

## **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Brightling Parish Council held on Monday 1st October 2018 2000 at 7.30 p.m. at Brightling Village Hall**

**Parish Councillors present:** Cllrs Caroline Croft, , David Gasson, Daniel Lambert-Gorwyn, Jane Oxenford, and Andrew Wedmore (Chair)

**Parish Councillors absent:** Cllrs Chris French and Rodderick Wrenn

**District / County Councillors present:** RDC Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green, ESCC Cllr John Barnes

**In attendance:** Brian Holdstock, Clerk to the Council  
No members of the public were present

**1. Apologies for absence** Cllrs Chris French and Rodderick Wrenn

**2. Disclosures of interest** None

### **3. Additional agenda items**

The Chairman approved the addition of the following agenda items due notice of which has been given to the Clerk on the day before the meeting by 12 noon:

8.2.3 Planning item

### **4. Minutes**

4.1 The Chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 30 July 2018 as a correct record of the proceedings.

### **5. Open Forum**

5.1 RDC Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green reported as follows:

5.1.1 There has been some progress with allocating sites for travellers within the Development and Site Allocations (DaSA) Local Plan. 5 sites have already been granted and another 6 are required 2028 but 2 of these have now been found. RDC believe this is sufficient to stave off planning appeals as the planning authority can demonstrate that it is making progress.

This is apposite in view of application RR/2018/1880/P (agenda item 8.2.2 below). The planning officer has asked the applicant to provide evidence that she is part of the travelling community. (The Chairman interjected that in previous appeal hearings it was accepted that she is part of the travelling community.)

5.1.2 At Blackfriars off Marley Lane there has been an outline plan for many years for 250 houses, but a new service road is needed and no developer has been willing to provide this. However, RDC are planning to ratify a proposal that they develop a master plan, including a service road, which should release development land and attract developers. RDC have received a grant for this work to proceed.

5.2 ESCC Cllr John Barnes reported as follows:

5.2.1 The instrumental music service for children has been saved from being axed as a result of public pressure. The necessary savings have been found elsewhere.

5.2.2 ESCC are scenario planning three years ahead on the basis that a new financing arrangement with central government has yet to emerge and the redistribution of business rates arrangement has likewise not yet been revealed. Therefore, ESCC are working out the cost of meeting only their statutory functions. County are also working on a way of rescheduling their debts as a way of making savings.

- 5.2.3 The Fire Authority, of which he is Chair, has been developing a new joint control centre with West Sussex for mobilising resources to meet emergencies. East Sussex were content with the testing and commissioning work and have adopted the new system which is working satisfactorily. However, West Sussex are not only not content but have withdrawn from the project entirely. This does not affect East Sussex's continued use of the system nor its operational effectiveness.

## 6. Finance and Governance

### 6.1 RFO report

- 6.1.1 Members received a statement of income and expenditure against budget for the first half year. There are no significant variances.
- 6.1.2 Members received a bank reconciliation.

### 6.2 Receipts and payments

- 6.2.1 Members received the schedule of receipts and payments for the months of July, August and September. On the motion of Chairman the schedule was approved.
- 6.2.2 On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Croft, members approved the following payments:
- 6.2.2.1 Amazon Web Services, July - £15.17 – (retrospective) card payment
  - 6.2.2.2 Amazon Web Services, Aug - £15.83 – (retrospective) card payment
  - 6.2.2.3 CPRE - £36 – Annual membership renewal
  - 6.2.2.4 Brightling Village Hall - Annual support grant (see below)
  - 6.2.2.5 Sussex Air Ambulance - £55 – Annual support grant
  - 6.2.2.6 Rother CAB - £55 – Annual support grant
  - 6.2.2.7 Victim Support - £55 – Annual support grant
  - 6.2.2.8 RNLI - £55 – Annual support grant
  - 6.2.2.9 St Michael's Hospice - £55 – Annual support grant
- 6.2.3 Cllr Jane Oxenford asked members to review the annual support grant to Brightling Village Hall which has remained at £700 for several years. The Chairman expressed some surprise and asked if accounts were available to substantiate a review. After discussion and on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Cllr Croft members voted to increase the payment to the village hall to £750 this year but requested sight of the accounts to determine the income and expenditure flows and the size of reserves.

