

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Brightling Parish Council held on
Monday 15th July 2019 at 7.30 p.m. at Brightling Village Hall**

Parish Councillors present: Cllrs Caroline Croft, Daniel Lambert-Gorwyn, Jane Oxenford, Andrew Wedmore (Chair) and Judy Petty.

Parish Councillors absent: Cllr Rodderick Wrenn

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

In attendance: Gilly Lowe, Clerk to the Council
10 Members of the public

1. Apologies for absence

Received from Cllr Wrenn

2. Disclosures of interest

None

3. Additional agenda items

None

4. Minutes

- 4.1 The Chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 13th May 2019 as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

5. Open Forum

The Chairman proposed a change of order to allow the pyramid renovations to be discussed first, explaining that the Parish Council are not involved with the renovations but was simply providing a public forum for the renovations to be discussed.

5.1 Pyramid renovations

Richard Williams provided a comprehensive report about the pyramid and why it is in need of renovation. It is Grade 2 listed and made of Wealden sandstone. Incorrect materials have been used for previous repairs and the vegetation growing out of it is very damaging. The Beards are trying to obtain a Heritage Lottery grant in order to help raise the necessary funds.

The Chairman thanked Richard for his detailed report, and asked if planning consent would be required. Mr Williams explained that as they are like for like repairs consent is not required. VAT can be reclaimed as the pyramid is listed. Cllr Petty asked if stainless steel rods are used what lifespan they normally have. Mr Williams explained that they have a very long lifetime, and grafting a stone façade is usual practice. The proposed time frame for the works is 8 weeks.

5.2 Becket House wall

The owner of Becket House explained that the wall was badly damaged by a traffic accident in February and has been damaged in the past as well. She mentioned that as a pedestrian on that corner you feel unsafe with traffic speeding towards the bend from

Long Reach. She was looking for measures to protect pedestrians and the wall in the future. Cllr Croft said that the bridge at the other end of the village has similarly speeding problems, but that until there is a serious injury or death, traffic calming measures are difficult to introduce. Cllr Barnes (ESCC) offered to raise the issue with SLR (Highways), but explained that there are no easy solutions – speed humps can cause noise pollution and flashing light warning signs cause light pollution. There are two SLOW signs painted on the road which are non-existent. The Clerk agreed to contact Highways about re-painting them as a matter of urgency. Cllr Barnes suggested having another meeting with SLR specifically about this issue, and including Nick Skelton who is responsible for traffic and road safety matters. The owner of Becket House felt that she would still like to pursue the use of bollards in order to protect the wall.

5.3 RDC/ESCC councillors report

Cllr Kirby-Green reported that the new waste contract with Biffa had now begun and seemed to be running smoothly so far. No complaints have been received and maintaining the crew meant that routes had stayed the same. Ticehurst, Rye & Crowhurst all have neighbourhood plans concerning housing. Battle now has a site for housing and will find a provider to start within the next 12 months. This will help with the 5 year housing supply.

She also reported that the new independent group running the council had introduced a wide range of political views and had led to much more debate.

Cllr Barnes reported that a strong statement of protection should be prepared for the revision of Core Strategy consultation document. Rother is meant to be doubling the number of houses built, and will be under huge pressure. The time scale is October and Cllr Barnes suggested a formal letter from the Parish Council would be useful. The Inspector has taken notice of appeal letters in the past. The Chairman proposed the Council pass a resolution at the next meeting (30th September), having written said letter. The Chairman asked for a volunteer to take the lead on this and Cllr Mower agreed.

Cllr Barnes further reported that the fire authority had received a good inspection report and that response times from Burwash are good. Further consultation documents are being produced. Financially the business savings delivered meant that the council had underspent and these savings although bankable won't prop up the services which are being cut for ever.

6. Finance and Governance

6.1 RFO Report

6.1.1 Member received the bank reconciliation to the 30th June 2019. The Chairman advised that he has logged in to the bank account and verified the totals as stated.

6.1.2 Members received the income and expenditure report against budget for the first quarter ending 30th June.

6.2 Receipts and Payments

6.2.1 Members approved the schedule of receipts and payments for May and June 2019, proposed by Cllr Wedmore and seconded by Cllr Petty.

6.3 Governance

6.3.1 Having received an application from Dianne Mower for the co-option to fill the existing vacancy, and after meeting the candidate, it was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr Oxenford that Dianne Mower was duly co-opted as a full member of the Parish Council.

- 6.3.2 Cllr Mower signed the declaration of acceptance of office together with Cllr Oxenford who had been absent from the last meeting.
- 6.3.3 The Clerk reported that she had reviewed the latest standing orders and felt that there were no new models to implement. The document will be circulated for the Councillors to approve.
- 6.3.4 Cllrs Petty and Mower agreed to become new signatories for the bank account and the Clerk will arrange for the necessary paperwork to enable that.

