

MINUTES OF THE CHALVINGTON WITH RIPE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

3rd May 2018

held at The Hayton Baker Hall, Ripe

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Cllr Webb (Chairman) Cllr Dashfield
Cllr Lawrence Cllr Ward
Cllr Ward

ATTENDING: County Councillor N Bennett, District Councillor P Ede and A Stevens (Clerk).
There were no members of the public in attendance.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Dunbar Dempsey and English.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – The Chairman, Colin Webb read from his report which said;

Wealden Local Plan.

Wealden District Council have issued the Draft Local Plan last year, we are still awaiting the final publication very soon.

Planning.

During the year we considered 22 planning applications and supported 18 and objected to 4. These planning applications have increased the number of dwellings with planning permission to 18 in total for the year.

We are saddened to have lost our pub the Lamb in Ripe

We have welcomed attending the Wealden Parish Planning meetings which have provided Councillor White, Dunbar-Dempsey and myself a better understanding of the planning processes.

It was agreed that the Parish Council will continue to make sure residents who could be affected by planning applications are made aware of them.

Roads and Footpaths.

We have continued to work with ESCC Highways to make good the damage to roads and verges in the villages. Some of this work has been carried out, but due to road works on the A27 and consequent traffic diversions through and around Ripe and Chalvington we have seen even more damage. This has led to a meeting with myself and Selmeston and a number of residents with Highways England. We have given them feedback and hope that they will make the necessary changes to any future diversions.

Dog fouling continues to be a problem. Councillor White has erected signs at two points in the village which we hope will help.

Village Shop.

We would like to again recognise the great work that is carried out by the staff in our village shop and hope that last year's good results will continue this year.

We are also pleased to support and help the Village Musical Festival and hope it will be a great success

2017 was a very sad year for us as we lost two of our valued councillors, Peter Brass and Keith Shonfeld both will be sorely missed.

My thanks to our County Councillor Nick Bennett and our District Councillor Philip Ede for all their help during the year. Also to the Litterwatch Team, the Village Hall Committee and Ripe Nursery for doing such a wonderful job for everyone in our community.

Also thanks to all the volunteers who produce our excellent Village Magazine which we all find so useful.

I would also like to welcome our two new councillors Norma Dashfield and Tim Lawrence, it is great to have you with us and we look forward to working together in the future.

And lastly a big thank you to all Parish Councillors for all their work behind the scenes and especially to our excellent clerk Alison for all she does for us and also for helping to keep us on track'.

3. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR –

District Councillor P Ede said;

- The Wealden Local Plan is expected to be approved by its Full Council in July. The Plan will then be sent to the Planning Inspector for examination in public after which it will be submitted to the Secretary of State for a final Decision.
- Wealden's share of the Council Tax has increased by 2.7% which is in line with inflation. Central Government has withdrawn the Revenue Support Grant but is increasing revenue sources by building a crematorium at Horam and investing in Vicarage Fields in Hailsham.
- Wealden is continuing to lobby the police to provide a more visible local police presence and is understood to be coming round to decriminalisation. It has previously been against charging for on street parking because it felt charging would harm our local high streets.
- The new waste collection contract is due in June 2019.

In answer to Councillor's questions, District Councillor Ede;

- Noted Wealden wanted to charge a resident £57 to collect a sofa and were unable to collect it for three weeks. A local business had proved cheaper and quicker.
- Said housing figures in the Local Plan are only guidelines and each planning application is dealt with on its own merits. Ripe is considered by officers to be unsustainable so that should limit development here.
- Litter is still a problem on the A27 and he is continuing to chase Councillor Roy Galley. He agreed that if it was kept under control there would be less litter in the villages.

The Clerk confirmed the cars for sale at Golden Cross have been reported to Trading Standards who say parking on the grass verge is not illegal but if any cars are causing an obstruction they should be reported to the police via Operation Crackdown.

County Councillor N Bennett sent his report. His full report is as follows;

'Driving sustainable economic growth

East Sussex County Council (ESCC) is one of seven local authorities that have formed a partnership called Transport for the South East (TfSE). The new partnership brings together the area's 16 transport authorities and a range of other organisations to work directly with the Department for Transport. TfSE is currently operating in shadow form but intends to secure full Government backing and statutory powers. At the first meeting of TfSE in June 2017, partners elected Cllr Keith Glazier, Leader of East Sussex County Council as chairman.

