still ongoing to ensure the building was dried out but it was hoped these would be completed very soon. Additional works had been requested by the loss adjuster as part of the claim and quotes were awaited. The meeting with the structural engineer was due to be held the following week. It was also noted that the pavilion and the recreation ground had been used for the Garden Trail.
- ii. *Parking Working Group*: Councillor Constantinou reported that the officers who had authored the feasibility study no longer worked for ESCC Highways so he was waiting to hear who had taken over the responsibility. He would then be requesting that the study be redone.

23/129. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- i. It was **RESOLVED** that the application for the Neighbourhood Area (the Parish of Fletching) as circulated prior to the meeting be **APPROVED** for submission to WDC. The Clerk to submit and request a timescale for the decision.
- ii. Councillor Hannay explained that the purpose of the public consultation was to give everyone the opportunity to express their views on what made Fletching Parish special, what was it that should be kept, what facilities could be improved etc. It was **AGREED** that this take place in the autumn and that the format of the consultation be discussed and approved at the meeting in September.

It was **AGREED** that a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group be formed that consisted of three parish councillors and three members of the public. The Parish Councillors to be: Richard Hannay, Damian Greenish and Leighton Snelgrove. The members of the public to be: Hugh Bullock plus two others. Councillor Hannay would contact those who had expressed an interest previously. It was also agreed that the Steering Group meet once a month between Parish Council meetings and report back to the Parish Council each month. Tasks would be allocated to other parish councillors as and when required.

23/130. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- i. *WDC – Community Resilience Plan and Emergency Planning Contact*: The email received from Sarah Garner, the Emergency Planning Lead Office for WDC, in respect of a community resilience plan and emergency planning contact was noted. It was **AGREED** that Councillor Constantinou and the Clerk work together to update the Fletching Community Resilience Plan.
- ii. *Wealden Local Plan – Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environment Assessment – Scoping Report consultation*: The consultation email received by the Clerk from WDC had been circulated separately. It was **AGREED** that the Parish Council wished to respond and that given the short timescale with the consultation ending on 7 August (before the next meeting of the Parish Council) that the response would be agreed via email. Councillor Hannay to allocate each councillor with specific areas to comment on.

23/131. FINANCE AND ASSETS

- i. The invoices and payments for July 2023 were **AUTHORISED** and the Council's current financial position and bank reconciliation were noted.
- ii. The quote to steam clean the War Memorial in line with the recommendations of the War Memorial Trust was **AGREED**. It was noted that a grant application would be made to the War Memorial Trust for this work.

23/132. BURIAL GROUND

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- i. The two applications to install a memorial and the three applications for Exclusive Right of Burial were **APPROVED**.

23/133. ENFORCEMENT – PLANNING AND DRAINAGE

- i. *Flitteridge Farm*: The Clerk reported that the Planning Enforcement Officer had visited the site that day and that there was only one caravan left on the site and that the occupier had been in touch with the Council's Housing Department.

23/134. PLANNING APPLICATIONS - RECEIVED

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

- i. **WD/2023/1322/F 1 Trickland Cottages, Sheffield Park, TN22 3QN**

Demolition of existing concrete garage and associated sheds and construction of timber frame garage and store.

The Parish Council **SUPPORTS** this application and regards the proposal as being a visual improvement on the existing.

- ii. **WD/2023/1430/F 14 The Courtyard, Sheffield Park TN22 3QW**

Removal of current oil boiler and installation of air source heat pump.

The Parish Council has **NO COMMENTS** to make on this application.

- iii. **WD/2023/1455/LB Snug Cottage, Down Street, Nutley TN22 3EH**

Replace on a like for like basis two severely degraded windows at the front of the property.

The Parish Council has **NO COMMENTS** to make on this application.

23/135. PLANNING APPLICATIONS - DECISIONS

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

- i. **WD/2022/2729/FR Highfield, Down Street, Piltdown TN22 3XX**

Dwelling to provide live/work unit (APPROVED 6 June 2023)

- ii. **WD/2023/0473/FR The Oaks, Batts Bridge Road, Piltdown TN22 3XR**

Part retrospective application for demolition of existing garage and side extension, proposed two-storey extension to side with rear-facing balcony, two-storey extension and porch to front, new chimney stack, internal alterations, new oak frame garage and secure store with home office above and improvements to on-site parking. (APPROVED 19 June 2023)

- iii. **WD/2023/1002/F Denniker Farm House, Ruston Bridge Road, Fletching TN22 3SH**

Upwards extension to existing dwelling to create additional storey, together with external alterations. (APPROVED 9 June 2023)

Response to Parish Council: The proposed extension would be 50cm higher than previously approved, only and would therefore not be materially different from the extension already approved. The applicant has agreed to clad the first floor extension in timber cladding rather than Cedral cladding. The balcony would be located at the rear / side of the house and would not be prominent from the road or cause any loss of privacy to any neighbours.

- iv. **WD/2023/1141/F Ruttingham Barn, Down Street, Piltdown TN22 3XX**

New 3m wide oak framed carport to side of existing garage. (APPROVED 12 June 2023)

Applications Refused – None since the last meeting

Applications Withdrawn

- i. **WD/2023/0925/F North Park Lodge, Sheffield Park TN22 3RA**

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Erection of a gazebo. (WITHDRAWN 27 June 2023)

23/136. D-DAY 80 – 6 June 2024

It was **AGREED** that the Parish Council would participate in the national beacon lighting celebrations to take place on 6 June 2024. Arrangements to be agreed nearer to the date.

23/137. SPLAYNES GREEN

- i. *Phone box*: Councillor Constantinou was asked to liaise with Councillor Kerwood in respect of finalising the arrangements for the replacement of the phone box door and notify the Clerk so that the door can be ordered. Councillor Hannay asked all councillors to consider options for the use of the phone box which would then be discussed at the next meeting.
- ii. *Parking Area*: It was reported that the parking area was in need of repair. Councillor Constantinou confirmed that this had been undertaken by ESCC Highways in the past and he would put in a request for this to be carried out.

Note: Councillor Coleman left the meeting at 8.23pm before discussion of the following items

23/138. ITEMS FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE

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

- Neighbourhood Plan – update and work of the Steering Group

23/139. 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.

23/140. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday 4th September 2023 at 7pm in the Village Hall