

MINUTES OF THE CHALVINGTON WITH RIPE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

9th May 2019

held at The Hayton Baker Hall, Ripe

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Cllr Webb (Retiring Chairman) Cllr Dashfield
 Cllr Dunbar Dempsey Cllr Rogers
 Cllr Ward Cllr White

ATTENDING: County Councillor N Bennett, District Councillor D Watts, A Stevens (Clerk) and four members of the public in attendance.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Lady S Conway and they were accepted by the Council.

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

Wealden Local Plan

In October 2018 the Parish Council submitted its response to the Wealden Local Plan. During the year we have endeavoured to keep parishioners up to date with the progress of the plan.

Planning

During the year we considered 19 planning applications and supported 16 and objected to 3. We have continued to appreciate being able to attend the Wealden Parish Planning meetings which have provided Councillor White and Dunbar-Dempsey and Rogers with a better understanding of the planning processes. Our thanks to the three councillors for their feedback following the meetings.

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.

A27

We are keeping a very close eye on the developments around the proposed future improvements of the A27, and are hoping to be actively involved.

Village Shop

We would like to again recognise the great work that is carried out by the staff in our village shop and are very heartened that the good results continue.

Defibrillator

Hopefully soon we will be in a position to be able to install a defibrillator in the phone box near the shop.

We were pleased to be able to support and help the Village Musical Festival and hope it will continue to be a great success in the future.

My Thanks - to our County Councillor Nick Bennett and our District Councillor Philip Ede for all their help and support 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 Lady Susan Conway and Bill Rogers, it's 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.

This will be my last report as I will not be standing for inclusion in the Parish Council in the future.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my tenure as Chairman, I have made many good friends and it has given me a great insight into our wonderful community.

Best wishes for the future'.

3. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR –

District Councillor David Watts introduced himself and reported that;

- The number of District Councillors has been reduced from 55 to 45.
- Wealden District Council now consists mainly of Conservatives. There are 11 non-Conservatives.
- District Councillors will find out which committees they are on, next week.
- The Wealden Local Plan is being examined by the Planning Inspector. Her Report is expected in September.

County Councillor N Bennett sent his report which is as follows;

Driving sustainable economic growth

Transport for the South East (TfSE), our partnership of the area's 16 transport authorities, launched its Economic Connectivity Review (the first stage of developing the TfSE Transport Strategy) in May 2018. At this event, it was announced that TfSE would receive a £1million grant from the Department for Transport to assist with the development of the Strategy. TfSE is currently undertaking a period of engagement with stakeholders to gain views on its proposals to Government to secure statutory status and a formal consultation will be launched in May 2019.

Over 160 carriageway asset improvement schemes were delivered in the first three-quarters of 2018-19, with significant improvement works delivered for the A267 and the A22. A major project to reconstruct Heathfield High Street was completed ahead of schedule, with the

scheme also seeing parts of the pavement resurfaced and new street lights installed. Work also began on the construction of the Newhaven Port Access Road and on the second and most significant phase of the Eastbourne Town Centre Improvement Scheme. Aimed at modernising the town centre, improving pedestrian conditions and attracting more visitors, it includes the installation of new bus lanes, bus shelters, a high-quality granite road surface and new paving, seating and landscaping.

Significant progress has been made in the implementation of the new Strategy for Library and Information Services, with a range of new library services introduced during the last 12 months. These include an enhanced, modern eLibrary with greater investment, a new children and young people's offer to support literacy and numeracy, increased outreach work in our most disadvantaged communities, and new Community Library Membership and Teachers Library Memberships. In addition Hastings Library reopened in March 2018, following a multi-million pound revamp. This included the installation of a new roof and lift, lighting and furniture. Crowborough Library was also refurbished with an expanded children's area, a newly created space for teens and young adults, new free access computer desks and new stock. Libraries at Ringmer and Langney opened as community libraries, with support from ESCC, after they were closed following the review of the county library services, prompted by the need to make budget savings.

We have been supported businesses to create over 150 jobs in the area during the first three quarters of the year. In addition, Locate East Sussex has supported 30 businesses to move into, or relocate within the county. The South East Business Boost service, offering grants of between £1,000 and £10,000 to small and medium sized businesses and start-ups for capital projects awarded over £900,000 of grants in East Sussex. In addition, Trading Standards launched a Business Advice & Support Partnership (BAASP) to help businesses and other professionals receive high quality regulatory support and promote their comprehensive range of training workshops including customer care, food allergens and selling on-line. To date, they have led 15 workshops, attracting 244 delegates.

