

CHALVINGTON WITH RIPE PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF

7th January 2019

held at The Hayton Baker Hall, Ripe.

107. Present: Cllr Webb (Chairman), Cllr Dunbar Dempsey, Cllr Dashfield, Cllr Ward and Cllr White.

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

109. Public Session:

In answer to residents' questions, County Councillor Bennett said;

- He will contact Wealden District Council and Highways England to deal with the litter on the A22 and A27.
- ESCC has a rolling program, through Costains, in place to repair potholes. Central Government has given the County Council an additional £4.3m to help.
- There are typically eight crews at any one time repairing potholes, bridges etc in the County.
- He will ask Highways to take back the ditches in Darp Lane. They were damaged by vehicles when the bridge was being repaired.
- Hedge cutting is the responsibility of the landowner. Highways ask landowners to cut back hedges and then charge them if they fail to do so.
- Work has been carried out to find the cause of flooding by Meadow Farm Stud. It is believed to originate from a spring.
- The Parish Council will need to commission a speed survey if it wants to ask Highways for a 20mph speed limit through Ripe. Speed surveys cost approximately £400 plus VAT.

Ms Barker asked if Councillors are aware that Action in Rural of Sussex have grants available for playgrounds. The Parish Council is aware there are grants available and will take them into account when deciding what to do with the Community Infrastructure Levy.

The meeting was then opened.

110. Apologies for absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillor Lady Susan Conway and they were accepted by those present.

111. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting which was held on 3rd December 2018 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record by the Chairman

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

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

113. Disclosures of Interest:

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

114. Reports from Outside Meetings:

Councillors Webb, Dunbar Dempsey and the Clerk attended the Wealden Parish Conference. Speakers included Inspector Jon Gross from Sussex Police, Laurie Church on Modern Slavery and Marina Briggenshaw from Wealden who talked about the Wealden Local Plan. Attendees were also updated on the progress of the new crematorium at Horam.

115. Planning Applications:

WD/2018/2378/FR - Darp Farm, Darp Lane, Ripe, BN8 6BB - Retrospective application for first floor flat over swimming pool and its continued use as a holiday let – Chalvington with Ripe Parish Council objects to this application because;

- it is outside the Core Area
- it could lead to ribbon development
- there appears to be no mitigation for the effects it will have on the nitrogen levels on Ashdown Forest
- Darp Lane is starting to become a commercial/brownfield site if any more commercial activities are allowed on there and the lane is not suitable.
- The application is retrospective.

WD/2018/2581/O - Ivy Cottage, Mill Lane, Ripe, BN8 6AX - Construction of a new dwelling attached to Ivy Cottage – WD/2018/2581/O Ivy Cottage. Chalvington with Ripe Parish council understands that the application to convert the redundant barn on the site to a holiday home granted on 24/12/2015 has now lapsed and comments on the current application are made on this understanding. This application is Outline and the Parish Council accepts the principle of extending the current building to create an additional home. However it endorses the comments made by a neighbour, Professor Morris, and in particular has the following concerns;

There is no attempt to mitigate for the impact of additional traffic on the Ashdown Forest, the two proposed car parking spaces for the two homes is inadequate, the location is at a busy entrance to the village and additional cars accessing Mill Lane here would be hazardous, the additional dwelling would make the site very congested, the site is within the conservation area and whilst only limited drawings have been provided it is likely that the character of the existing semi-detached building would change considerably.

Before the Parish Council can support or object to this application it will need to have much greater detail about design, protection of historical assets, access to the highway, car parking, gardens, the impact of the proposed house on the conservation area etc.

WD/2018/2582/O - Mill Farm Cottage, Mill Lane, Ripe, BN8 6AX - Pair of semi-detached dwellings, gardens and parking, and access to Mill Lane – The Clerk has requested an extension to allow Councillors more time to consider this application because it was received on the day of the meeting. If an extension is granted they agreed to consider it at their meeting in February, if it is not a collective response will be formed by email.

116. Resignation of Parish Councillor:

Following the resignation of Tim Lawrence, Councillors resolved to appoint Bill Rogers onto Chalvington with Ripe Parish Council. Mr Rogers will officially sign in at the Parish Council Meeting in February.

117. Parish Magazine:

The Parish Magazine is currently undergoing a financial review. The Parish Council hopes to be able to update residents on the results of the review at its next Parish Council meeting.

It was noted the Parish Magazine is only distributed to all the residents at Deanland every other month. In between times copies are only available in its social centre.

118. Hayton Baker Hall Lease:

Councillors resolved to ask SSALC's Solicitors to look at the lease proposed for the extension to the Hayton Baker Hall to make sure the Parish Council is properly protected.

