

FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Lorna Thwaites

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Website www.fletching-pc.org



APPROVED MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL - Monday 1st February 2021.

Members of the Public in Attendance: 2

Questions RECEIVED from the Public: None

Members in Attendance: Cllrs Rothery, Greenish, Collum, Shaw, Minch, Borton, Hannay, Kerwood District Cllr Galley and Lorna Thwaites, Clerk and RFO. This meeting was recorded.

175. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence as reported at the meeting: Cllr Constantinou was not in attendance.

176. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of items on the Agenda, as required by the Members Code of Conduct: Agenda item 10:iv - Cllr Hannay declared he is a neighbour of planning application WD/2020/2537/F.

177. MINUTES

The minutes of the ordinary meeting of Fletching Parish Council held on 11th January 2021, as circulated with the Agenda, were RESOLVED by the Council as a correct record, and signed by the Chairperson.

178. REPORTS

A report from the District and County Councillor Roy Galley was RECEIVED: Vaccinations are going well; the hub at Brighton has started this week; the number of cases is currently going down; East Sussex Cabinet have considered the Council Tax position and are recommending to Council that the basic rate of Council tax should be increased by 1.99% and an extra 1.5% for the adult social care precept; a report from the broadband team has provided some clarity on the delays to the delivery of superfast broadband and suggests that hard to reach post codes will be dealt with this year; the Direction of Travel Consultation received approx. 350 responses from both organisations and individuals, providing 1700 comments that will be fed into documents; a draft plan will be developed for further consultation next Spring.

Questions asked of Cllr Galley by the Council: does WDC look at the development of annexes as part of housing stock? Cllr Galley agreed to gain clarity on this point; outstanding decision for the planning application for Ashgrove, Goldbridge Road, Piltdown - Cllr Galley understands the design has been changed significantly and the scale of the property has been reduced; Cllr Galley was asked for his position on land supply in the 2019 SHELAA - Cllr Galley wouldn't be opposed to a small number of new houses in Fletching but is not supportive of a large number; Cllr Galley has a meeting with the Head of Development Management and local councillors regarding the Solar Electric Forecourt - new proposals have been submitted about pedestrian access; Cllr Galley advised that his role is to champion climate change - the issue in his view is whether the proposed station is in the right place; FPC referred to the site currently chosen as being a greenfield site.

179. POLICIES:

i. The following policies were ADOPTED with no changes:

- a. Filming and Recording of Meetings
- b. Press and Media Policy
- c. FPC Privacy Notice

180. FINANCE

i. Payments for February were AUTHORISED and the bank reconciliation RECEIVED.

ii. The Council RESOLVED to appoint Peter J Frost to undertake the internal audit.

iii. The Council RESOLVED to adopt Level 1 Allowances as recommended by the Report of the Wealden Parish Independent Remuneration Panel.

iv. The Council were unable to RESOLVE to increase the Parish Council support for the Poppy Appeal 2021 at this stage; Cllr Kerwood will provide more detail at the next meeting.

v. A report on actual spend vs 2020/21 budget was RECEIVED.

181. MEETING DATES:

i. The date for the Annual Parish Meeting of 17th May 2021 was AGREED.

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182. MATTERS ARISING SINCE THE LAST MEETING

- i. An update on the location for a flagpole and license requirements was RECEIVED from Cllr Rothery; a wooden flagpole which could be made locally is being investigated and storage options considered.
- ii. An update on protective leg cuffs for the bench at Cherry Tree Cottages and Piltdown Pond was DEFERRED as Cllr Constantinou was not present.
- iii. An update on the request for the caretaker at the village hall to make checks on the defibrillator was RECEIVED: weekly operational checks will be undertaken by the caretaker.
- iv. An update on the badger survey at the Burial Ground was RECEIVED from Cllr Hannay: the presence of badgers in the burial ground has been confirmed; there are 2 options to consider - 1) make an application to repeat previous work done on a greater length of the wall 2) make an application to relocate the set.; option 1 may not get approval and option 2 is a very expensive undertaking; the Council RESOLVED that Cllr Hannay should seek quotes to improve and extend the fence.
- v. An update from East Sussex Highways regarding litter at the Goldbridge layby was RECEIVED; Cllr Galley AGREED to investigate the matter further.
- vi. Confirmation of the completion of the Direction of Travel Consultation was RECEIVED from the Clerk and Cllr Rothery; the Council RESOLVED to put the FPC consultation response on the parish council website.

183. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

The following correspondence was RECEIVED and the following actions AGREED:

- i. S&SEIB 2021: the Council RESOLVED to enter Parish in Bloom 2021 and AGREED the fee of £40.
- ii. Committee changes at PRA: RECEIVED and NOTED.
- iii. Chapel Cottage Annexe: The Council AGREED they have no further comments to make in addition to those sent to WDC in their role as a consultee for the retrospective planning application.
- iv. PGC (footpaths): Cllr Minch advised the golf course will be putting permanent signs up once conditions allow and that temporary markers are in place.
- v. Leches and Smith: The Council RESOLVED to nominate Rebekah Walker as a Trustee; the Council AGREED to write a letter to thank Bernard Trew as a parish council nominated Trustee for the Charity.
- vi. Broadband - Cllr Galley: this was discussed under agenda item 4.
- vii S137 2021-22: RECEIVED and NOTED at £8.41 per elector.
- viii Speed Limit Fletching High Street: the Council AGREED that whilst they would like to see a reduced speed on the High Street, they consider that the process required is unlikely to result in a speed reduction.

184. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

To AGREE comments for applications by full council:

i. WD/2020/2425/F FAIRHAZEL FARM, FAIRHAZEL ROAD, PILTDOWN, TN22 3YE (Expiry for comments: 3 Feb 2021) DEMOLITION OF EXISTING WORKSHOP, STORE AND OTHER OUTBUILDINGS. NEW WORKSHOP, STORE AND ANNEX

Comments AGREED by FPC:

The proposal is to replace an existing, rather rundown workshop with a wood framed barn. The barn would replace the existing workshop, provide a storeroom and additional annexed living space. The size of the barn is ten metres larger than the existing workshop and the location is slightly different, and not entirely on the same footprint. However, the new barn would improve the appearance of the rather dilapidated workshop. The Council would like a condition to tie the barn to the main dwelling. Fletching Parish Council RESOLVED to SUPPORT this application.

ii. WD/2020/1244/MAJ LAND SOUTH OF COPWOOD FARM AND TO THE WEST OF THE A22 UCKFIELD BYPASS, UCKFIELD TN22 3PT (Expiry for comments: 1 Feb 2021)

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A SOLAR ELECTRIC FORECOURT®, COMPRISING 24 CORE ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS, A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FARM OF UP TO 5.5MW AND ENERGY STORAGE. THE HUB BUILDING WILL CONTAIN A MIX OF ANCILLARY DWELL FACILITIES INCLUDING WCS, COFFEE SHOP, RETAIL, SEATING AREA, MEETING ROOMS/ WORKSPACE AND A DISPLAY AREA. PROVISION OF CAR PARKING, HARD

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AND SOFT LANDSCAPING AND ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS OFF THE COPWOOD ROUNDABOUT. DIVERSION OF PUBLIC FOOTPATH.

Amended Plans received 15 January 2021, to show the amended site boundary in vicinity of proposed footpath and amended footpath over the A22.

Comments AGREED by FPC:

The movement of the footpath does nothing to alter the Council's significant objections to this application. The Council's previous comments still apply although it would like to emphasize Uckfield's objection to a shopping facility away from the town. FPC RESOLVED to continue to OBJECT to the application.

iii. WD/2020/1902/F BEECHES FARM, BEECHES FARM ROAD, BUCKHAM HILL, ISFIELD, TN22 5QD (Expiry for comments:15 Feb 2021)

CONVERSION OF EXISTING BARN AND ERECTION OF NEW BARN WITH LINK TO CREATE A SINGLE RESIDENTIAL DWELLING. CONVERSION OF EXISTING OUTBUILDING TO ANCILLARY USE, WITH ASSOCIATED ACCESS AND LANDSCAPING PROVISION.

