

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Brightling Parish Council held on Monday 19th November 2018 at 7.30 p.m. at Brightling Village Hall

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

Parish Councillors absent: Cllr Rodderick Wrenn

District / County Councillors present: ESCC Cllr John Barnes

In attendance: Doug Edworthy, Brightling Tree Warden
Brian Holdstock, Clerk to the Council

1. Apologies for absence Cllr Rodderick Wrenn, RDC Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green

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:

8.3.1 New planning breach at Telegraph Point

9.5 Verge cutting proposals

4. Minutes

- 4.1 The Chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 1st October 2018 as a correct record of the proceedings.

5. Open Forum

5.1 Tree Warden (Doug Edworthy)

- 5.1.1 The Tree Warden proposed that the first actions to create an inventory of trees with members of the community participating. The Chairman agreed to give this publicity with a view to establishing a corps of volunteers who could start by meeting with the Tree Warden and make a plan. This first phase could easily take a year.
- 5.1.2 The second action proposed by the Tree Warden would be to make a management plan once the inventory has been established.
- 5.1.3 Cllr Croft asked if disease would be identified during the creation of the inventory. The Tree Warden confirmed that it would with particular reference to Ash die back.
- 5.1.4 Members discussed the issue of the unauthorised planting of Eucalyptus by Bruderhof in part of the Great Wood. The Tree Warden reported that he had done some preliminary research which indicated that there are no circumstances in which the planting of Eucalyptus would be advisable in an area of ancient woodland even on a short term basis but that he needed to visit the site. The Chairman offered to take him by car as what he needs to see is visible from Brickyard Lane.
- 5.1.5 On the motion of the Chairman members resolved to delegate authority to the Tree Warden to communicate on behalf of the parish council. Only where a formal written communication from the parish council is appropriate will he forward text to the clerk who will create the necessary letter.
- 5.1.6 The Tree Warden advised members that he has been offered a rare female black poplar (*Populus niger*) on condition that it is planted in a public space.

5.2 ESCC Cllr John Barnes reported on county matters but, in the absence of RDC Cllr Kirby-Green, also covered District matters. Some matters overlap.

5.2.1 There are five different consultations taking place at present:

5.2.1.1 The methodology of calculating housing targets for districts is to be revised. Inevitably this is likely to lead to higher targets;

5.2.1.2 The Development and Site Allocations (DaSA) Local Plan is emerging and the policy relating to the AONB looks to be an improvement.

5.2.1.3 An RDC consultation on homelessness and rough sleeper is under way. It is possible that RDC may get involved in building again;

5.2.1.4 The principle of establishing civil parking enforcement and the areas where on street parking is to be chargeable has already been established at earlier consultations. ESCC are now applying to the Dept. of Transport for implementation permission, most likely in 2020. Consultation to date has been about enforcing existing restrictions, but now there is a further consultation about issues including parking charges. The consultation opens on 19 November and closes on 14 January. After the election there will be further consultation including whether or not there should be a short free parking period before charges apply.

5.2.1.5 ESCC has publicly stated that after another two budget periods it may not be able to continue to meet its statutory obligations. The most by which the precept can be increased without a referendum might meet only half of the budget. Consultation on the minimum core offer is in progress and in the meantime a number of communities have reacted positively to replace services which have been cut, notably after library closures. Cllr Barnes commented that technology was increasingly being used to augment human activity and cited diagnostics in health care as an example.

5.2.1.6 The Chancellor's recent budget announced a one-off distribution of extra funds benefitting the county by possibly £7m. Being a one-off it cannot prudently be used for revenue spending but could be used for capital matters such as bridge repairs.

6. Finance and Governance

6.1 RFO Report

6.1.1 Members received a statement of income and expenditure against budget to the end of October 2018. There are no significant changes from the previous statement which was to the end of September.

6.1.2 Members received a Bank reconciliation as at 31 October 2018 and the Chairman confirmed that he had verified the figures.

6.1.3 Members received a draft budget for 2019/20 which had been previously circulated. Members agreed a revision to this version by increasing the provision for election expenses from £150 to £1500. No other changes to the draft were proposed at this time. The draft includes an increase in the precept of 3%.

6.2 Receipts and Payments

6.2.1 Members received a schedule of receipts and payments for the months of September and October 2018.

6.2.2 Members approved the following payments

6.2.2.1 Douglas Andrews £62 plus vat – Rectory Hill finger post repair (retrospective)

6.2.2.2 Parish Online - £40 – annual subscription renewal

6.2.2.3 Mark Bridge - £113.06 – materials for refurbishing phone box

6.2.2.4 Land Registry - £7 – title plan for land traversed by Brightling I bridleway.

6.3 Governance

- 6.3.1 Members reviewed progress with recruiting a new clerk. The Chairman will be posting details in the next parish magazine. The clerk will prepare an advert to be placed on the vacancies section of the SSALC website.
- 6.3.2 On the motion of the Chairman members resolved to amend Financial Regulation 5.2.2. which currently states “invoices for sums above £100 shall require that the invoice is countersigned by two councillors and retained for internal audit.” The amount of £100 is to be changed to £150 which aligns it with the value of purchases permitted by the use of the credit card.