7. Community and Business Development

- 7.1 There are some amendments/alterations to the electoral roll and welcome packs will be distributed as required. The Clerk and Cllr Oxenford to liaise.
- 7.2 **Broadband**
Cllr Wedmore reported that unsuccessful attempts had been made to get a broadband representative from ESCC to attend the recent SLR meeting. There is still no progress on high-speed broadband to the remaining households in the parish who are without it. The Chairman proposed a motion deploring the lack of interest and activity by ESCC. Cllr Petty reported that at a recent RALC meeting the matter had been raised and a decision is expected on Contract 3 by the end of July. Cllr Barnes also reported that he had requested a meeting with the Chief Executive.
- 7.3 Other utilities – water improvements continue on schedule and without too much disruption.
- 7.4 Other community matters:
 - 7.4.1 **VE Day**
The Chairman had been approached for a donation to the proposed village celebration to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day in May 2020. He proposed the Council contribute £150 which was seconded by Cllr Oxenford and duly passed.
 - 7.4.2 **Burwash neighbourhood**
Having studied the plan, it seems that no area has been identified yet for development – no sites are available. Rother had precluded any development in Burwash Weald and Burwash which puts pressure on a lot of villages. Cllr Barnes reported that Community Land Trusts are in his opinion the best route forward.
 - 7.4.3 **Parking – No comment**
 - 7.4.4 Cllr Wedmore attended a recent meeting about building in the AONB. He proposed passing a resolution to support the AONB's guide and that it should carry more weight. Cllr Oxenford asked if the AONB could help with the letter concerning the Core Strategy consultation. Cllr Wedmore also reported that it had been useful to network with other parish councillors and that in the future some councillors should volunteer to attend neighbouring Parish Council meetings. The Clerk will circulate a list of when the near-by meetings take place.
 - 7.4.5 Cllr Croft reported that there had been no crime in the area, but there had been a further incident of motorbike riding in the woods which had been reported to the PCSO by email.
 - 7.4.6 Cllr Croft – defibrillators all working fine.
 - 7.4.7 Cllr Petty had received no reports on footpaths, but the bracken is very high at Darwell Hole towards Woods Corner and the grass verge is also high. Cllr Croft had reported this very recently.
 - 7.4.8 Cllr Petty – nothing to report on overhanging hedges
 - 7.4.9 Cllr Oxenford – nothing to report on the 'phone box
 - 7.4.10 Cllr Lambert-Gorwyn – nothing to report on trees
 - 7.4.11 Cllr Lambert-Gorwyn – nothing to report on utilities
 - 7.4.12 Cllr Oxenford reported that Donna French had now taken over bookings for the village hall and that Judy Petty had joined the village hall committee and together with Fenella Tayler was responsible for the improvements to the rear garden.
 - 7.4.13 Cllr Wedmore reported that there had been a slight glitch with the village website which he had quickly rectified – otherwise no problems.

7.4.14 Welcome packs (see 7.1 above)

8. Planning Matters

8.1 Existing applications – members noted progress and outcomes of those tabled at a previous meeting.

8.1.1 RR/2019/1443/FN – Giffords Farm, Battle Road, Brightling TN21 9LH
Information only

8.1.2 RR/2019/1490/P – Griggs Ghyll Barn (now known as Rose Hill Barn), Battle Rd, Brightling TN21 9LQ
Retrospective change of use of land as residential curtilage.

8.2 New applications – members noted the following and the council's response. *(Ital)*

8.2.1 RR/2019/978/P – The Musings, Darwell Hill, Netherfield TN33 9QL

There has been some trouble with lighting at the site, and the gates are always locked. Enforcement dealt with the lighting issues.

The Council expressed concern as to the use of the building.

8.2.2 RR/2019/1370/P - Park Pale Meadow, Mountfield Lane, Mountfield TN32 5LD

Change of use of land to part equestrian. Additional buildings to include stables, a tack room, a store shed, improved access and track, formation of new hard standing in front of stable block. (Retrospective)

The Council strongly objected to the application as it will adversely impact the AONB, the area of hard standing is very large and the owners are not on site.

8.2.3 RR/2019/1378/FN – The Forge, Brightling Rd, Oxleys Green TN32 5HD
Proposed agricultural barn (Information only)

8.3 Breaches and Enforcement – the following update was noted.

The Clerk reported that one enforcement notice had been received regarding the land at Fern Hill, Brightling Rd, Brightling. The notice took effect from 12th July 2019 and the owner has 3 months to comply with the required actions. He also has the right to appeal.

9. Highways Matters

9.1 Finger posts

Doug Andrews recent report had been circulated to all members. It was agreed that his quote for items 7 & 8 was acceptable and should be carried out. For the other items where the posts needed washing, the Clerk is to verify who are the relevant 'sponsors' of said fingerposts and ask if they are happy to continue with this role, and therefore clean the posts.

9.2 Strengthening Local Relationships (SLR)

Cllr Petty reported that following the recent SLR meeting she had visited various sites with Sean Homewood from Highways and was waiting to hear about progress on these matters. Cllr Barnes asked to receive a list of items so that he could chase them too.

9.3 Street Naming

Cllr Wedmore and the Clerk reported that the approved maps had been submitted to the Street Naming Officer who had agreed them for the most part, but was waiting to hear from County regarding Perrymans/Fontridge Lane. However, it was noted that changing street names is not an easy or quick process but it was underway.

10. Training

RALC is going to provide training for Online Mapping since it has been updated. Cllr Petty and the Clerk will attend but the date has yet to be announced.

11. Correspondence received

None

12. Parish Councillors' Forum

Nothing reported

13. Circulation Folder

None received

14. Information for Councillors / Future Agenda Items

None

15. Next meetings

15.1 Meetings of the parish council will be in Brightling Village Hall at 7.30pm on a Monday.

15.2 The following are the remaining dates for council meetings in the current council year:

2019: 30 September, 18 November.

2020: 13 January, 9 March, (6 April Annual Assembly), 11 May (AGM)

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Signed (Chairman)

Date