

CHALVINGTON WITH RIPE PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF

2nd July 2018

held at The Hayton Baker Hall, Ripe.

34. Present: Cllr Dunbar Dempsey (Acting Chairman), Cllr Ward and Cllr White.
35. Attending: District Councillor Ede, A Stevens (Clerk) and five members of the public were also in attendance.
36. Public Session:

Mrs Gossage asked if anything can be done to discourage the use of bonfires in the parish because she said they are anti-social, they are a nuisance, they destroy wildlife habitation, they cause pollution and there is no need for them because garden waste can be taken to the tip for free.

Mr Garner said he has looked at the Wealden District Council website and there are no laws controlling the use of bonfires but the District Council recommends;

- Always warning the neighbours in advance.
- Burning during low wind conditions.
- Burning in the evening when windows are closed.
- Burning when the washing has been taken in.
- Only burning dry material.
- Burning as far away from neighbours as possible.
- If a neighbour's house has been engulfed by your smoke, please put out your bonfire immediately.

Councillor White pointed out that some residents have large gardens and hedges and the environmental impact would be worse if they had to keep driving back and forth to the tip.

District Councillor Ede confirmed that bonfires can be reported to Wealden but they can only prosecute if the bonfires breach Environmental Health laws.

Councillors agreed that Councillor Dunbar Dempsey will write an article for the village magazine to remind residents of Wealden's recommendations. The article will also include a link to the District Council's website.

Residents also;

- Asked if anything can be done about a horse box which is causing a regular obstruction to the highway in Ripe. Councillors asked the Clerk to report it via Operation Crackdown.
- Reported a large hedge which is growing over into the road. Councillors asked Councillor Dunbar Dempsey to write an article in the village magazine to ask residents, who have hedges next to public highways and paths, to keep them cut back.

Councillor Dunbar Dempsey then read the following statement from Maria Caulfield, MP;

Southern Rail

The latest Southern rail timetable changes have been a disaster for us locally with reduced services, short formation trains and station skipping. Along with other local MPs, I met with the Transport Secretary in Parliament to ask him to remove Southern Rail's franchise. It was confirmed at the meeting that short formation trains, station skipping and taking trains off the timetable at the

last minute is not acceptable and not allowed under the franchise agreement so please do let me know as and when this happens.

I know commuters locally have simply had enough of Southern Rail. It is just not good enough that after months of strike action and chaos on the railways, Southern's new timetable, that we were told would be much better for passengers has descended into a farce, and is causing misery on the same scale as the strike action. Trains are cancelled at not even a moment's notice, stations are skipped with no warnings, and if a train does turn up it is likely to have less carriages than advertised, sometimes even as many as 8 fewer carriages!

The latest news is that GTR will be introducing a new local timetable as a temporary measure to get services back but they have been given a two week period to make this happen. If in that time we are no further forward it is likely their franchise will be terminated early.

I welcome the resignation of Charles Horton as CEO, and I will be pushing for whatever it takes to restore our train service. As a fellow commuter I fully understand how difficult the current situation is and I will do all I can to get it resolved.

A27 Update

It is disappointing that there are misleading suggestions about the possible route options for the plans to dual the A27. So far a funding bid has gone in to Government for £450 million to dual the A27. If we are successful then a route options appraisal will be commenced that will involve local residents first and foremost. Please do reassure residents that no route decisions have been made and that the maps circulated by those against improving the A27 are false. I am happy to meet with anyone who has concerns.

Breast Cancer Screening Issue

I have discovered that 277 women aged 68-71 in the Lewes Constituency were not sent their final breast screening appointment.

In May the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care revealed that thousands of women across the country were not sent a letter inviting them to their final screening appointment. This prompted me to speak to cancer charity Breast Cancer Now, who estimate that at least 277 of the 174,000 now believed to have been affected are from the Lewes constituency.

Public Health England have identified and contacted 195,565 women thought to be affected, who were registered with a GP in England by 18 May by letter. The screening helpline (0800 169 2692) has received over 46,000 calls since the original announcement on 2nd May, and the NHS has put in place an additional 68,000 screening appointments nationally. It is believed that at least 75 women have possibly had their lives shortened by missing their final screening appointment.

I am now urging any of the 277 women facing difficulty in securing an appointment for screening, or who believe that they should have been contacted to use the helpline or to get in touch with me. When this error was announced in Parliament I urged that women should not rely on the screening program alone, but use it as part of a range of measures to tackle breast cancer, including regularly self-checking for abnormalities.

However, if any of the 277 women affected in my constituency are having difficulty in getting their missed screening, or there are women who think that they have been affected but have not received a letter from Public Health England, I would urge them to use the helpline (0800 169 2692) or get in contact with me. Whilst I cannot offer any medical advice I can certainly try to find out if people have missed their final appointment or push for them to receive their missed appointment.

As always if there is anything I can do to help locally please don't hesitate to get in touch'

Councillor Ede said that, whilst he is not involved in the A27 process, he does know that any plans would be a long way off and would include a lengthy public consultation.

