

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Brightling Parish Council held on Monday 30th September 2019 at 7.30 p.m. at Brightling Village Hall

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

Parish Councillors absent: Cllr Rodderick Wrenn

District / County Councillors present: Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green, RDC

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

1. Apologies for absence

Received from Cllr Wrenn & Cllr John Barnes

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 15th July 2019 as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

5. Open Forum

5.1 RDC councillors report

Cllr Kirby-Green reported that Rother's consultation on civil parking was still open and any comments previously raised needed to be re-submitted. The nearest village to Brightling that would be affected is Robertsbridge. Cllr Wedmore suggested that a "Free 20 minutes" or some such period should be a requirement in order to allow local residents to use the shops in Robertsbridge without being penalised.

Cllr Kirby-Green also reported that at the last Cabinet meeting, a budget of £3m was agreed upon in order to purchase property and provide temporary accommodation for homeless people.

Finally, she mentioned some proposed changes to the conduct of Planning Committee meetings. Under these proposals, it would become easier for members of the public and bodies such as Parish Councils to speak at Planning Committee meetings. However, the ability for non-planning council members to speak would be more limited than at present. The proposals are now to go forward to the full Council for consideration.

Rother has also announced a Climate Change Steering Group which has 7 members of the District Council involved.

5.2 Members of the Public commented as follows:

- 5.2.1 Richard Meakin wanted to comment on the sterling work done by Cllr Judy Petty with East Sussex Highways concerning the collapsed drains and lack of drain

clearance and stated that more positive action had taken place in the last 2 weeks than in the previous 3 years. Mr Meakin has been having a very frustrating time trying to communicate the problem he's experienced at his property with letters returned to sender, and nobody taking responsibility for the works that were required. Cllr Petty read aloud an email received that day from Highways (Ruby Brittle) which confirmed that previous advice had been incorrect, and that the inspection team had indeed found collapsed pipes, gullies that were too shallow for the location and problems with the locations of the gullies themselves. A lack of kerb line has added to the volume of debris carried by the gullies. The drainage team are putting together a proposal to remedy these issues and the Council will be kept informed of progress. Cllr Wedmore thanked Cllr Petty for her efforts, which she confirmed were also due to Cllr John Barnes' efforts. Mr Meakin thanked the Council.

- 5.2.2 Christine Wing in her capacity as Treasurer of the Brightling Village Hall provided copies of the year end accounts which showed that there was a small profit of £380 made, and that the reserves had been maintained. Donna French is now handling bookings and is being paid a fee as there were no volunteers to deal with this onerous task. On behalf of the Village Hall, Chris asked if the Council would consider increasing their annual support grant from £750 to £1000. The Chairman agreed to discuss this suggestion and put it to a vote when it arose later on the agenda (Item 6.2.2.3)
- 5.2.3 Simon Tayler then commented that although he felt the Parish Council did a good job on planning matters, street naming was not something it had needed to get involved in. The proposed changes to street names is not what is on the title deeds of properties. Cllr Wedmore explained that the proposed changes were consulted on quite widely. A lot of the roads in Brightling don't have a name on a map and the National Street Gazetteer maintained by local councils had some quite incorrect names i.e Long Reach being Brightling Village. Cllr Petty asked if it was to help emergency services find properties, but Cllr Wedmore stated that the emergency services have their own way of finding places. He confirmed that there was no plan to introduce road signs.

6. Finance and Governance

6.1 RFO Report

- 6.1.1 Member received the bank reconciliation to the 30th September 2019. The Chairman advised that he had logged on 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 half of the year ending 30th September which the Chairman had noted an error that was now correct.

6.2 Receipts and Payments

- 6.2.1 Members approved the schedule of receipts and payments for July, August & September 2019, proposed by Cllr Wedmore and seconded by Cllr Petty.
- 6.2.2 The following payments were approved after being proposed by Cllr Oxenford and seconded by Cllr Lambert-Gorwyn:
- 6.2.2.1 RALC Subscription - £70 (retrospective)
- 6.2.2.2 Jon Avery, Churchyard maintenance - £360 (retrospective)
- 6.2.2.3 Brightling Village Hall – Annual Support Grant - £1000 (an increase on last year after the motion was proposed by Cllr Croft and seconded by Cllr Mower. Cllr Oxenford and Cllr Lambert-Gorwyn suggested that the amount should be reviewed every year, and Cllr Croft argued that the Council doesn't have a playground or other communal asset to pay for).
- 6.2.2.4 Sussex Air Ambulance – Annual Support Grant - £55

- 6.2.2.5 Rother CAB - Annual Support Grant - £55
- 6.2.2.6 Victim Support - Annual Support Grant - £55
- 6.2.2.7 RNLI - Annual Support Grant - £55
- 6.2.2.8 St Michael's Hospice - Annual Support Grant - £55
- 6.2.2.9 RDC - Election Costs - £118 (late addition to this agenda item)

6.3 Governance

- 6.3.1 Standing Orders – The Clerk agreed to fill in the necessary blank spaces pertinent to Brightling Parish Council on the new Model Standing Orders for approval and adoption by the Council at the next meeting.
- 6.3.2 Cllr Mower completed & signed the Declaration of Members Interests
- 6.3.3 Paperwork from the bank was completed & signed in order to assign new signatories for the bank account.

