

CHALVINGTON WITH RIPE PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF

4th February 2019

held at The Hayton Baker Hall, Ripe.

125. Present: Cllr Webb (Chairman), Cllr Dunbar Dempsey, Cllr Dashfield, Cllr Ward and Cllr White.

126. Attending: County Councillor N Bennett, District Councillor P Ede, Mr Moderski (Applicant for WD/2018/2775/F and WD/2018/2656/F), A Stevens (Clerk) and three members of the public were also in attendance.

127. Public Session:

District Councillor Ede reported;

- Biffa has been awarded the new Joint Waste Contract and will take over the waste collections from 1st July 2019. The new contract will include a more proactive plan for litter picking the roads in the District although priority will be given to the main roads.
- Wealden is supporting the Great British Spring Clean again this year and it will take place from 22nd March to 23rd April.
- The Wealden Local Plan is now with the Planning Inspector. The Planning Inspector will assess the Plan and all the comments which were submitted.

County Councillor Bennett said;

- ESCC is to set its budget, for the next three years, at its Cabinet Meeting on the 5th February.
- The A22 at Halland is to be resurfaced and rebuilt from the 4th March, More traffic will be diverted through the local villages as drivers try and avoid the road when the work goes ahead.

The meeting was then opened.

128. Apologies for absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillor Lady Susan Conway and they were accepted by those present.

129. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting which was held on 7th January 2019 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record by the Chairman

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

All matter's arising were covered elsewhere on the agenda.

131. Official signing in of new Councillor:

Mr Bill Rogers officially signed in as the new Parish Councillor. Mr Rogers will replace Mr Stephen English. He was then officially introduced to everyone, and welcomed by the Chairman.

132. Disclosures of Interest:

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

133. Reports from Outside Meetings:

Councillor White asked if anyone had any questions they would like him to ask at the next Wealden Planning Panel Meeting. Councillors agreed they would like;

- The criteria on which Parish Councils can comment on planning applications.
- Clarification on Suitable Alternative Natural Green Spaces (SANGS), and whether they can be extended to other areas.
- If applications for holiday homes are being currently being approved.
- To know whether or not development outside the Core Area counts towards our housing allocation.
- To know if the Community Infrastructure Levy can be used to plant trees in the Parish.
- What Wealden's position is on 'garden grabbing'.
- To know more about density in terms of planning and whether or not the six houses on the Old Coach House site would have been rejected under the latest criteria.
- To know if agricultural to residential conversions count towards our housing allocation.
- To know more about Conservation Areas and how planning applications which include plastic windows can be granted.
- To know if there are restrictions on how close a house can be built next to another property. The new development at The Lamb is very close to Chipps Cottage.

Councillor Dunbar Dempsey asked Councillor White to take photographs of the developments at The Lamb and the Old Coach House with him as evidence.

The meeting was then suspended to allow comments from residents;

134. Planning Applications:

WD/2018/2775/F - Little Meadow Stud, Church Lane, Chalvington BN27 3TE - proposed extension to existing commercial workshop to provide office space – Chalvington Parish Council resolved by five votes to one to support this application.

WD/2018/2656/F - Little Meadow Stud, Church Lane, Chalvington, BN27 3TE - Proposed extension to existing hay barn and diversion of existing footpath – Chalvington Parish Council supports this application provided that;

- The area is properly landscaped with hedges.
- The new diverted footpath has appropriate signage.
- A stile will be erected for walkers and their dogs.
- Pressure cleaning will be a very rare occurrence on this plot.

135. Parish Magazine:

The Parish Magazine is understood to be undergoing a financial review. The Chairman will ask if he can have the results of the Review for the next meeting.

136. A27 Update:

Councillor Rogers read excerpts from his report, which said;

'In the last Budget, the Chancellor confirmed that proceeds from Vehicle Excise Duty will all go to the National Roads Fund, which will be worth £28.8bn from 2020 to 2025. The Government expects

to spend £25.3 billion on the second Road Investment Strategy 2020-25 (RIS2), funded by the National Roads Fund. The remainder of the cash (£3.5bn) will pay for the new major roads network and large local major roads schemes.

Currently a bundle of improvements to the A27 between Lewes and Polegate is underway, as part of RIS1. £75 million was awarded to be spent on a package of four schemes:

- Drusilla's Roundabout widening, with a new crossing on lights for walkers, cyclists and riders
- Wilmington junction widening, with new laybys for bus-stops
- Polegate junction improvement: railway bridge widening to allow proper dualling of the A27 from Polegate to Cophall Roundabout; two new sets of lights before and after the Polegate junction
- A new cycle/pedestrian path from Firle to Polegate.

