

FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Lorna Thwaites

E-mail: clerk@fletching-pc.org

Website www.fletching-pc.org



MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL

Monday 10th May 2021

Members of the Public in Attendance: 0

Questions RECEIVED from the Public: None

Members in Attendance: Cllrs Rothery (Chair), Collum, Minch, Hannay, Kerwood, Greenish and Shaw (arrived 19.35)
District Cllr Galley and Lorna Thwaites, Clerk and RFO. This meeting was recorded.

The Clerk advised the Council of the following with regards to the Flexibility Regulations which ceased to apply from 6th May 2021.

The application to the High Court to extend the provision for remote meetings has determined that primary legislation (made by Parliament) is required to allow local authority 'meetings' under the 1972 Act to take place remotely and therefore the claim was dismissed. In the view of the court for handing down, once the Flexibility Regulations cease to apply (6th May), such meetings must take place at a single, specified geographical location, attending a meeting means physically going to it and being 'present' (as per s12 of the 1972 Act) at such a meeting involves physical presence at that location. The High Court determined that the decision whether to permit remote meetings is for Parliament to make (the choices have been made legislatively by Scottish Parliament and by the Senedd in Wales). Lobbying to bring forward the necessary legislation is currently underway so that Councils have the choice to determine the methodology by which meetings can take place. The Government's call for evidence is currently open.

The Clerk advised that all ordinary meetings of Fletching Parish Council should be held face to face and the NALC guidance is not to meet until after 17th May.

As the ordinary meeting of Fletching Parish Council was scheduled for 10th May, the Council agreed that it would continue and still be held remotely in order to enable effective continuation of Parish Council business until a face-to-face meeting can be legally and safely held. No suitable venue was available for a face-to-face meeting on this date.

234. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR

i) To elect the Chairman of Fletching Parish Council for the forthcoming year - Cllr Rothery is to continue in this role until the next ordinary meeting of Fletching Parish Council.

ii) The Chairman to sign the Declaration of Office Form - DEFERRED

235. **ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIR:** Cllr Greenish is to continue in this role until the next ordinary meeting of Fletching Parish Council.

236. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence as reported at the meeting were RECEIVED: Cllr Borton and Cllr Constantinou had both sent their apologies and were not in attendance.

237. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of Interest in respect of items on the Agenda, as required by the Members Code of Conduct were RECEIVED: agenda item 15 i. WD202/0766/F Cllr Collum declared an interest as the property owner and was not involved in the site visit, discussion or agreement of comments on this application.

238. MINUTES

To RESOLVE that the minutes of the Fletching Parish Council Ordinary Meeting held on 20th April 2021, as circulated with the Agenda, are confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairperson. DEFERRED to the next ordinary meeting.

239. REPORTS

A report from the District and County Councillor Roy Galley was RECEIVED:

ESCC: one of the main issues raised by voters is the state of the roads and this has been noted by Cllr Galley who referred to the state of the road outside Denniker Farm; Katy Bourne has been re-elected as the Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex.

FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Lorna Thwaites

E-mail: clerk@fletching-pc.org

Website www.fletching-pc.org



240. COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE, WORKING GROUPS AND COMMITTEES

i. The Councillor attendance record of Ordinary Meetings of Fletching Parish Council 2020-2021 was RECEIVED.

ii. Groups, membership and individual councillor responsibilities: the Council are to continue with the current allocation of members to groups but Cllrs were asked to contact the Clerk if they wish to change groups.

241. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF ORDERS, REGULATIONS AND POLICIES: The Council were advised of any changes had been made to any of the policies; the policies will be adopted at the next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council:

i. Standing Orders - no changes

ii. Financial Regulations - no changes

iii. Code of Conduct - to be signed by all councillors - no changes

iv. Freedom of Information Policy - no changes

v. Freedom of Information Scheme - no changes unless the Council wishes to increase charges

vi. Complaints Procedure - adopted at Council meeting of April 2021 - no further action required

vii. Data Retention Policy - no changes

242. GENERAL POWER OF COMPETANCY

The Clerk confirmed the eligibility of the Council with regards to meeting the criteria for the exercise of the General Power of Competence.