### 6.3 Governance

- 6.3.1 Members reviewed progress with recruiting a replacement for the clerk who wishes to retire. Possible advertising was discussed and it was agreed to post the vacancy on the appropriate page of the SSALC web site and to place an advert in local parish magazines including Burwash. RDC Cllr Kirby-Green offered to promulgate the vacancy in her network. Only if these initiatives prove fruitless will paid for advertising in journals such as the Wealden Times be considered.

- 6.4 The Chairman reminded members that it is a statutory requirement that parish councils make public the names of councillors who take the lead on a range of local issues. His suggested list of issues was published with the agenda and it was agreed that the following assignments could be made assigning councillors to lead on the following topics:

Refuse collection *tba*  
Broadband *Cllr Andrew Wedmore*  
Crime, anti-social behaviour, police relationships *Cllr Caroline Croft*  
Defibrillators *Cllr Caroline Croft*  
Overhanging hedges *Cllr Chris French*  
Phone box *Cllr Jane Oxenford*  
Planning *Cllrs Chris French and David Gasson*  
Potholes and road surface problems *Cllr David Gasson*  
Road drains *Cllr David Gasson*  
Signposts *Cllr Daniel Lambert-Gorwyn*  
Trees *Tree warden plus Cllr Daniel Lambert-Gorwyn*  
Utilities *tba*  
Village Hall *Cllr Jane Oxenford*  
Web site *Cllr Andrew Wedmore*  
Welcome packs *Cllr Jane Oxenford*

The list was not formally adopted as two members are absent from the meeting and there remain responsibilities to assign.

## **7. Community and Business Development**

- 7.1 Newcomers' orientation and information pack – no welcome packs have been distributed since the last meeting.
- 7.2 Village web site – the Chairman reported that the revamped website is performing satisfactorily and he is calling a meeting of interested parties before Christmas.
- 7.3 Broadband – the Chairman reported that fibre is undergoing installation at Hollingrove and that Brickyard Lane and Kent Lane are both in progress.
- 7.4 Other utilities (electricity, water, rubbish collection) – members noted that there are no current problems. Power went off recently, was reported and restored in less than an hour.
- 7.5 Phone box – Cllr Oxenford reported that Mark has completed surface preparation of the box and has a list of materials needed to complete the refurbishment. Members agreed that he should proceed at once and the clerk will advise on the recovery of vat.
- 7.6 Other community matters - Members discussed refuse collection and ESCC Cllr John Barnes reminded members that it is a district responsibility to collect refuse but a county one to dispose of it. He advocated a visit to a recycling centre to better inform members and the clerk was instructed to arrange such a visit.

## **8. Planning Matters**

- 8.1 Existing applications – Members noted progress and outcomes of those tabled at a previous meeting.
  - 8.1.1 RR RR/2018/480/P - Coldharbour Farm Estate, Battle Road, Brightling TN21 9LQ - Proposed replacement of redundant farm buildings with BI/B8 units. *PC gave conditional support. Remains undecided.*
  - 8.1.2 RR/2018/1464/L - Little Sprays Farm, Penhurst Lane, Brightling TN33 9QN - Underpinning and new foundation record. (Part retrospective) *Listed BC granted*
  - 8.1.3 RR/2018/1548/P - 2 Poplar Cottages, Brightling Road, Salehurst/Robertsbridge TN32 5EY - Alterations to 1st floor rooflines, including new gable and dormers. Extension to ground floor kitchen. Erection of double garage. *Approved conditional.*
  - 8.1.4 RR/2018/1589/P - 1 Poplar Cottages, Brightling Road, Brightling TN32 5EY - Erection of extension to the rear of timber garage. *Approved conditional.*