ESCC was named as one of 20 Careers Hubs nationwide, so attracting £200,000 external funding. The East Sussex Careers Hub, which launched in November 2018, will link all secondary schools, special schools and colleges with employers, support organisations and higher and further education providers to improve the guidance and support offered to students. Projects which help young people make the right career choices will also be expanded, including the Industry Champions network (a network of more than 80 champions from local businesses), apprenticeship roadshows, Supported Internships and Apprenticeships for people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and Open Doors, where businesses open their doors to allow students to visit and learn about the world of work. In November 2018, 44 businesses participated in Open Doors and received workplace visits from over 500 students.

81.5% of secondary schools are judged by Ofsted to be good or outstanding, 1.5 percentage points above the national average of 80% as at end May 2018. 92.9% of primary schools in East Sussex are judged to be good or outstanding against the national average of 89.9%. 100% of special schools are judged to be good or outstanding against the national average of 93.4%. Across East Sussex, results for GCSE English and Maths improved with 41.9% of pupils earning grade five – a strong pass or above, an increase from last year's figure of 38.4%.

Keeping vulnerable people safe

ESCC became one of the few local authorities to achieve the highest possible rating for its work with vulnerable families. Following an Ofsted inspection, ESCC Children's Social Services is now rated 'Outstanding'. Inspectors were particularly impressed with the 'connected practice' model which places emphasis on social workers creating enduring and trusting relationships with families and children.

Members of ESCC demonstrated their commitment to protect residents by becoming SCAMBassadors for Friends Against Scams. The East Sussex Against Scams Partnership, run by the Safer East Sussex Team, helps to protect residents by raising awareness through over 100 partner organisations, such as local businesses, charities, church groups, community enterprises and councils. Nearly 3,000 residents have participated in Friends Against Scams awareness sessions. Trading Standards have also continued their fight against rogue trading in the county, providing support to the most vulnerable and pursuing those who target them. To date, the team have carried out 180 positive interventions to prevent fraud and other scams, and installed 27 call blocking devices to prevent telephone scams.

ESCC was awarded a silver award under the Ministry of Defence Employer Recognition Support Scheme, which honours employers that show a commitment to supporting current and former military personnel. Award judges were impressed with the support given to armed forces cadet volunteers and Army Reserve members

Hastings Community Support Service, based in Bexhill, which helps people with learning disabilities live independent lives was rated 'Outstanding' – the highest possible grading in its report from the Care Quality Commission. The service provides specialist support to adults in their own homes, including support with social activities, daily living skills and personal care.

ESCC again took part in the White Ribbon Campaign's 16 Days of Action to help eliminate domestic violence and abuse against women and girls. During the campaign, ESCC promoted a series of events designed to highlight support available to victim, as well as encouraging people to speak out against violence and abuse.

Helping people help themselves

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex visited our Joff Youth Centre in Peacehaven, where they met 50 young people gathered from youth groups around the county, including the elected Youth Cabinet. Their visit focused on the issue of youth mental health which has been a top priority of the Youth Cabinet this year. In November 2018 over 50 young people took part in our Annual Takeover Day to discuss mental health.

ESCC has worked with the 5 district and borough authorities to set up a new scheme which offers up to 100% Council Tax discounts to Care Leavers aged 18-24, using a single protocol and process. We are one of only nine shire counties in England to adopt such a scheme and one of only four to have a countywide scheme.

There have been further improvements against Adult Social Care. Delayed Transfers of Care from hospital per 100,000 population (aged 18+) has improved from 12.7 in November 2017 to 10.3 in November 2018. The November figure had already reduced from 24.4 in April 2017. The proportion of older people (aged 65+) who are still at home 91 days after

discharge from hospital into reablement or rehabilitation services for April to September 2018 is 92.7%, up from 91.7% over the same period in 2018.

The end of 2017-18 saw the end of the current five year cycle for NHS Health Checks. In this period, the Council achieved the highest proportion of people being offered and receiving their check in the South East.

