

development, any development will be managed and Parishes will be consulted to get their views.

Parishes also have the option of preparing Neighbourhood Plans but a Neighbourhood Plan won't limit the numbers of development.

Councillor Brass asked if the Design Guide still carries any weight. Mr Williams confirmed it is merely a guide and that many of the policies in it are out of date.

- 2: Parishioners feel particularly strongly about the proposed development of The Old Coach House. We accept that the field should be developed but would like much less density of build and for the Coach House to be retained. How can the proposed six homes on The Old Coach House site be reconciled with its new status as a field worthy of conservation.

Parishes are encouraged to engage with developers as in this case but the result may not always be what parishes want.

Mr Williams disagreed with a resident, who said that some of the statements made in this particular planning application were incorrect. The statements, he said, were a matter of opinion and confirmed consultations have taken place with Conservation and Heritage Specialists. When asked why a similar scheme had been turned down in Follinger's Field, Mr Williams said it had been rejected because it would close the gap between the two villages.

- 3: We don't understand the urgency. Over the next twenty years there will be plenty of planning applications which will easily meet our quota of ten without the necessity of building a mini estate.

Councillor Newton said that planners cannot refuse an application on the grounds of prematurity and would lose any subsequent appeal. Wealden is trying to control the free for all though.

- 4: Chalvington is not considered suitable for building on the grounds of sustainability but Ripe is very similar, the only difference being that it has a shop, so why has Ripe been allocated ten.

The figure recommended in the Issues, Options and Recommendations is for the villages of both Chalvington and Ripe. Councillors questioned the sustainability because the pavements are too narrow and the sewage system cannot cope with any further development. Wealden consults all the major service providers as part of the process.

- 5: What are Wealden's thoughts re The Lamb. If this goes for development then would these count towards our ten?

Any development since 2013 will be taken into account.

- 6: What is WDC policy on converted barns? Do they or don't they count towards our allocation of 10 houses. Why are some apparently counting and some not? It is not clear to us why some are counting and some are not.

All barn conversions count towards the numbers for Wealden overall but not necessarily towards the 10 allocated for this Parish. Policy Officers try to take

them into account but they may still get through under permitted development rights.

7. What are the criteria for allowing parking spaces in front gardens onto a main road going through a village?

The County Council is consulted to see if they have any issues on safety grounds. If the property is a Listed Building or in a Conservation Area the relevant bodies are also consulted.

8. Although we understand the duty to cooperate why are Eastbourne and Tunbridge Wells not building more flats to meet their government housing targets? Surely it's up to the town planners from those towns to think about creative ways to achieve their housing targets. This is what towns on the continent have to do.

Eastbourne and Tunbridge Wells will have to robustly prove they cannot meet their numbers. Each District/Borough will submit its evidence to the Planning Inspector who will make the final decision.

9. What is WDC policy on density versus spaced out in terms of new developments? Because of recent planning decisions we find we are confused about WDC policy on this issue.

Wealden does not have a density policy as such because it prefers to be able to look at what is suitable for each location.

10. What action is WDC taking to improve the infrastructure of the area? It feels like nothing is being done to improve the road, rail, bus service, sewerage/surface drainage etc. We do not understand how more houses can be built until the infrastructure of the Area is improved particularly in the villages.

Wealden is working with all the service providers to produce an Infrastructure Delivery Plan. Funding is being provided through the Community Infrastructure Levy which can be spent anywhere in the District. Chalvington with Ripe Parish Council should receive 15%.

11. We have concerns over Wealdens Design Statement. It does not appear to have been considered when approval was granted on Chalvington Sand Pit application WD/2016/0076/F.

The Chalvington Sand Pit application was approved as part of the new flexible approach laid down in Planning Law.

12. We have been told by a member of Laughton PC that an official from Wealden Planning Department attended a PC meeting and stated that Wealden would encourage small developments of one or two homes in the village. Why is there a different policy for Ripe?

This was covered by the answer to question 9.

Ms Bartter said representatives from the EE have now returned to Ripe to take photographs but the project has stalled until the future of The Lamb is known. The Lamb building is needed to form a line of sight.

The meeting then opened.

29. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – No apologies for absence were received.

30. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS –

The minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 6th June 2016 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record by the Chairman.

31. CLERK'S REPORT ON MATTERS ARISING – The Clerk asked Councillors to start thinking about the Parish Council's obligations to provide a pension scheme for its employees. Councillors discussed the various options and **resolved** to opt for the East Sussex Local Government Pension for Alison Stevens on the basis that although it is not the cheapest scheme percentage wise it is in line with her other employers.

32. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST: There were no disclosures of interest nor were there any changes to the Register of Interests.

33. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE MEETINGS – There were no reports from outside meetings on this occasion.

34. PLANNING APPLICATIONS – There were no planning applications to be considered but Councillors noted that the retrospective application for a 3m wall at Kitty Hawk Farm has been rejected (WD/2016/1050/FR).

35. BUSINESS RATES – Wealden District Council has awarded 30% Discretionary Relief for 2016/17 to the Village Stores in the Parish on top of the mandatory relief of 50% and is asking the Parish Council if it will meet the costs of an additional 20%. This amounts to £1312.08.

Councillor **resolved** not to meet the costs of the additional 20%.

36. DEFIBRILLATORS – Councillor Ward confirmed the cost of supplying and fitting a defibrillator is £1596.00 and suggested suitable locations could be the village shop or The Lamb because they are central points in the village. Councillors asked the Clerk to ask the village shop if they will agree to have a defibrillator there.

Councillor Dunbar Dempsey offered to get prices on two other models recommended by the First Responders.

37. CHEQUES FOR PAYMENT – The following cheques were approved for payment;

Mass Media – Personal Hosting - £47.00	Cheque number 100937
A Stevens – Salary – June	Cheque number 100938
HMRC – Inland Revenue - £394.40	Cheque Number 100939
Ripe and Chalvington Village Hall – Grant - £350.00	Cheque Number 100940
Mass Media – Domain Renewal/Website Maintenance – £215.98	Cheque Number 100941

37. QUESTIONS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS –

The Clerk confirmed that Police and Crime Commissioner has been invited to attend a Full Council Meeting but has yet to reply.

Councillor Ward confirmed Wealden will not apply an Emergency Tree Preservation Order on the Jubilee Trees at the Old Coach House because they feel there is no need to do so.

There being no further questions from Parish Councillors, the meeting closed at 9.15pm.