

## CHALVINGTON WITH RIPE PARISH COUNCIL

### DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF

4<sup>th</sup> January 2018

held at The Hayton Baker Hall, Ripe.

Councillor Webb announced the unfortunate death of our well liked and much respected Councillor, Peter Brass. There then followed a minute's silence.

109. Present: Cllr Webb (Chairman) Cllr Dunbar Dempsey  
Cllr English Cllr White

110. Attending: County Councillor N Bennett, A Stevens (Clerk) and two members of the public were also in attendance.

111. Public Session:

County Councillor Bennett sent a written report which said;

#### 'Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2018/19 – 2019/20

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Sajid Javid announced the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement today (20<sup>th</sup> December 2017).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/provisional-local-government-finance-settlement-2018-to-2019-statement>

#### Key announcements

- The Government will allow Councils to increase Council Tax by a further 1% in 2018/19 and 2019/20 without triggering a referendum i.e. 3% rather than 2% and excluding the ASC precept.
- There are no new resources to fund social care from those previously announced.
- 100% Business Rates Retention pilots announced.
- Publishing today a formal consultation on the review of relative needs and resources (Fair Funding review) with the aim to implement a new system from 2020/21.
- Councils to retain 75% of Business Rates from 2020/21
- New Homes bonus remains at 0.4% threshold
- Confirmed that Councils will be able to increase planning fees by 20% where Councils commit to the additional income being reinvested into planning services.
- Extension to capital flexibilities for a further 3 years
- Police authorities can increase their council tax precept by £12pa for a band D property. This equates to a 7.7% increase.
- Schools funding (Dedicated Schools Grant) has also been announced today. This includes the full year effect of new responsibilities and will require further analysis to understand the impact.

#### Further information

##### Council Tax increase

The Government's announcement to allow a further 1% increase in Council Tax in each of the next 2 years without triggering a referendum is described as following inflation. This means, the Council

could increase Council Tax by 5.99% in 2018/19 (including the 3% ASC precept) and 2.99% in 2019/20. A 1% increase in Council Tax is the equivalent of £2.6 million additional resources. 100% Business Rates Retention (BRR) pilots.

In addition to London Boroughs, the Government invited bids from Councils to pilot 100% BRR in October this year for 2018/19 only, where Councils have/will join together in a BRR pool and had intended on agreeing 5 pilots. Today the Government announced there would be 10 pilots as follows: -

Berkshire, Derbyshire, Devon, Gloucestershire, Kent & Medway, Leeds, Lincolnshire, Solent, Suffolk, Surrey.

The Government will continue to pilot the business rates retention programme in 2019 to 2020 due to the high number of applications received.

### Fair Funding Review

The consultation issued today will run for a period of 12 weeks until the 12th March 2018.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/669440/Fair\\_funding\\_review\\_consultation.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/669440/Fair_funding_review_consultation.pdf)

### Business Rates Retention 2020/21

Alongside the implementation of the outcome from the Fair Funding Review, the Government will aim for local authorities to retain 75% of business rates from 2020/21. This will be through incorporating existing grants such as Public Health and Revenue Support Grant.

### New Homes Bonus

For 2017/18, the Government announced a new methodology for calculating New Homes Bonus (NHB) whereby a threshold of 0.4% growth in housing stock per annum must be achieved before any NHB grant is calculated. In the autumn, a further consultation on the scheme was undertaken but the Government is not proposing any changes for 2018/19. New Homes Bonus figures have therefore only altered for the District and Borough data on actual housing growth.

### Capital Receipts flexibility

As part of the Government's 4 year offer Councils are allowed to use capital receipts to fund revenue expenditure where it supports transformation and releases savings and this flexibility was due to end on 31/3/2019. The Government have announced that this flexibility will be extended by a further 3 years.'

ESCC is setting its budget in February.

In answer to Councillor Dunbar Dempsey's questions County Councillor Bennett said;

- The recent Stand Up For Sussex had over 2000 signatures and brought to the attention of MPs how difficult finances have become for Councils.
- Parishes will be consulted before any activities are devolved.