Councillors asked the Clerk to ask the MP if they can see the funding bid.

District Councillor Ede reported that Wealden is to vote on the Local Plan at its Full Council Meeting on the 18th July. The meeting is open to all and will be available to watch live on line.

He said the Plan now centres on 'Development Boundaries' and 'Core Areas'. Development outside of these is considered to be unsustainable. The Plan is for 14000 new homes but this figure is backdated to 2013 and so it includes 7500 homes which have either already been built or have already been granted planning permission. Windfall sites are included in the numbers and the Plan allows for infrastructure improvements. It should be noted that it can still be rejected by the Planning Inspector but once it is in place it will form the planning framework for large and some small developments.

Councillor White asked;

- If the case for the Ashdown Forest defence has now been weakened. District Councillor agreed it has but the nitrogen levels will still be monitored.
- If the windfall allowance of 15 is included in the figures for this Parish because under Appendix 2 it states that the completed commitments for Chalvington with Ripe parish are 45 houses from April 2013 to September 2017 and that there is a windfall allowance of 15 giving a total possibility of 60. District Councillor Ede said he will find out. He also confirmed that barn conversions are included in the windfall figures.
- Under RAS1 it states that we have a settlement capacity within the Core Area of 15 and that we have a windfall allowance of 15. District Councillor Ede agreed to confirm whether or not the windfall figure is included within the settlement capacity. Councillor White also said the Core Area is the developed centre of the village but excludes the development currently underway on the Old Coach House site. He asked how can we build 15 homes within the Core Area which is already fully developed, and how can the Old Coach House be excluded. District Councillor Ede said he will find out.
- If the 5 year land supply will still be an issue after the Plan has been passed. District Councillor Ede confirmed it will not be.

Councillor White said he will also ask these questions at the Planning Panel Meeting which is being held on the 12th July.

The meeting was then opened.

37. Apologies for absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Webb, Dashfield, English and Lawrence and were accepted by those present.

Apologies for absence were also received from County Councillor Bennett.

38. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting which was held on 4th June 2018 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record by the Chairman

39. Clerk's Report on any Matters' Arising:

All matters' arising were included elsewhere in the minutes.

40. Disclosures of Interest:

There were no disclosures of interests nor were there any changes to the Register of Interests.

41. Reports from Outside Meetings:

Councillors Webb and White attended an Open Meeting about the A27 which was held on the 12th June at Selmeston Village Hall.

Councillor White said there were several speakers, one speaker in particular was Mr Vic Lent, who is a Lewes Liberal District Councillor for Kingston and the Liberal spokesperson for transport. Mr Lent said he had attended a meeting for stakeholders which had been organised by Highways England where Highways England put forward three proposals for a dual carriageway for our stretch of the A27. Representatives from any of the Parishes affected were excluded from the meeting, Wealden District Council attended on their behalf. He also said that no other transport solutions are being considered.

42. Planning Applications:

There were no planning applications for commenting on at this meeting but Councillors said they were concerned to read that some of the information in the tree application TM/2018/0166/TCA (to remove Leylandii trees on land adjoining the Lamb Inn Ripe) is misleading. They understand the trees belong to someone else, not the person named, and ask why they are being removed.

43. General Data Protection Regulations:

This was deferred until the next meeting to allow more councillors to be present.

44. Govia Thameslink Timetable

This was covered earlier in the meeting in the report from the MP.

45. Emergency Plan

Councillor Ward has taken on board all the suggestions and updates made by Councillors and will submit the revised Emergency Plan at the next Full Council Meeting.

Once approved the Final Draft will be circulated to all councillors so they can hand a copy to the Emergency Services if there is an incident in the Parish. Copies can also be left at the three places of safety mentioned in the Plan.

46. Cheques for Payment:

The following cheques were approved for payment;

A Stevens – Salary	Cheque number 101034
Ripe and Chalvington PCC	
Replaces 101030	Cheque number 101035
Mass Media – Website - £47.99	Cheque number 101036
HMRC - PAYE - £376.76	Cheque number 101037

47. Questions from Parish Councillors:

Councillor Ward;

- Asked if anyone knows where to dispose of old fire extinguishers because they are not accepted at the Household Waste Recycling Sites. It is understood that they can be collected by the companies who supplied them and there are also several specialist companies who may be able to help.
- Reported that the Cuckmere Community Bus has adapted its 44 bus route so residents can get to Asda now the supermarket has stopped its free bus service. The Cuckmere Community Bus will run the service each Thursday.

Councillor White;

- Asked if anyone has any questions they would like him to raise at the Planning Panel meeting on the 12th July. There were none.
- Reported one case of dog mess on the path between the two churches.
- Asked for an update on the defibrillator. This was deferred until the next meeting.

Councillor Dunbar Dempsey said the Villages Music Festival was exceptional this year. The variety and quality of the music was of a particularly high standard. Chalvington with Ripe Parish Council would like to thank the Committee, the organisers and the Trustees for making it such a truly inspiring event.

There were no further questions from Parish Councillors and the meeting closed at 8.40pm.