

## CHALVINGTON WITH RIPE PARISH COUNCIL

### DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF

5<sup>th</sup> January 2017

held at The Hayton Baker Hall, Ripe

92: Present: Cllr Webb (Chairman) Cllr Brass  
Cllr Shonfeld Cllr Ward  
Cllr White

93: Attending: District Councillor P Ede, A Stevens (Clerk) and two members of the public were also in attendance.

94. Public Session:

District Councillor Ede said he has spoken to Kelvin Williams, Head of Planning at Wealden and Mr Williams;

- confirmed Wealden has not yet received any planning applications for The Lamb.
- promised to ask the Street Scene Officer to visit the pub to see if it breaches S215 of the Town and Country Planning Act.
- said the Planning Department views the Newick decision as an exceptional circumstance and will be carrying on business as usual.

The Parish Council understands that a resident has recently spent a day strimming and clearing weeds from the car park and Councillors asked the Clerk to pass on their thanks.

Councillor Ede also pointed out that the Old Coach House site is up for sale and a new developer could apply for a variation of the planning application.

Mr Janes asked;

- why only three of the four trees at the Old Coach House have Tree Preservation Orders on them.
- for a review of the planning application process because he said the views of residents and the Parish Council have been ignored and the information given was misrepresented.

Councillor Webb said;

- David Massheder, Tree and Landscape Officer at Wealden, said the other tree had bleeding canker and is therefore not fit to remain standing. This view has been supported by an independent Tree Surgeon.
- The Planning Process also aggrieved the Parish Council. Members of the Parish Council attended various meetings and the Head of Planning attended a Parish Council Meeting but they felt their views were ignored. Councillors were told of another application that was passed because if it went to Appeal, the Appeal would be upheld and Wealden would lose control over the development. It was implied that it could happen here. The Parish Council also wrote to its MP.

Professor Hill, on behalf of Councillor Dunbar Dempsey, asked for something to be done about the state of the roads in Ripe, particularly Langtye Lane and Darp Lane. He said they have been completely destroyed by vehicles and the ditches have not been cleared. Councillor Brass said this

is also a problem in Chalvington so Councillors agreed to make it an agenda item for the next Full Council Meeting.

It was also noted that rubbish is becoming a problem again on the A27 so District Councillor Ede will notify Wealden who will seek permission from Highways England.

Maria Caulfield, MP, sent a written report which had been previously distributed to Parish Councillors before the meeting and was also handed out to residents at the meeting. In her report she said;

'Firstly, I wish to convey to you my sincere apologies at being unable to be with you for this evenings meeting. I am trying to get to as many meetings as possible and hope to be able to catch up with you soon.

I wanted to provide a quick update on a number of local issues.

1) I wanted to update you on the work that I have been carrying out in changing the law on the provision of defibrillators, particularly in rural communities.

Having worked within the NHS for 20 years, I am well aware of the important role that defibrillators can play in saving lives. This knowledge, combined with discussions with the Young Mayor of Seaford - who has raised thousands of pounds to purchase defibrillators for her home town - led me to put a 10 Minute Rule Motion before Parliament last November, with the aim of both raising awareness and increase availability across the UK. This Bill goes back to the Commons Chamber for its second reading on the 27th January. It will mean that every parish and town will have a defibrillator in place. This is not to replace the good work that is happening already but to support those communities that currently have no access to a lifesaving defibrillator.

Currently there is funding available for communities who want a defibrillator so if this is something the parish is interested in then please let me know.

2) I wanted to update you on the A27 consultation. Proposals to improve the safety of junctions along the stretch of the A27 from Lewes to Polegate were presented at a number of public events before Christmas. The consultation has now closed but if you have any comments or suggestions then please do let me know. I also want to reassure you that these proposals are only a short term fix and that a bid for a long term solution for £400 million is shortly going in to central government so that we have a long term strategy for this road. I will of course keep you update on this.

3) Broadband and mobile signals – a huge amount of work is going in to improve our phone and broadband services locally. Recently a phone mast proposal has gone in for Alfriston which will improve the signal throughout the whole area but I am also working with phone companies to boost signals in local villages too. East Sussex County Council are also spending £30 million to provide better broadband facilities and again if you have any question on this please do let me know.

4) Finally, the trains remain a major issue, and as such I have been working around the clock in trying to bring about a resolution to this sorry saga, speaking with the unions, GTR. The Government has finally intervned and before Christmas got both sides round the table at ACAS. Talks have so far not produced an end to the disruption but as we speak progress is being made. If you are affected and want to receive my regular updates on this then please do email me and I can keep you up to date. Constituents, including residents and businesses across your parish being left with such a poor rail service is totally unacceptable, and I will continue to work with all sides to bring about as swifter resolution as possible for my constituents.'

The meeting then opened.

95. Apologies for absence:

Councillor A Dunbar Dempsey sent her apologies which were accepted by those present. County Councillor N Bennett also sent his apologies.

96. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 5th December 2016 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record by the Chairman.

The Chairman said he will clarify the minute approval process at the next meeting when all Councillors are present.

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

All matters' arising were included elsewhere on the agenda.

98. Disclosures of Interest:

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

99. Reports from Outside Meetings:

There were no reports from outside meetings on this occasion.

100. Planning Applications:

There were no planning applications to consider on this occasion.

101. Defibrillators:

Councillors asked the Clerk to write and thank the MP for her report and find out more detail about the funding referenced in the report. They also asked the Clerk to attach a list of meeting dates and invite the MP to a future Parish Council Meeting.

102. Fingerpost Signs:

The fingerpost sign at the junction of Langtye Lane at the junction with the Street has now been replaced, the fingerpost at Langtye Lane at the junction with Poundfield Lane has now been repaired and the fingerpost sign at Mark Cross Lane at the junction with Mill Lane has now been cleaned.

103. TPO Request:

This was covered in the Public Session.

104. Wealden Local Plan:

Councillor White will look at the reports and surveys being used to support the Plan in readiness for the next consultation period. He will email any relevant points to Councillors.

105. Cheques for Payment:

The following cheques were approved for payment;

Wealden – Parish Conference - £30.00

Cheque number 100957

A Stevens – Salary – December

Cheque number 100958

HMRC - PAYE - £394.60

Cheque number 100959

B Patience – Fingerposts - £1320.00

Cheque number 100960

106. Questions from Parish Councillors:

Councillor White reported a fallen footpath sign on a Rights of Way footpath in the village which he will report through the East Sussex County Council website.

There being no further questions from Parish Councillors, the meeting closed at 8.00pm.