He also said he will find out who is responsible for collecting litter on the A27.

The meeting was then opened.

### 112. Apologies for absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ward and were accepted by those present.

113. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 4th December 2017 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record by the Chairman.

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

Changes to the General Data Protection Regulations will be taking effect from May 2018. The Clerk is to attend training in February to find out how those changes will affect Parish Councils.

115. Disclosures of Interest:

There were no disclosures of interest and there were no changes to the Register of Interests.

116. Reports from Outside Meetings:

Councillor White attended the Wealden Planning Panel Meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> December and read from his report which said;

'The Local Plan should be finalised by March 2018 subject to consultation with Natural England relating to the scientific evidence which Wealden have used to support their case re; the Ashdown Forest. Wealden fear that Natural England are minded to disagree with the scientific evidence but Wealden will require detailed argument before they reverse their position. Kelvin Williams said that the only thing protecting rural areas (and urban) from significant development at the moment is the Ashdown Forest principle.

Currently virtually all planning applications, whether commercial or residential, are not being determined unless they can demonstrate mitigation or compensation for the environmental impact on the Forest.

Wealden has taken neighbouring authorities to Court to prevent them from granting planning. There has been a recent case where they took Lewes Town Council to the High Court. In most cases, including appeals, Wealden have been successful.

In a new development there has been a ruling which states that when granting applications for an event, such as a fete, the impact on the local habitat has to be considered.

The Old Coach House.

Kelvin (Head of Planning, Kelvin Williams) said that the Planning Committee Chair cannot reject a request from a District Councillor for a planning application to be heard before the Committee. I therefore asked to see the Planning Officer handling the case and he explained that Philip (District Councillor Philip Ede) had requested the application to be called in but in doing so needed to submit material planning considerations. The planners did not consider the demolition of the Old Coach House as material based on the Heritage Statement. I said that the parishioners and the Parish Council, who were not consulted when the report was written, did consider the building to be of great significance to the village and that we wanted to be able to make representations to the committee. The officer said that since there had been so many objections that Phillip would have another chance to request that the matter should be heard by the committee. I have spoken to Phillip and he has agreed to do so.'

Councillors agreed that Councillor White will attend the Committee Meeting on behalf of Chalvington with Ripe Parish Council.

117. Planning Applications:

The following planning applications were considered;

WD/2017/2660/F - Curls Farm, Ripe Lane, Ripe, BN8 6AP - Alterations to existing outbuildings within the curtilage of Curls Farmhouse, Ripe - Chalvington with Ripe Parish Council has no objections to this application as long as the new annexe will be for family use, it will not be rented out, there will be no increase in the footprint or roof design and all waste will be removed on completion.

WD/2017/2785/F - Little Meadow Stud, Church Lane, Chalvington, BN27 3TE - Proposed barn extension and workshop – Chalvington with Ripe Parish Council has no objections to this application on any planning grounds. Councillors said the applicant appears to be running a successful business and they appreciated his recent plans for a new access track because it will take heavy traffic away from the village. They would also like to invite him to a future Parish Council Meeting to talk about the work he has done and any plans he has for the future.

118. Fencing:

This item was deferred on the grounds of sensitivity following the untimely death of Peter Brass.

119. Cheques for Payment:

The following cheques were approved for payment;

Mass Media – Website £42.00	Cheque number 100100
Wealden – Parish Conference £30.00	Cheque number 100101
HMRC – PAYE - £376.00	Cheque number 100102
A Stevens – Salary – December	Cheque number 101003
ESCC – Pension	Cheque number 101004

120. Questions from Parish Councillors:

Councillor White recently walked the footpath between the two churches and noted there has been a significant reduction in the amount of dog mess since the new signs were put up.

There were no further questions from Parish Councillors and the meeting closed at 7.55pm. The next Parish Council Meeting is planned for 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018.