

## CHALVINGTON WITH RIPE PARISH COUNCIL

### DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF

4<sup>th</sup> March 2019

held at The Hayton Baker Hall, Ripe.

145. Present: Cllr Webb (Chairman), Cllr Dunbar Dempsey, Cllr Dashfield, Cllr Lady Conway, Cllr Rogers, Cllr Ward and Cllr White.

146. Attending: County Councillor N Bennett, District Councillor P Ede, Mr Taylor (Agent for Planning Application WD/2018/2736/MAJ), A Stevens (Clerk) and twelve members of the public were also in attendance.

147. Public Session:

District Councillor Ede said;

- The British Spring Clean takes place this year between 22<sup>nd</sup> March and 23<sup>rd</sup> April.
- He is standing down as a District Councillor. He thanked the Parish Council and the residents for all they do to make this such a beautiful parish to live in. The Chairman, on behalf of the Parish Council, thanked Councillor Ede for all the support and help he has given the Parish Council and said we will all be sad to see him go.

County Councillor Bennett had nothing new to report on this occasion.

Mr Taylor, described the Deanland Wood Park application (WD/2018/2736/MAJ) which is an amendment to planning application WD/2016/1548/MAJ. In the new application five homes which were originally in the centre of the development have been moved, leaving the central area as an open space.

In answer to residents questions he confirmed;

- The footpath has been officially redirected.
- The petanque pitch will stay.
- All the homes will have garages but not joint driveways.
- The density will be higher on the new development than on the rest of the Park.
- All the comments submitted about the development will be taken on board.

Residents asked;

- If CIL money can be used to plant trees in the parish to help mitigate for the effects from the extra vehicles. All ideas on how to spend the CIL money will be considered once the Parish Council knows how much it will receive from the development of The Lamb.
- If anything can be done about traffic speeding through the village. The children's nursery, walkers, horse riders, dog walkers and cyclists all reported their concerns and near misses. They suggested signage might help, particularly at Mill Lane and outside the village hall to combat speeding and make drivers aware of the presence of children, outside the village shop to show it is a three way junction and outside Curl's Cottage because it is a blind corner.
- If anything can be done about the state of the verges in Ripe because they are regularly destroyed by heavy vehicles. One resident reported her water meter was hit and had to be moved too. Mrs Hill said she has written to Highways three times about this issue and is still plugging away for a satisfactory response.

Professor Hill, in his role as Chairman of the Litter Watch Group, said litter is still a disgrace on the A27 and asked what is being done about it. District Councillor Ede said he constantly raises the matter at Wealden Meetings and the situation should improve when Biffa take over the Joint Waste

Contract in July. It was noted that Wealden District Council is only responsible for the stretch from Middle Farm to the Pevensey/Wallsend roundabout, Lewes District Council is responsible for the stretch from Middle Farm to Lewes. Councillor Dashfield asked if the Community Payback Team can help but the offenders would need to be specially trained, insured and supervised.

The meeting was then opened.

148. Apologies for absence:

No apologies for absence were received.

149. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting (Draft 1) which was held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2019 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record by the Chairman

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

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

151. Disclosures of Interest:

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

152. Reports from Outside Meetings:

Councillors White and Rogers attended the Wealden Planning Panel Meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> February and can now confirm;

- New criteria on which Parish Councils can comment on planning applications will be sent out by Wealden soon.
- The Wealden Local Plan is now with the Planning Inspector and gains more weight the more it progresses. The Parish Council is now waiting for a date for the Hearing.
- Suitable Alternative Natural Green Spaces (SANGS) only applies where spaces open to the public have been lost.
- There is no penalty system in place for retrospective planning applications as long as they comply with the planning laws. There are only repercussions if they do not comply.
- Applications for conversions to holiday homes are being currently being treated favourably. The Government is encouraging them. There is nothing that can be done to stop them being converted into permanent dwellings from there.
- New builds outside the Core Area are not being approved because no tariff has been set for them yet.
- Conversions outside the Core Area generally count towards our housing allocation.
- The Community Infrastructure Levy cannot be used to plant trees in the Parish. Parishes who would like to consider this option are advised to seek legal advice first.
- Wealden's does not support 'garden grabbing'.
- In terms of planning density is 30 houses per hectare. The Clerk will see if it applies to towns and villages.
- A new housing design guide is being developed and will be sent out in due course. Councillors agreed that housing design is important and should add something to the village.
- Applications that fall within Permitted Development Rights are included in the housing allocation.
- If a Parish Council gives its opinion and the changes its mind before the planning meeting, it can submit that change. It was also noted that comments made should include local information that is useful to the Planners.