243. INSURANCE COVER

i. Confirmation of arrangements for insurance cover: the Council had previously agreed to remain with Came and Co. and insurance cover provided by PENN.

ii. To agree the payment of the insurance premium: AUTHORISED as Penn £579.19 plus £50 admin fee, via Came and Co.

244. FINANCE

i. To AGREE the Asset Register for Fletching Parish Council - DEFERRED. Cllr Greenish to review and consider if any changes are required with respect to the registration of Parish Council land.

ii. To AGREE the FPC Risk Assessment and Management Document: no changes reported; to be agreed at the next ordinary meeting.

iii. Subscriptions and direct debits to other bodies were NOTED: the monthly charge to ZOOM for remote meetings is to be considered at the next meeting.

iv. To AGREE banking arrangements for the year and agree any changes to nominated signatories: it was NOTED that HSBC are the current bank and there were no plans to change the arrangements; the decision is DEFERRED to the next ordinary meeting of the Council.

v. The agreed Precept and Budget for 2021/22 was NOTED: the Clerk was asked to update with the total amount to be allocated for the badger survey and remedial fencing work.

vi. Elected Council Members to elect to receive ALL, PART, WAIVE-ALL, or PART of their allowances and to email the Clerk with their decision: DEFERRED to the next ordinary meeting of Fletching Parish Council.

vii. To AUTHORISE payments for April and RECEIVE the bank reconciliation: the Clerk is to make payments for April using delegated powers; the bank reconciliation was RECEIVED.

viii. To RESOLVE to increase the Parish Council support for the Poppy Appeal 2021: the decision is to be DEFERRED to the next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council; Cllr Kerwood advised the additional cost would be in the region of £300, with poppies being made by local school children.

245. BURIAL GROUND

i. To AGREE the Burial Ground Fees for 2021/22: the Council discussed the current fees which were last increased in 2019; the decision to be DEFERRED to the next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council.

Cllr Galley left the meeting at 19.34.

FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Lorna Thwaites

E-mail: clerk@fletching-pc.org

Website www.fletching-pc.org



ii. To RE-ADOPT the Burial Ground Regulations: the Clerk advised these have not been reviewed for several years and the Council may wish to do so and that it may also wish to reduce the grant of exclusive right to 50yrs only; the decision was DEFERRED to the next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council.

iii. To AGREE the Burial Ground Risk Assessment: DEFERRED to the next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council; the Clerk advised there were no changes to the assessment.

iv. To CONSIDER undertaking a Memorial Safety Inspection: the Clerk is to circulate sample policy to Cllr Hannay; Cllr Hannay advised that some of the memorials were in needs of minor restoration works.

v. To RECEIVE any updates or requests for burial plots or interments: None Received.

vi. An update on the badger deterrent fence work was RECEIVED from Cllr Hannay; the license application is being made: the date for the work to go ahead is currently the 2nd or 3rd week of July.

246. MATTERS ARISING SINCE THE LAST MEETING

i. To finalise the plans and agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting on 17th May 2021: the Clerk was asked to publish the agenda and book the village hall, requesting their COVID risk assessment; Cllrs Rothery and Minch offered to set up the hall.

247. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Correspondence RECEIVED:

i. Great British Spring Clean: the PRA have previously organised this event; the Council will advertise details of the event in the Parish Magazine.

ii. Street Party: Cllr Hannay raised this item having had it suggested to him by residents of the parish; the item is to be deferred to the next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council;

248. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1. To RECEIVE comments for applications agreed by delegation to the planning working group:

i. **WD/2021/0766/F EAST PARK FARM, HIGH STREET, FLETCHING, TN22 3SS** (Expiry date for comments: 11 May 2021) DEMOLITION OF EXISTING BARN AND REPLACEMENT WITH NEW CATTLE BARN.

Comments AGREED by delegation: This is an application to demolish an existing barn and to replace it with a new cattle barn; the existing barn is falling into disrepair and looks to be unsafe. There is a small increase in the footprint but the new building is not out of proportion with the existing buildings in the complex. The proposed new barn is to be in the same position as the barn to be demolished. The site is within the AONB but the Council feels will not have any adverse impact on the character of the area. FPC AGREED to SUPPORT the application.