Companies in East Sussex are now able to benefit from a new £2 million grants and business support service, aimed at boosting the county's economy. South East Business Boost offers grants of between £1,000 and £10,000 to existing small and medium sized businesses and start-ups for capital projects to help them grow and expand operations. So far £300,000 of grants have been awarded which will bring in over £850,000 in match funding. In addition, £227.4 million has been spent with local suppliers over the last 12 months; 55.8% of total Council spend.

East Sussex Highways, our partnership which looks after the roads, pavements, street lights, grass and winter maintenance won a number of prestigious awards during 2017/18. The customer service team won a silver award at the UK Customer Experience Awards and gold at the European Contact Centre and Customer Service Awards, following their introduction of a new more personalised way of working and a high-tech software system which has seen average call response times slashed from 90 seconds to just nine. In addition East Sussex Highways has been recognised for its work to boost skills in the area, with work in schools and a clear commitment to apprenticeships.

Over 150 carriageway asset improvement schemes were delivered in the first three-quarters of 2017/18. The continued investment by the County Council into highway maintenance, and specifically the resurfacing of roads, has stemmed the rate of deterioration and maintained road conditions across the county at an acceptable and affordable level. The condition of A, B and C roads across the county have largely remained stable, and as anticipated when Cabinet approved the current investment strategy in 2013. The additional £10m invested in rural lanes, also approved by Cabinet in 2013, has resulted in a noticeable improvement of unclassified roads across the county.

A number of large scale infrastructure projects have also been progressed, including the Newhaven Port Access Road, improvements to Terminus Road in Eastbourne and funding secured to build a new two-lane bridge to replace the current one-lane Exceat Bridge over the Cuckmere river.

Our e-Sussex project to rollout faster broadband in previously isolated areas has continued to improve access to services, jobs and education. Over 70,000 premises have been connected during our first and second contracts. A final phase of works is being procured with the aim to connect as close to 100% of premises in the county as possible.

There was a further improvement in the percentage of secondary schools judged by Ofsted (as at August 2017) to be good or outstanding to 77.8% from 74.1% at the end of 2016/17. The Early Years Improvement Team has also worked with providers, such that 96% of all East Sussex early years settings are graded good or outstanding, up from 76% in 2013. Work continues through our new Excellence for All 2017-2019 strategy to raise standards across all our educational settings. In addition, ESCC was successful in securing funding from the Government's Strategic School Improvement Fund to set up a Secondary Inclusion Partnership which will see county schools working together to share expertise with a focus on disadvantaged pupils and those with special educational needs.

In July 2017, ESCC welcomed funding of nearly £12 million for the arts, announced by Arts Council England for seven projects across the county. This includes funding for Glyndebourne to support its education and outreach work, for the de La Warr Pavilion in Bexhill to promote visual arts, for the Towner Art Gallery in Eastbourne and the Jerwood Gallery in Hastings.

Keeping vulnerable people safe

In June 2017, the Safer East Sussex Partnership launched a new pilot scheme called 'Ask Me'. The scheme widens opportunities for survivors of domestic abuse to access the help they need from their communities. It provides free domestic abuse training for people to become 'ask me ambassadors' who can respond to a disclosure of domestic abuse, and know where to signpost people for help. 16 Days of Action for the Elimination of Violence Against Women ran from 25 November 2017. Over the 16 days a range of organisations and individuals came together to work to end all forms of violence against women.

ESCC's Children's Services Department was runner up in the Social Worker of the Year Awards 2017 in the category of Best Social Work Employer. The Council's submission highlighted our achievements in supporting staff to create a high quality, sustainable system that secures the best outcomes for children and young people.

ESCC were successful in securing a £174,000 Warm and Healthy Homes grant from National Energy Action and £440,000 from the Warm Homes Fund to enable eligible vulnerable individuals to benefit from significant home improvements to help them keep warm in cold weather. This means over £1 million in external fuel poverty funding has been secured during the past two years.

By the end of December 2017, 61 organisations had joined the East Sussex Against Scams Partnership (ESASP) Charter which aims to make East Sussex a scam-free county. Over 687 residents have participated in Friends Against Scams awareness sessions which aim to reduce the likelihood of them, or people they know or care for, from becoming vulnerable victims of fraud and scams.