- The appeal for the site at Camberlot Stables, Camberlot Road, Upper Dicker (Appeal Reference 3197286) has been allowed and Wealden District Council will be challenging the decision through the Courts.
- Neighbourhood Plans are not about the housing numbers and should be about the layout etc because planning rules are changing all the time.
- Natural England does not support Wealden's position on the Ashdown Forest.
- Officers say the quicker the Local Plan progresses the better. If it is approved Wealden will meet the 5 year land supply figure on day 1, if it is rejected there will be an avalanche of applications and developers will be able to decide where they build not Wealden.
- Wealden has no powers to compulsory purchase with regard to housing.
- The Local Plan is important to the County Council because it is being used to help justify proposals for the A27 off line dual carriageway.

The meeting was then suspended to allow comments from residents;

#### 153. Planning Applications:

WD/2018/2736/MAJ - Deanland Wood Park Ltd, Deanland Road, Golden Cross, Hailsham BN27 3RN - Change of use of land for the siting of 26 residential park home caravans (amendment to plans approved by WD/2016/1548/MAJ) – Chalvington Parish Council resolved to support this application as long as the recommendations made by the various experts, especially the landscaping in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment, are enacted. If possible councillors would also like to see some mature trees planted.

#### 154. Parish Magazine:

There were no new updates following the magazine's financial review so it was agreed this item will be removed from the agenda until there are.

#### 155. Road Safety:

Councillors discussed residents' concerns about road safety in Ripe. They shared those concerns and agreed they will need evidence to present to Highways first.

They talked about various ways to help improve road safety and Councillor White suggested Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras might also be an option. He has seen them in use in Warwickshire where he said they have also helped to reduce crime. The cameras cost around £15000 (for four) and could be funded from the Community Infrastructure Levy. It might then be possible to send the results to Operation Crackdown where they could be used as evidence by the Police.

Speed bumps were also mentioned. Councillor White says Kingston has speed bumps and 20 mile per hour speed limits but it does not have street lighting. Councillors felt general signage would probably be ignored.

Councillors resolved to ask ESCC if it will carry out a traffic survey and if so what results they can expect. The Clerk will find out if CIL Money can be used to fund a traffic survey if ESCC will not.

#### 156. Defibrillator Update:

The Parish Council has contacted BT and BT has registered its application to adopt the telephone kiosk outside the village shop, BT has also arranged for a consultation to take place. Councillor Webb placed a notice in the kiosk to let residents know the Parish Council's plans in the meantime.

#### 157. Councillor's Expenses:

At the February Meeting, 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.

Councillor Dunbar Dempsey said she felt this decision was immoral and incorrect as it is anti-equalities; she has sent all councillors information about councillors claiming expenses and allowances which she explained, in Wealden's eyes, are under the same umbrella. Cllr Dunbar Dempsey asked that this item not be discussed at the March meeting but deferred until the April meeting to give all councillors an opportunity to read the documents she had sent out earlier that day (4 March). Councillor Dunbar Dempsey further said that she had consulted both SSALC and WDC Democratic Services and neither had been able to give information on the number of parish councillors who claimed either expenses or allowances.

Councillor Webb said once the Parish Council has made a resolution that decision stands for six months unless a special resolution is called for, so whilst allowances can be discussed in April, expenses cannot be. The two are not the same. He said he would not support a proposal for councillors to claim an allowance because he knows of no other parishes who do and he felt it could compromise him later. As far as he is concerned he is doing his bit for the community. Councillor Ward agreed expenses and allowances are separate. The Clerk confirmed that the number of other Parish Councils who claim expenses or allowances is not known.

Councillors Dashfield asked why this matter was being raised now, Councillor Dunbar Dempsey said that if the Parish Council agreed to refund expenses incurred in the course of their duties it might enable a good person to put himself/herself forward as a councillor, a person who otherwise could not afford to be out of pocket with expenses and therefore not stand as a prospective councillors.

Councillor Dunbar Dempsey said she will reconsider whether she wants allowances to be an agenda item in April and let the Clerk know.

#### 158. Cheques for Payment:

The following cheques were approved for payment;

101063	Mass Media – Website	£ 50.40
101064	Signs Direct – Sign	£ 75.54
101065	A Stevens – Salary	
101066	HMRC – PAYE	
101067	ESCC – Pension	

#### 159. Questions from Parish Councillors:

Councillor Lady Conway said the Emergency Plan needs updating to include the two new councillors. Councillor Ward said he will organise that.

Councillor White asked how many councillors sign each cheque. Two councillors sign each cheque.

Councillor Dunbar Dempsey announced that former Councillor, Tim Lawrence has now been appointed as a Judge for Equalities and Immigration.

There were no further questions and the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