- 8.1.5 RR/2018/1598/P - 1 Grants Cottages, Cackle Street, Brightling TN32 5HZ - Erection of oak framed conservatory. *Refused.*
- 8.1.6 RR/2018/1825/P - The Forge, Brightling Road, Oxleys Green, Brightling TN32 5HD - Demolition of existing rear and side single storey extension. Construction of new single storey, and two storey extension to West elevation. *Approved conditional.*
- 8.2 New applications – Members noted the following new applications and will determine the council’s response in due course unless already determined:
- 8.2.1 RR/2018/1779/L - Snail House, Hollingrove Road, Brightling TN32 5HU - Various repair and maintenance works to roof and chimney and additional roof light.
- 8.2.2 RR/2018/1880/P - Telegraph Point, Coldharbour Farm Estate, Battle Road, TN21 9LQ - Retention of traveller mobile home, together with utility sheds and associated services, including decking. *Parish Council has lodged objections. Remains undecided (see 8.3.1. below).*
- 8.2.3 RR/2018/2281/P - Phoebes Shaw, Perrymans Lane, Brightling TN19 7DH Addition of first floor to existing garage to provide office accommodation.
- 8.2.4 RR/2018/ Barn Farm, Willingford Lane, Brightling TN32 5HN - Construction of a private horse training sand school (Retrospective).
- 8.3 Breaches and enforcement – the following update was noted:
- 8.3.1 Telegraph point – the deadline of 17 Jul 2018 as the end date for lawful occupation of the caravan has passed and application RR/2018/1880/P is the result. As reported above at 5.1.1 there are new traveller site allocations which will strengthen RDC’s hand in opposing the application preparing the ground for future enforcement.
- 9. Highways and Byways Matters**
- 9.1 Finger posts
- 9.1.1 Darwell Hole – The clerk reported that while he was awaiting a quote for the replacement of one arm of the post, damaged by an unknown vehicle on or around 18th June (police incident number 1403), a second vehicle on 15/16 September struck the post, demolished it. The perpetrator removed all the materials so there is nothing to even recycle.
- 9.1.2 Suggestions have been made to East Sussex Highways to relocate the post to the opposite side of the road which would put it on the inside of bend rather than the outside. Although Highways are amicable they advise that parish council will need to apply for a License (gratis), a Permit (£240 renewable every two years) and an Excavation License (£280). Any new post will be the property of the county council.
- 9.1.3 Members put it to ESCC Cllr John Barnes that such an arrangement is untenable and he agreed to take the matter up with Highways. Members also asked that the ownership question be resolved in a way which would allow them to insure posts up to the value of the work for which the parish council has paid.
- 9.2 Strengthening Local Relationships (SLR) – Members requested that before the next meeting, on Tuesday 11th December 2018, the clerk progress outstanding matters with Highways particularly in relation to drainage where little action had taken place since the last meeting.
- 9.3 Street naming – the clerk reported that the Street Naming Officer has recently advised that he is working through the proposed changes. The question of the location of Coblye Lane was discussed – RDC proposed the name for the track starting at the Ox Lodge and going first south west and then south towards Battle Road.

- 9.4 Countryside – Cllr Jane Oxenford expressed unhappiness with the response from Bruderhof with regard to the planting of Eucalyptus and questioned their citing of English Woodlands as an authority justifying Bruderhof's action. Members noted that English Woodlands are in fact simply a commercial organisation selling trees. The Chairman advised that he has already asked the Tree Warden to investigate and is reluctant to disturb that arrangement by making further direct contact from the parish council. Members agreed and resolved to ask the Tree Warden to attend the next meeting of the parish council.

**10. Training**

Nothing planned

**11. Correspondence received**

- 11.1 Request for further support funding received from Brightling Village Hall.  
11.2 The new Information Service team plan to come to the next Brightling Village Market where they will take a table.

**12. Parish Councillors' Forum**

- 12.1 Cllr David Gasson reported that a Road Closed sign is laying in the grass verge outside Garden Cottage, Rectory Hill.

**13. Circulation Folder**

- 13.1 Local Councils Direct

**14. Information for Councillors / Future Agenda Items**

None

**15. Next meetings**

- 15.1 The next meeting of the parish council will be in Brightling Village Hall at 7.30pm.  
15.2 The following are the remaining dates for council meetings in the current council year:  
2018: 19 November.  
2019: 14 January, 11 March, (8 April Annual Assembly), 13 May (AGM)

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Signed (Chairman)

Date .....