Helping people help themselves

Plans for closer health and care integration were given the green light by the Alliance partners (Eastbourne, Hailsham and Seaford CCG, Hastings and Rother CCG, ESCC, East Sussex Health Care NHS Trust and Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust) in the East Sussex Better Together (ESBT) programme in July 2017. Our ambition is to deliver a fully integrated health and social care system in East Sussex that will ensure every service user enjoys proactive, joined up care that supports them to live as healthily and independently as possible. We are now developing a single health and care entity to manage the £850 million

spent each year on the health and care needs of people in East Sussex. In recognition of this work, the ESBT Alliance won the 'Improved Partnerships between Health and Local Government' award at the prestigious 2017 Health Service Journal Awards. Examples of more integrated services include Locality Link Workers who act as a conduit between the statutory services, the voluntary sector and the community. Integrated locality teams (ILTs), made up of nurses, therapists, social workers and proactive care practitioners from East Sussex Health Care Trust (ESHT) and ESCC, have also been rolled out across the Eastbourne, Hailsham and Seaford and Hastings and Rother CCG areas.

There have been improvements against Adult Social Care key measures. Delayed transfers of Care (delayed days) from hospital per 100,000 population (aged 18+) has improved from 24.4 in April 2017 to 12.7 in November 2017. The proportion of older people (aged 65+) who are still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement / rehabilitation services for April to September 2017 is 91.7% - up from 90.5% in 2016/17.

An initiative helping young people with disabilities travel independently to school, college or training won national recognition. The Learning Independence for Travel (LIFT) training programme was one of just seven schemes shortlisted for a 'best service' award at the GO Excellence in Public Service Awards 2017/18.

One You East Sussex launched in October 2017 offers those who are struggling to make healthy lifestyle changes a bespoke support programme for help with weight loss, stopping smoking, getting active, drinking less and eating a healthy diet. Our Beat the Street East Sussex mass participation physical activity initiative saw more than 42,000 people take part and new Health and Wellbeing Community Hubs are due to be established in Hastings and Bexhill, helping people improve and manage their health by giving them access to information and support in one convenient place.

Schools across the county have been able to access additional funding to improve children's physical and mental health. Last year, 183 schools and colleges across the county received grants of £10,000 to develop and implement school health improvement plans and this year all schools were entitled to an additional £7,000 to further develop activities to boost health. In addition the ESCC primary school menu was accredited with the Soil Associations Food for Life Served Here Gold Standard, which recognises pupils are being served meals with the freshest, ethically sourced ingredients, free from additives and excessive salt and sugar.

Making the best use of our resources

The Council's budget and Council Plan for 2018/19 were approved at the meeting of Full Council on the 6th February 2018. The budget includes spending of £371 million on services for East Sussex. It also includes savings of £17 million, a 3 per cent Adult Social Care levy and a 2.99 per cent council tax increase.

The Council's Stand Up for East Sussex campaign, which made the case for East Sussex's particular needs to be recognised, gathered almost 6,000 signatures and was delivered to the Prime Minister in December 2017.

The Orbis partnership between East Sussex County Council, Brighton and Hove City Council and Surrey County Council aims to improve the quality and resilience of business services and provide savings to both authorities. After surpassing its initial financial targets by achieving £4.5 million savings in 2016/17 against a target of £1.1 million, Orbis is currently on target to deliver £3.9 million efficiencies in 2017/18. Teams from across the three

Councils have been working together to improve the way Orbis delivers services to its customers, including an online pensions portal and a new e-recruitment system.

He also said County is consulting on plans to stop its music service and encouraged everyone to respond. He is hoping plans to set up a charity to provide the service come to fruition. Anyone with any other ideas is asked to let County Councillor Bob Standley know. County Councillor Standley is the Lead Member for Education and Inclusion.

In answer to Councillor's questions, County Councillor Bennett said;

- Money from rubbish set aside by staff goes to the contractor.
- Car and motorbike tyres can only be taken to some sites because not all of them have enough capacity.
- He will forward an update on the Parish Council's request for a 7.5 tonne weight limit to the Clerk for circulation to Councillors.
- Quiet Lanes are unlikely to be supported in East Sussex by ESCC because they are expensive and make no difference.
- He agrees the money spent on the new island by Middle Farm could have been better spent elsewhere and the consultation carried out by Highways England should have included the County Council and Parish Councils.