Making the best use of our resources

The Council's budget and Council Plan for 2019/20 were approved at the meeting of Full Council on the 5th February 2019. The budget includes spending of £375 million on services for East Sussex. It also includes savings of £5.1 million. The savings required in the budget were significantly less than first anticipated due to the success of sustained lobbying of central Government by the Council's Leader and Deputy Leader. The additional funding amounted to:

- Health and Social Care – additional money to continue the Winter Pressures funding, plus extra for Adult and Children's Social care – in 2019-20 this is an extra - £7m (2.586m+£4.417m)
- Business Rates Retention Pilot - £1.6m in 2019-20
- Potholes, bridges and other repair work – Capital Funding of £4.7m – received in 2018-19
- Children's Services – ISEND funding - £1.138m – in 2019-20 (and the same in 2018-19)

ESCC also published its 'Core Offer' –a basic but decent level of service which we believe is the very least residents should be able to expect, even with the intense financial pressures we face. As well as meeting our legal duties across all services delivered, the Core Offer includes measures to grow the economy of East Sussex and make sure we invest resources in some preventative and early intervention work where greater costs may otherwise build up. Views were sought on the Core Offer and over 1200 responses to the questionnaire were received. Feedback from the questionnaire set out that most people – 78% considered that the Government should allocate more funds to meet the financial gap ESCC faces.

Through our capital programme we have delivered improvements to schools buildings and expansion of facilities across the county providing approximately 1,100 additional school places across primary, secondary and special educational needs provision'.

County Councillor Bennett added;

- ESCC may need to lobby Central Government for more funding again this year.
- The County Councillor has still not seen the business case from Highways England for the proposed dualling of the A27. The mitigation work (£75M) is expected to start this year.

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

Gill Ross	P.C.C. Representative
Elaine Nicholls	W.I Representative
Debbie Sylvester	Flower Show Representative
Jooles Jackson	
Margaret Hallowell	
Susan Tyldsley-Hill	
Eric Hunter	

1. During the year Jacky Cash-Reed resigned from the committee.
2. The programme of refurbishment and repairs was continued. Areas were treated for damp and repainted.
3. Our finances remain sound, partly thanks to donations from the Parish Council, the Flower Show, the Music Festival and generous individuals. Thanks are due to the prudent management of our Treasurer, Keith Hopson.
4. 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, yoga, pilates, table tennis and official gatherings. Thanks are due to Val Hopson who oversees this aspect of our activities.
5. 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 Hallowell has proved most useful. An up to date valuation of the premises was undertaken for insurance purposes.
6. Progress has been made in negotiations with the Diocese to enable a modest extension to the storeroom. Some legal points need to be finalised, but it is hoped that there can be a satisfactory conclusion shortly.
7. 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;

'The Group has now been picking for 15 years with 26 families involved around the Parish. Sadly, there has been no decrease in the amount of litter dropped on our lanes, so the diligence and commitment of our local volunteers is still badly needed. Approximately, 160 bags are collected and properly disposed of each year.

- The main culprits remain plastic bags, builders' rubble, beer cans, empty wine bottles, fast food wrappings, tyres, energy soft drinks and energy jelly
- The largest item deposited this year was a caravan. A short head bigger than the rusty corrugated tin roofs

- The serial San Miguel drinker has still not been caught and his rubbish has been joined in our hedgerows by his Belgian girlfriend, Stella Artois
- An unwelcome appearance this year has been a random distribution of used condoms, on occasions accompanied by penis enlarging gel!
- We have sought to keep up pressure on Maria Caulfield, Wealden D.C and East Sussex C.C to improve the deplorable state of the A27. All the right verbal responses have been received, but only occasional bursts of action can be reported
- However, Wealden should be congratulated on their efficient fly-tipping service. Large items of rubbish rarely take longer than 2 days to remove
- The Council have also supported us by providing equipment and a small grant to encourage our operation. As a result we hope to be able to increase the number of litter bins in hot spots such as laybys. It may also be possible to install sensitively crafted signs to discourage litter vandals.

6. REPORTS FROM ANY OTHER ORGANISATIONS - Reverend Smith introduced himself and said;

- He has been here for a year now and is what is known as a 'Combined Benefice' Rector ie; he looks after more than one church.
- This is a well-supported parish which is in good condition.
- The church has established strong links with the local nurseries and school.
- The church would like to foster good relations with the community as well. Plans include seeing if there is an appetite for a Community Care Scheme here.

Councillor Webb read from James Robertson's, the Footpath Officer, Report which said;

'A general point that I think needs to be made is that, apart from a few paths around the village which people use to exercise their dogs, other paths need to be used more in order to keep vegetation down, particularly in the summer. I'm also slightly concerned that one or two footbridges which have obviously been built at some expense are not looked after, and may therefore rot away well before their life-span. There is also a missing finger post which Geoff White has drawn my attention to, which I must report to ESCC. I shall endeavour to give specifics for these, hopefully to the next Parish Council meeting, once I have got my head round the county maps'.

7. REPORT FROM THE PARISH EMERGENCY OFFICER – Councillor Ward has recently updated the Emergency Plan to include the new councillors.

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