

CHALVINGTON WITH RIPE PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF

6th March 2017

held at The Hayton Baker Hall, Ripe

121. Present: Cllr Dunbar Dempsey (Acting Chairman) Cllr English
Cllr Shonfeld Cllr Ward
Cllr White

122. Attending: County Councillor N Bennett, District Councillor P Ede, A Stevens (Clerk) and ten members of the public were also in attendance.

123. Public Session:

County Councillor Bennett said that ESCC met on 7th February to set its budgets for the forthcoming year. County Councillors voted to spend an additional £365m on public services which will be used to;

- spend more money on Adult Social Care.
- retain funding for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.
- retain the Youth Cabinet.
- invest an additional £1.3m into Highways, for drainage, ditch and pavement work.
- set aside a further £150,000 for the Community Match Project.
- invest more in education.

He said the next few years will be challenging because Central Government is reducing its funding and the County Council will be funded entirely by Business Rates.

In answer to residents' and Councillors questions he;

- confirmed ESCC is looking at other ways to reduce accidents on the Deanland bend. Residents, in particular Ms Bartter, had raised concerns because they said the existing measures do not seem to be working. Suggestions included reducing the speed limit because they said it does not need to be 60mph, or cat's eyes. County Councillor Bennett said there are not enough houses fronting the road for the speed limit to be reduced but the engineers will look into everything and come up with the best possible solution.
- said he will write to another firm because its lorry was seen to destroy verges in the Parish.

District Councillor Ede said;

- Wealden has also set its budgets for the forthcoming year. It will mean those on band D for example will now pay an extra £5 a month Council Tax. The rise is necessary because without it there will be a shortfall and the District Council will no longer receive the Council Tax Support Grant.
- The revised Local Plan is now out. The housing numbers have been reduced and the period it covers has been reduced.

In answer to residents and Councillors questions he confirmed;

- the five year land supply will now reduce to three years and some of the proposed development will now 'fall away'.
- Chalvington with Ripe has no housing allocation in the revised Plan.

County Councillor Bennett and District Councillor Ede then left the meeting.

Ms Bartter announced the success of the Village Shop in the Countryside Alliance Rural Oscars and said representatives have been invited to Westminster to collect their award. Councillor Dunbar Dempsey read out a letter from the MP congratulating them and Parish Councillors also added their congratulations.

Professor Hill said;

- the Village Hall will be closed for the first week in April because the toilets are being renewed.
- The Litterwatch Team continues to clean the Parish and took part in the Great Wealden Spring Clean from Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th March. 20 families took part in total.

The meeting then opened.

124. Apologies for absence:

Councillor Webb sent his apologies which were duly accepted by those present.

125. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 6th February 2017 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record by the Chairman.

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

The Clerk said the drainage problem at Chalvington has been reported to Highways for action.

127. Disclosures of Interest:

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

128. Reports from Outside Meetings:

Councillor White and Councillor Webb attended a meeting with the architect who is working on the Plans for The Lamb. The District Councillor was due to attend but had to cancel.

The meeting was a fact finding one and the Plans could change but, at the time of the meeting, the plan was to build two properties, one in the existing pub and one where the car park is. Parking for each property would be where the existing car park is and facilities for each property would be behind them. The second property will be semi-detached.

The Plans are expected to be submitted to the District Council shortly, hopefully in time for the next Parish Council Meeting.

Councillor Dunbar Dempsey stressed that;

- no planning application has been received.
- Once the Plans have been received, the applicant will be invited to the Parish Council Meeting, at which they will be commented on, to answer questions.

129. Planning Applications:

The following planning applications were considered;

WD/2017/0114/F – Field adjacent to electricity substation, Mill Lane – New Barn – Councillors have no objections on any planning grounds to this application but would have liked more detail about the commercial side and how the proposed barn will help with the development of the rural economy.

130. Ripe Nursery:

Kate Fleming from Ripe Nursery sent the Parish Council an email in which she asked if Councillors would have any objections if the Nursery put a wooden playhouse in the field they use. She said she has checked with Jill Philips and she supports the proposal.

Councillors agreed they had no objections but asked that the playhouse is properly secured and that nothing is stored in it which could be used to break into neighbouring properties.

131. Finance Report:

Councillors read and approved the accounts to 27th February 2017 and Councillor Dunbar Dempsey checked the bank reconciliation agreed with the bank statement which it did.

Councillors resolved to appoint Peter Frost as the Internal Auditor for 2016-2017.

132. Cheques for Payment:

The following cheques were approved for payment;

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| A Stevens – Salary – February | Cheque number 100962 |
| Cancelled | Cheque number 100963 |
| HMRC – PAYE - £394.60 | Cheque number 100964 |

133. Questions from Parish Councillors:

There were further questions from Parish Councillors and the meeting closed at 8.10pm.