7. Community and Business Development

- 7.1 Newcomers’ orientation and information pack – new candidates for the delivery of packs are Stonesdown, Holly Cottage and Old Stonesdown Farmhouse.
- 7.2 Village web site – new accessibility requirements are being enacted but the Chairman felt confident that they would be met without a problem. A neighbourhood initiative entitled Next Door is being publicised and the Chairman will add his endorsement on the web site. The instigator, Steve Proctor, is to be invited to the next meeting of the parish council.
- 7.3 Broadband – In January it is expected that the results of the household level survey carried out in 2018 will be publicised and then it will be known if a fibre option is to be offered to remaining areas under Contract 3 including Mountfield Park Farm and the Worges.
- 7.4 Other utilities (electricity, water, rubbish collection) – no new issues.
- 7.5 Phone box – members extended thanks to Mark Bridge for his work on the refurbishment which continues.
- 7.6 Other community matters
 - 7.6.1 Waste management – the Chairman reported favourably on a presentation he had seen at a meeting of the Rye Environmental Group and suggested it would make an interesting item at the village annual assembly. Members agreed and the clerk will seek to arrange it.

8. Planning Matters

- 8.1 Existing applications – Members noted progress and outcomes of those tabled at a previous meeting.
 - 8.1.1 RR/2018/480/P - Coldharbour Farm Estate, Battle Road, Brightling TN21 9LQ - Proposed replacement of redundant farm buildings with B1/B8 units. *PC gave conditional support. Approved subject to wide ranging conditions.*
 - 8.1.2 RR/2018/1598/P - 1 Grants Cottages, Cackle Street, Brightling TN32 5HZ - Erection of oak framed conservatory. *Refused. Appealed.*
 - 8.1.3 RR/2018/1779/L - Snail House, Hollingrove Road, Brightling TN32 5HU - Various repair and maintenance works to roof and chimney and additional roof light. *Listed BC granted.*
 - 8.1.4 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. Refused.*
 - 8.1.5 RR/2018/2281/P - Phoebe Shaw, Perrymans Lane, Brightling TN19 7DH Addition of first floor to existing garage to provide office accommodation. *PC view is that this is over development and appears to be additional living accommodation. Undecided.*

8.1.6 RR/2018/2256/P - Barn Farm, Willingford Lane, Brightling TN32 5HN - Construction of a private horse training sand school (Retrospective). *PC has objected on grounds of unsuitable location with harmful visual impact on the AONB. Approved this day.*

(Members noted with regret that they did not anticipate this decision and missed the opportunity for it to be called in for decision by the planning committee.)

8.2 New applications

8.2.1 RR/2018/2879/P - Green Oak Farm, Brightling Road, Brightling TN32 5HB - Erection of a herb house and a replacement agricultural building comprising storage, farm shop, office, herb processing area, and training room ancillary to agricultural use. *Parish Council position to be decided*

8.3 Breaches and enforcement –

8.3.1 ENF/203/18/BRI Telegraph Point - The material change of use of land for the stationing of a mobile home occupied for residential purposes together with associated services, including decking and sheds *A consequence of the refusal of planning permission for occupation to continue.*

8.4 Appeals -

8.5 New appeal 2567 lodged 25/10/18 re RR/2018/1598/P - I Grants Cottages, Cackle Street, oak framed conservatory.

9. Highways Matters

9.1 Finger posts

9.1.1 Darwell Hole – On the motion of the Chairman members resolved to accept the estimate from Douglas Andrews, Wheelwright, for a replacement post at a cost of £1,230 plus vat. The post will be located on the opposite side of the road to its former location.

9.2 Strengthening Local Relationships (SLR) – the next meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday 11th December. However, moving the time from 2pm to 10.30am would mean that a key member is unable to attend and so a new day will be set.

9.3 Countryside – Bridleway 1 runs south west from the western end of Darwell Reservoir and has become impassable beyond the conveyor belt. This is partly due to fallen trees. Members agreed that the first step is to identify the landowners which means purchasing the Title Plan (the Title Deed is available by download but the Plan is too large). The fee of £7 was authorised at 6.2.2.4 above.

9.4 Street naming – the street Naming Officer has identified conflicting views where Coombe Hill Road crosses the boundary to the neighbouring parish of Burwash who need to be consulted. The Chairman undertook to speak to his opposite number at Burwash to see if they are interested in making a joint approach to RDC.

9.5 Verges and Hedges – ESCC have circulated plans for reducing the number of urban cuts and the option for parishes to pay towards the cost of reinstating them. Members decided to take no action.

10. Training

No plans

11. Correspondence received

- 11.1 Rother District Parking Enforcement consultation (see 5.2.1.4 above).
- 11.2 Rother Rural Trust – The RDC chairman has written to parishes asking for donations. Members were of the view that this should be one of their standing annual contributions and on the motion of the Chair resolved to donate £55 at once.

12. Parish Councillors' Forum

- 12.1 Cllr David Gasson asked if potholes in Long Reach and outside Brightling Park could be attended to. However, this needs to be reported online. The Chairman agreed to do this.
- 12.2 Cllr Chris French noted that hedges are overgrown and need cutting back in Kent Lane. The clerk will write to the landowner.

13. Information for Councillors / Future Agenda Items

None

14. Next meetings

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

.....
Signed (Chairman)

Date