7. Community and Business Development

7.1 Broadband

Cllr Wedmore reported that there was a slight improvement on being kept informed on progress regarding the dozen or so properties in the Parish still to receive high speed broadband. In August Open Reach removed the duplicates and properties that didn't need surveying and submitted proposals after re-surveying. Detailed commercial discussions are now underway. No actual date is predicted for broadband connection yet but Cllr Wedmore feels that it has been delayed by at least 6 months, so there is little chance of meeting the deadline of March 2020.

7.2 Crime, anti-social behaviour & police relationships

Cllr Croft reported that bikes had been riding through Darwell again last weekend and she had duly reported it and logged it online.

7.3 Defibrillators

Nothing to report

7.4 Footpaths & bridleways

Cllr Wedmore suggested that a bridleway known as Battle I which was refurbished last year as far as the conveyor, needs a short stretch to be finished and that the Council should lobby for it to be included in next year's budget. Cllr Lambert-Gorwyn offered to walk the path and see if a section of footpath should also be included. The Clerk will then action the necessary requests.

7.5 Highways, hedges & potholes

Cllr Petty reported that some stones had been used to fill in the erosion at the bottom of Rectory Hill, but it had not been terribly effective. SLOW signs had been painted on the approach from Long Reach into the village, and the remaining actions (cats eyes and white lines) were still waiting to be done. The Clerk offered to chase up Highways.

7.6 Phone Box

Cllr Oxenford reported that there is more painting to be done, but the glass has now been received ready to install. There will be an information board about the local area displayed inside.

7.7 Refuse Collection

Nothing to report, but the Clerk confirmed that a speaker for the Annual Assembly in April '20 has been invited to discuss waste management and recycling in particular.

7.8 Signposts

Doug Andrews has been working on the repairs to the fingerpost damaged by an ant's nest at Stacy's Corner and the Clerk confirmed that the Council will meet half of the costs for repair, although was waiting to hear if the allocation of 2 fingerposts per annum was for a calendar year or the financial year.

7.9 Trees

Cllr Lambert-Gorwyn reported that he had 6 black poplars ready for volunteers to take some and plant in the area. It wasn't known if they were male or female. Cllr Wedmore offered to have some.

7.10 Utilities

The water improvements continue and seem to be running to schedule. A few power cuts had been noted and Cllr Wedmore suggested that a log be kept through the winter months.

7.11 Village Hall

Cllr Oxenford thanked the Council for the increased grant – nothing further to report.

7.12 Website

Nothing to report

7.13 Welcome Packs

Cllr Oxenford will contact newcomers with the help of the Clerk.

8. Planning Matters

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

8.1.1 Edlins Farm, Mountfield Lane, Mountfield TN39 5LD Ref: RR/2019/1682/P

To demolish Edlins Farm House & adjacent barn. Build a new house on the existing foundations of the present residential part of the barn.

Status: Undecided

8.1.2 Giffords Farm, Battle Road, Brightling TN21 9LH Ref: RR/2019/1443/FN

Proposed agricultural barn livestock building to replace existing dilapidated building. Information only

Status: Planning Required

8.1.3 Griggs Ghyll Barn (now known as Rose Hill Barn), Battle Road, Brightling TN21 9LQ Ref: RR/2019/1490/P

Retrospective change of use of land as residential curtilage.

Status: Approved Conditional

8.1.4 The Musings, Darwell Hill, Netherfield TN33 9LQ Ref: RR/2019/978/P

Retention of building and hardstanding and relocation of fencing & planting.

Status: Approved Conditional

8.1.4. Park Pale Meadow, Mountfield Lane, Mountfield TN32 5LD Ref: RR/2019/1370/P

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

Status: Approved Conditional

8.1.5 The Forge, Brightling Rd, Oxleys Green TN32 5HD Ref: RR/2019/1378/FN

Information only

Status: Details not required

8.2 New Applications – none

8.3 Breaches and Enforcement - none

9. Highways Matters

9.1 Street Naming

The Council discussed the proposed changes suggested by Rother and agreed upon them all apart from Coblye Street which should not be included as it is not a public street. The Clerk confirmed that a letter is due to be sent to residents concerning the changes w/c 14th October.

10. Training

10.1 Online Mapping training on 6th November. The Clerk explained that attendance at this training session required a laptop and asked the Council if they would consider buying one for the Council which the Clerk could use and bring to meetings etc. Cllr Wedmore proposed a budget of £400 + VAT and Cllr Oxenford seconded the proposal.

10.2 Planning Training – Cllr Petty can attend this training session being held on 22nd October. Other councillors expressed an interest in this and asked the Clerk to find out if spaces were available.

11. Correspondence received

Letter from Victim Support regarding annual support grant (see Item 6.2.2.6)
A request for a donation from CPRE to support their “Brownfield First” policy was discussed. Cllr Oxenford proposed £30 and Cllr Croft seconded the proposal.

12. Parish Councillors’ Forum

Cllr Croft reported that the trees when turning left up to Netherfield from the crossroads are causing a potential safety issue, and offered to report it again.

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: 18 November.

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

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Signed (Chairman)

Date