Comments AGREED by FPC:

DC7 /5.49: This is in keeping with the surroundings; however Fletching Parish Council is concerned about the large amount of glass which might be noticeable from a distance; the Council is also concerned that Wealden would prefer a smaller house for which permission has already been granted but accept that this is so isolated that it is unsuitable for a starter home; the Council RESOLVED to REMAIN NEUTRAL

iv. WD/2020/2537/F MILL FARM, MILL LANE, FLETCHING, TN22 3PX (Expiry for comments:15 Feb 2021)
PROPOSED NEW SWIMMING POOL

Comments AGREED by FPC:

The Council understands that the pool will not be visible from any public area. The Council RESOLVED to APPROVE the application.

v. WK202013115 Butchers Wood, Rocks Road, Uckfield, East Sussex TN22 3PT

Licensing Act 2003 -Premises Licence New Application

Comments AGREED by FPC:

The Council have the following concerns: suitability of the location, which is ancient woodland; the lack of parking for people attending the event; the access required for attendees at the event; the noise the event will generate. The Council feels there is insufficient detail provided on how these issues will be managed. The Council RESOLVED to make the above representations and OBJECT to the license being granted.

185. PLANNING DECISIONS

Planning decisions RECEIVED from Wealden District Council:

i. WD/2020/2290/F MOSES FARM, GOLDBRIDGE ROAD, PILTDOWN, TN22 3XN - APPROVED by WDC on 14 Jan 21

THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW DETACHED GARAGE WITH GARDEN STORE AND STAIRS TO HOME OFFICE ABOVE ABUTTING EXISTING DRIVEWAY

ii. WD/2020/1442/F THE LODGE, MOSES FARM, PILTDOWN, UCKFIELD, TN22 3XN - APPROVED by WDC on 15 Jan 21
ADDITION OF GARDEN ROOM

Response to Parish Council: While an amended plan has been submitted showing a smaller garden room, it will be facing the swimming pool area.

iii. WD/2020/1169/F POND COTTAGE, NORTHALL LANE, SPLAYNES GREEN, TN22 3TH

FIRST FLOOR REAR EXTENSION. NEW GARAGE - APPROVED by WDC on 18 Jan 2021

Response to Parish Council: The concerns expressed by the Parish Council are acknowledged. The originally proposed garage was significant in size. Amended plans have been submitted reducing the width by 0.5m and the ridge height by over 0.5m. and providing barn hips at either end to reduce bulk. The WDC Senior Heritage Officer considers that subject to materials that can be controlled by condition, there would be no harm to the character and appearance of the conservation area.

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iv. **WD/2020/1130/F SITE ADACENT TO HAWTHORN COTTAGES, GOLDBRIDGE ROAD, PILTDOWN, TN22 3XL - APPROVED** by WDC on 26 Jan 2021

CONSTRUCTION OF DETACHED DWELLING HOUSE WITH GARAGE INCLUDING VEHICULAR ACCESS FROM REAR OF HAWTHORN COTTAGES

Cllr Galley left the meeting at 20.24

186. BURIAL GROUND

i. A request for an interment on 17th February 2021 was AGREED.

187. PROJECTS

1. LAND REGISTRATION

i. An update was RECEIVED from Cllr Greenish: The Recreation Ground has now been registered.

2.FINGERPOSTS

i. A progress update on the Fingerposts at Splaynes Green and Golf Course Triangle was RECEIVED: JAKK have advised that they have removed the posts; there was an issue removing the post at Splaynes Green but Cllr Constantinou is working with JAKK to resolve this.

ii. An update on the ownership of the fallen Fingerpost was RECEIVED: the Council AGREED that the fingerpost is from the Parish of Fletching; the Clerk was asked to respond to the volunteer regarding their offer of funding or restoring the fingerpost.

3. PUMP HOUSE

i. An update on additional building companies to quote for the agreed renovation work was RECEIVED from Cllr Minch: a recommendation from Jo Tucker has been received as well as 3 other companies from DGC; the Council AGREED to contact the building companies and send out the specification of works.

188. ITEMS AGREED FOR THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MAGAZINE: Summary of response to the Direction of Travel Consultation; Census21; new Trustee for Leches and Smith; Precept level for 2021/22.

189. AGENDA ITEMS PROPOSED FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL:

To explore further the possibility of a Neighbourhood Plan for Fletching.

To RECEIVE quotes for works to repair the badger deterrent fence.

190. THE TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL WAS RECEIVED: Monday 1st March 2021, 7pm via ZOOM

191. THE MEETING CLOSED AT 20.39