119. Councillor's Expenses:

Councillor Dunbar Dempsey asked Chalvington Parish Council to consider reimbursing Councillors for expenses incurred in their role, for example travel to outside meetings.

Councillors agreed to consider the idea at the next Full Council Meeting to allow them more time to consider the Expenses Policy drafted by the Clerk should they wish to go ahead.

120. Changes to the 143 Bus Service:

Councillor Ward read from his report which said;

'The Compass 143 service originally from Lewes to Eastbourne has from today changed to Lewes to Hailsham only. The timings barely allow enough time to catch another bus in Hailsham to Eastbourne and return to Hailsham for the last bus to Deanland at 1403.

Elderly residents and those without personal transport sometimes need to attend Eastbourne DGH for their hospital appointment and return to Deanland with sufficient time to catch the last bus at 1403. These timings cannot be guaranteed to be able to return directly to Deanland. Now some banks have closed in Hailsham they need to travel into Eastbourne also.

Compass Travel have on their timetable that Cuckmere Buses service 42 provides an afternoon service on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. This is not the case, I have spoken to CCB who confirm this service was withdrawn last year. They cannot make a change to the timetable until April if possible.

Alternatives to this are;

- to catch a 54 bus in Eastbourne that stops at Golden Cross and walk the 1.1 miles down a dangerous lane which is unlit at night to reach Deanland. Many residents are elderly, have mobility issues, and are without personal transport, which is hardly ideal.
- Take a taxi from Eastbourne at a cost of £36 one way.
- Take a taxi from Hailsham at a cost of £15 one way.

It would help if Compass Travel could come to Deanland on the 1628 service. After all the bus goes along the A22 past the Deanland turning. This would allow plenty of time to attend hospital appointments or visit Eastbourne and return to Deanland. This would alleviate many of the problems associated with withdrawing the 143 service from Hailsham to Eastbourne'.

The Parish Council contacted the Managing Director at Compass who said the 143 bus operates under contract to ESCC who decide on the timetable to be operated. There are very few passengers who travel through to Eastbourne and by only running to Hailsham they can provide an

improved and more cost effective service. Connections are available at Hailsham onto other regular services to Eastbourne.

Councillors therefore resolved to ask ESCC to reinstate the 143 service. Councillor Dashfield said she will find out if the new owners at Deanland can help at all.

121. Road Safety:

This item was deferred until the next meeting to allow Councillor Lady Conway to be present.

122. Defibrillator Update:

Councillor Webb successfully applied for a grant to provide a defibrillator in the village. The cost of the defibrillator is £1200 and the Parish Council will need to pay £600 for a cabinet and £80 to £100 for it to be fitted to an outside wall. CPR training will be required but it can be provided by the First Responders in return for a grant contribution. A councillor will also need to risk assess the defibrillator regularly to check for worn pads etc. and if it is not connected to an electricity supply the defibrillator will need to be charged annually.

Councillors resolved to ask the landlord at the Village Shop for permission to site the defibrillator on an outside wall there. The Clerk will see if the Community Infrastructure Levy can be used to fund the Parish Council's share of the costs in the meantime.

123. Cheques for Payment:

The following cheques were approved for payment;

101056	Wealden District Council – Parish Conference
101057	A Stevens – Salary
101058	ESCC - Pension

124. Questions from Parish Councillors:

Councillor White;

- Reported that one of the dog signs fitted by the Parish Council has been vandalised.
- Asked if another can be fitted on a path near Stars Barn. He will ask the landowner for permission.
- Asked if the Parish Council can defer commenting on planning applications until resident's views are known. If possible, it will.
- Said he ask which criteria Wealden use when they assess retrospective planning applications and he will also ask for a more up to date list of the planning criteria.

Councillor Dunbar Dempsey asked;

- who to contact at Sussex Police when an intruder is on your premises because on dialling 101 for the Police, the caller receives a recorded message asking them to log their concern online and this is clearly unsatisfactory when help is needed urgently. The Clerk suggested calling 999 when an intruder is on your premises.
- where the PC is proposing expenditure in excess of £1000, that all parish councillors are informed of this at least 4 working days before the Parish Council meeting, that it is on the meeting agenda and that agreement to that expenditure is made only after the Parish Council is in full possession of the impact of that expenditure on the budget and the precept at that point in time and in the future. ie; background information must be such that the Parish Council understands the impact on the budget now and in the future on the decision

they are being asked to make. This proposal aims to support the principle of transparency. Councillors agreed the sentiment.

Councillor Webb asked if the Parish Council can have a copy of the Gatwick review of the police handling of the drone incidents, which took place just before Christmas. He also asked how many successful modern slavery prosecutions there have been. Modern slavery is understood to be one of the current priorities of Sussex Police.

There were no further questions and the meeting closed at 8.20pm.