

CHALVINGTON WITH RIPE PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF

2nd February 2015

held at The Hayton Baker Hall, Ripe

PRESENT: Cllr Webb (Chairman) Cllr Allcock
 Cllr Dunbar-Dempsey Cllr English
 Cllr Shonfeld Cllr Brass
 Cllr Ward

ATTENDING: County Councillor Bennett, District Councillor S Harms, A Hillman (Clerk) and forty members of the public were also in attendance.

101. PUBLIC SESSION –

County Councillor Bennett reported that;

- East Sussex County Council supports a second runway at Gatwick on economic grounds.
- Councillors are proposing to increase the County Council's share of the Council Tax by 1.9%.

The Chairman then invited questions from members of the public. There were approximately forty members of the public present and they came to discuss the future of The Lamb in Ripe. Shepherd Neame, the brewery who currently own the pub, have put the pub on the market for £395,000 plus VAT and, following a request from the Parish Council to do so, Wealden District Council had previously listed the pub as a Community Asset. Community Groups now have until 11th March to let Wealden know if they want to be treated as a potential bidder.

Whilst a few residents felt that people have already voted with their feet and have not frequented the pub, the majority felt it would be a great loss to the village particularly around May Day and Christmas. Others asked if and when the brewery can apply for change of use and convert the building to a residential one. The Chairman confirmed that the brewery can do this anytime but would need to prove the pub had not been viable for a least two years and that they are unable to sell it. It was also noted the building is outside any designated development boundary but is within the conservation area.

Those present eventually agreed that interested residents will hold a meeting on Monday 9th February at the Hayton Baker Hall to see if they can put a bid together. This initial meeting will start at 7.30pm and will be chaired by Councillor Webb. The hall for this first meeting will be paid for by the Parish Council and it was noted that this will be a meeting of a group of residents and not a Parish Council Meeting.

Residents have also been advised by BT to be aware of suspicious callers. BT are currently working in the area and say it is not unusual for people to call on residents claiming to be from BT when they are not. Sussex Police is also asking residents to look out for suspicious callers claiming to be on a Scheme for Criminals when they are not.

District Councillor Harms reported that Wealden District Council;

- will not increase its share of the Council Tax.
- opposes a second runway at Gatwick because it will increase noise levels in the north of Wealden.
- is to include Windfall Sites in the site allocations under SHLAA.

He has also noted that Laughton Parish Council has concerns about the state of the roads in Mill Lane and Darp Lane which it believes have been caused by the developers of the Solar Farm at Kitty Hawk Farm. Chalvington Parish Council agrees and Councillor Dunbar Dempsey will draft a letter, via the Clerk, to East Sussex County Council asking them to repair the damage. Wealden District Council will also be copied in because various planning conditions have not been met.

At this point most residents left but two stayed for the rest of the meeting.

The meeting then opened.

102. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Apologies for absence were received from PCSO Stephen Fenn.

103. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS - The minutes of the Full Council Meeting of 12th January 2015 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

104. CLERK'S REPORT ON MATTER'S ARISING – The Clerk noted the date of the May Meeting will need to change because it is an election year. She has booked the Hayton Baker Hall for the 26th May.

105. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST: There were no declarations of interests or changes to the Register of Interests.

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

108. PLANNING APPLICATIONS – The following applications were considered;

WD2015/0128F – Manor Cottage, Church Lane – Ground and first floor extension – Chalvington with Ripe Parish Council has no objections to this application.

109. THE LAMB PUBLIC HOUSE – This was covered mainly in minute 101. Councillors **resolved** that although the community meeting will not be a Parish Council Meeting, they will pay for the hall hire for the initial meeting.

110. VILLAGE PLAN – There was nothing new to report on this occasion and this item was deferred to the next Full Council Meeting.

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

Wealden District Council - £30.00
Cheque cancelled
Alison Hillman – Salary

Cheque Number 100892
Cheque Number 100893
Cheque Number 100894

112. QUESTIONS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS – Councillor Webb noted the parish fingerposts have been repaired and are looking good. Work to the noticeboards is still in hand.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.35pm.