4. REPORT FROM THE TRUSTEES OF HAYTON BAKER HALL – Professor Hill sent a written report in which he said that during the year;

The Committee Members during the year were:

Brian Hill	Chairman
Lys Drewett	Secretary
Keith Hopson	Treasurer
Val Hopson	Bookings Secretary
Peter Brass	Parish Council Representative
Gill Ross	P.C.C. Representative
Elaine Nicholls	W.I Representative
Debbie Sylvester	Flower Show Representative
Jooles Jackson	
Margaret Hallowell	
Susan Tyldsley-Hill	
Jacky Cash-Reed	
Eric Hunter	

Sadly, during the year, Peter Brass passed away, Peter had been a member of the committee for many years. During this time, he worked in several capacities including a stint as "Premises Officer". Although dogged by ill health he was always happy to help and his presence will be sorely missed.

During the year the programme of refurbishment and repairs was continued. Areas were treated for damp and repainted. The toilets were significantly upgraded.

Our finances remain sound, aided by donations from the Parish Council. However, the unintended consequences of the new government scheme to provide free pre-school tuition for three to four year olds, has meant that schools have been put under severe financial pressure. The committee is working with the school to safeguard this important asset to our community. Keith Hopson, our Treasurer, has guided us wisely and efficiently throughout the year.

During the year the Hall has continued to be used by a variety of local and outside organisations. As well as the pre-school, activities have included many social events, a very successful village quiz night, community meetings, parties and official gatherings. Thanks are due to Val Hopson who oversees this aspect of our activities.

Health and Safety and Risk Assessments were carried out and no major problems were detected. The emergency lighting and fire extinguishers have been routinely checked and the new check list devised by Margaret Hallewell has proved most useful.

Unfortunately, the purchase of land from the Diocese to extend storage facilities has still not been resolved. There has been some progress during the year, with a draft contract being produced by solicitors representing the Diocese. Some significant problems were found with the document however, and the committee is awaiting a revised version.

The Committee met five times during the year and all members discharged their responsibilities effectively.

It has been another successful year and thanks are due to all Members whose dedication ensures that the Village Hall continues to provide a significant asset to our local community. It has been a privilege to work with such a friendly and motivated team.

5. REPORT FROM THE LITTER WATCH CO-ORDINATOR - Professor Hill sent a written report in which he said;

'It is now 14 years since the LitterWatch group was established and rubbish continues to keep 22 families in the group busy. At a rough count, 8,500 bags of litter have been collected and responsibly disposed of over the years!!

- The main culprits remain plastic bags, beer cans, fast-food wrappings, energy soft drinks, energy jelly and, a debut appearance this year, hair curlers.
- There are indications that the profile of litterers is moving slightly upmarket. Analysis of the parish shows that wine bottles are on the increase. Firstly, a common Sauvignon was consumed, but more recently, serial drinkers have used their bonuses to upgrade to an expensive German hock! Difficult to spot the connection, perhaps, but the Sauvignon was often placed on the verge, together with neatly packaged, but used, disposable nappies!
- McDonalds and Costa Coffee are obviously doing profitable business locally and they have shown some willingness to clean up their customers' mess
- Network Rail continue to take positive action to stop the awful littering next to the Ripe level crossing
- Continuing the positive theme, Wealden Council should be congratulated on providing an excellent service to control fly-tipping. Sofas, mattresses, old tyres, kitchen units, broken chairs, etc all make their appearance under cover of darkness but rarely stay with us for more than two days due to the diligence of the fly-tipping patrol. The Council also helped in our successful Great British Spring Clean, providing us with sacks and cleaning packs.

- The group have been active in drawing attention to the disgraceful state of the A-roads in the area. Wealden, East Sussex and Maria Caulfield have all responded positively but significant problems remain. At a recent meeting of the group an approach to the Parish Council was suggested to encourage the development of a more pro-active approach. One recommendation was to erect carefully worded notices at the 8 points of entry to the Parish in an attempt to discourage litterers.
- Finally, Wealden are to be congratulated on their new policy of fining litterers. Parishioners just have to report the registration number of the vehicle, the time, the place and a description of the litter dropped. An immediately penalty of £75 will be considered.

6. REPORT FROM THE PARISH EMERGENCY OFFICER – There have been no emergency situations in the Parish in the past year.

7. OPEN FORUM – There were no questions from the members of the public.