£3m was taken from this funding by the Transport Secretary, to spend on a review of options for a new dual carriageway running from Southerham to Polegate. With the support of the A27 East of Lewes Reference Group, chaired by Lewes MP Maria Caulfield, a bid has been submitted by Highways England for funding a new road, previously priced at £450m. Apparently, it now meets Value for Money criteria, but we are not allowed to see the Business Case or the Options Analysis. Ms Caulfield has more than once promised to release the Minutes of her reference group, but at time of writing there is still no sign of them.

Highways England is required to produce a draft strategic business plan by 31 January 2019, with the Office of Rail and Road carrying out an Efficiency Review by 30 June 2019, ahead of the final RIS in 'late 2019'.

A small forum called the South Coast Alliance for Transport and the Environment has been working on ways of opposing the proposals and putting forward alternatives, which rely on proper investment in public transport. It's chaired by Selmeston resident (and architect) Liam Russell. Ripe residents Brian Hill and Bill Rogers have been attending'.

Councillors asked the Clerk to find out from Maria Caulfield MP where the Minutes of the Reference Group are available to read.

137. Hayton Baker Hall Lease:

SSALC's Solicitors have now looked at the lease for the extension to the Hayton Baker Hall. Councillors resolved to approve it on condition it includes the changes recommended by the Parish Council's Solicitors.

138. Councillor's Expenses:

Councillor Dunbar Dempsey asked Chalvington Parish Council to consider reimbursing Councillors for expenses incurred in their role, and she also asked them to adopt a Councillor's Expenses' Policy.

Chalvington Parish Council resolved not to claim expenses and therefore not to adopt a Councillor's Expenses' Policy. Councillors said that if they feel they need to, they can review the position in the future. The Chairman used his casting vote.

139. Changes to the 143 Bus Service:

The bus company say they are continuing to review the East Sussex bus routes in conjunction with ESCC and the Parish Council's suggestion, that the 1628 from Hailsham calls into Deanland, is something the bus company will consider. Any changes would probably take effect from April in time

for the summer period. It is also understood that Cuckmere Community Bus will also consider a timetable change in April.

140. Road Safety:

This item was deferred until the next meeting to allow Councillor Lady Conway to be present.

141. Defibrillator Update:

Councillor Webb successfully applied for a grant to provide a Zoll AED battery driven defibrillator in the village. He said that if the Parish Council goes ahead;

- The battery will need changing every three to five years.
- The pads will need to be regularly replaced.
- The defibrillator will need to be fitted in a frost free box with a flash outside.
- The Parish Council will need to contribute £600 plus an additional £500 for a heated Cabinet. It will also need to meet the connection cost.
- Councillors and members of the public will ideally need to be CPR trained.
- Regular risk assessments will need to be carried out.
- Planning permission may be required.
- The Community Infrastructure Levy can be used to fund the set up costs.

Following consultation with the freeholder of the village shop it has been decided to install the defibrillator in the existing BT public phone box next to the shop. BT has agreed to consider selling the public telephone box to the Parish Council so it can be housed there.

Councillors resolved;

- To budget £50 each year towards the cost a replacement battery.
- To contact BT and start the ball rolling to adopt the telephone kiosk.
- That Councillor Dunbar Dempsey will regularly check that the battery is functioning once it has been installed and training has been given.
- That notices will be displayed in the noticeboards to see if residents have any objections to the telephone in the kiosk being removed.

142. Financial Decisions:

Councillors agreed the budget proposal issue raised at the last meeting was covered in the Financial Regulations.

Cllr Dunbar Dempsey added that the procedure outlined in the financial regulations must be adhered to in the event of future proposed expenditure.

143. Cheques for Payment:

The following cheques were approved for payment;

101059	A Stevens – Salary	
101060	ESCC – Pension	
101061	Surrey Hills Solicitors	
	- Village Hall Lease	£925.60
101062	Mass Media – Website	£ 75.60

144. Questions from Parish Councillors:

Councillor White;

- Said he had found a position for the dog sign on the footpath sign near Stars Barn and he therefore did not need to involve the land owner. The Clerk will order another sign.
- Suggested being careful when spending CIL because in doing so we might make the area more attractive to developers.

There were no further questions and the meeting closed at 8.30pm.