WD/2021/0520/F THE OLD DAIRY, SLIDERS LANE, FURNERS GREEN, TN22 3RT (Expiry for comments: 14 May 2021) STEEL FRAME BUILDING FOR THE HOUSING OF 6000 FREE RANGE HENS FOR FREE RANGE EGG PRODUCTION WITH ASSOCIATED FEED TOWER AND PARKING/TURNING AREA.

Comments AGREED by delegation: This is for an additional barn for an existing free range egg business. The barn will be adjacent to the existing farm shop but sited slightly below the level of the road but it will not be visible from the road. The field is encircled by existing trees so the barn will not be visible from the surrounding farmland so it is permissible according to DC 13.

In addition to the barn, the hens have a large enclosed area of field in which to scratch and feed. The barn will help the expansion of a good local ethical business employing several people. FPC AGREED to SUPPORT.

2. To AGREE comments for application - full council: The comments for these applications are to be AGREED by Planning Working Group or extensions to deadlines requested:

i. **WD/2021/1112/PDAA DENNIKER FARMHOUSE, RUSTON BRIDGE ROAD, FLETCHING, TN22 3SH** (Expiry date for comments: 25 May 2021) PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF FIRST FLOOR ABOVE PRINCIPAL PART OF EXISTING DWELLING. THE MAXIMUM HEIGHT OF THE ADDITIONAL STOREY IS 3M RESULTING IN TOTAL OVERALL HEIGHT OF 9.3M.

FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Lorna Thwaites

E-mail: clerk@fletching-pc.org

Website www.fletching-pc.org



ii. **WD/2021/0279/F THE GRANARY, MILL LANE, FLETCHING, TN22 3PX** (Expiry date for comments: 25 May 2021) CONVERSION OF DETACHED GARAGE TO CREATE ANNEXE AND CONSTRUCTION OF LINK TO MAIN HOUSE CONTAINING UTILITY ROOM. CONSTRUCTION OF 10M X 5M SWIMMING POOL IN BACK GARDEN.

249. PLANNING DECISIONS

To RECEIVE planning decisions from Wealden District Council: None received.

250. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

An update from Cllr Rothery was RECEIVED: information from the Clerk of Wivelsfield Parish Council has been received and shared with the Council.

251. FLETCHING RECREATION GROUND

i. To AGREE the FRGC Terms of Reference; the Clerk reported there were no changes to the terms; approval to be DEFERRED to the next ordinary meeting.

ii. To RECEIVE dates for the AGM and committee meetings: RECEIVED as 3rd June, 7pm

iii. To RECEIVE details of a proposed Pavilion clear up - Cllr Hannay/Cllr Rothery: the Cricket Club has organised a skip for the removal of old items.

252. PROJECTS

1. LAND REGISTRATION

i. To RECEIVE an update on the registration of land at the Village Hall - Cllr Greenish. No further update is currently available; Cllr Greenish has been in contact with Diocese of Chichester but as yet still waiting to hear further.

2. FINGERPOSTS

i. To RECEIVE a progress update on the Fingerposts at Splaynes Green - Clerk/Cllr Constantinou; the Splaynes Green Fingerpost is not yet complete and a further update is to be provided at the next meeting.

ii. To AGREE the next Fingerpost for renovation and to agree to submit a request for match-funding with ESH: DEFERRED to the next ordinary meeting of Fletching Parish Council.

3. PUMP HOUSE

i. To RECEIVE quotes for the agreed renovation work: Cllr Minch & Shaw have looked at the quotes received; quotes are £5949 +vat; £4050+vat; £2300+vat however clarity needs to be gained on whether materials are included in these quotes.

ii. To RECEIVE information on grants available for the restoration of the Pump House; Cllr Minch has made enquiries of the National Lottery and a further grant awarding body; she proposed that the concept of restoration to be put to the electorate at the Annual Parish Meeting on 17th May 2021.

253. **TO AGREE ITEMS FOR THE FLETCHING PARISH MAGAZINE:** Great British Spring Clean; the restoration of the Pump House and seeking grant awards.

254. **TO PROPOSE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL:** resolutions/agreements that could not be taken at this meeting due to the current expiration of the Flexibility Regulations; Parish Walks - Cllr Minch.

255. **THE TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL:** 7th June 2021

256. **THE MEETING CLOSED** at 20.38