

CHALVINGTON WITH RIPE PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF

2nd September 2013

held at The Hayton Baker Hall, Ripe

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

ATTENDING: District Councillor S Harms and A Hillman (Clerk). There were nine members of the public in attendance.

29. PUBLIC SESSION –

District Councillor Harms reported that;

- Wealden and Keir send their apologies for the problems experienced by residents when the new waste contract came into force. Keir used the same staff as before but on different routes. Wealden are believed to be imposing penalties on Keir.
- Wealden will lose 15% of its government grant in the new financial year not 10% as previously thought.
- 35% of the New Homes Bonus will also be lost.
- A recent questionnaire at Selmeston showed 26 residents are against the proposed Berwick Solar Farm. 6 residents are in favour.
- Wealden has no formal policies for Solar Farms and will deal with each application on its own merits. Good material reasons will be needed for refusals.

Representatives from Preserve our Parish Pastures introduced themselves. They formed in Selmeston and now work for residents in six neighbouring parishes. They encouraged residents to write to Wealden with their views about the solar farm application.

Mr Carr, owner of the proposed site explained that the site is a small farm and does not support intensive stock. He farms with the environment in mind and asks the County and District Councils to support his application. He said subsidies were introduced to address climate change and he wants to do this in a sensitive fashion.

The meeting then opened.

30. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – County Councillor Bennett sent his apologies which were duly accepted by those present.

The Chair announced the resignation of John Dadswell. The Clerk is to write to him and formally express our regret.

31. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS - The minutes of the Full Council Meeting of 1st July 2013 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

32. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST: There were no disclosures of interest or changes to the Register of Interest.

33. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE MEETINGS – Cllr Webb attended the Protect our Parish Pastures Meeting and explained that this Parish Council has yet to receive an application for a Solar Farm at Darp Lane.

Cllrs Webb and Dunbar-Dempsey attended a Solar Farm meeting at Berwick.

Cllr English attended New Councillors' Training which he found very useful.

34. PLANNING APPLICATIONS – For consideration;

WD2013/1664/MEA – Land at Wick Street, Berwick – Construction of solar farm to include installation of solar panels to generate up to 12MW of electricity with switch room, deer fencing and cameras, landscaping and other associated works together with retention and extension of existing grazing and measures to promote biodiversity.

Chalvington with Ripe Parish Council objects to this application on the following grounds;

- This application will spoil the land as it adds nothing to the land. We are told there will be a food shortage in ten year's time so we will need agricultural land.
- This application industrialises the Low Weald and does not form part of the Core Strategy. The Low Weald needs to be protected.
- The efficiency of these panels is low. More efficient panels are believed to be available soon.
- Councillors feel this application is being rushed through because Government subsidies are being reduced from April next year. Studies should be made about the suitability of industrial sites. All industrial and farm building roofs should be considered first.
- Solar energy has a future but agrees with Greg Barker, Energy Minister, but not at any price in any place.

WD2013/6002/CM – Ripe Wastewater Treatment Works – Installation of motor control kiosk supporting process improvements at Ripe Wastewater Treatment Works.

Chalvington with Ripe Parish Council has no objections to this application on any planning grounds.

WD2013/1677/LB – Eckington House – Internal Alterations.

Chalvington with Ripe Parish Council has no objections to this application on any planning grounds.

35. CLERK'S REPORT ON MATTER'S ARISING – The Clerk said that Wealden District Council is keen to seek residents' views on making a Dog Control Order to cover the whole of the Wealden area (with a few exceptions). The Order once made, will make it an offence for a person who is in charge of a dog, not to remove their dog's faeces immediately from the areas of land listed in the Dog Control Order.

Full details of the draft Order, other information and how to make your views known to the Council are available on the Council's website at;

<http://www.wealden.gov.uk/ConsultationDisplay.aspx?ConsultationID=59&Status=OPEN&BackToPage=Index>

The consultation period ends on 20th September 2013.

36. BUSINESS PLAN – The Village Plan is now available on the Parish Council website. Comments are invited until the end of December 2013.

The Parish Council is to consider adding an Energy Strategy to the Plan.

37. WORKING WITH NEIGHBOURING PARISHES – The Parish Council is building good working relationships with Berwick and Selmeston Parish Councils and already has a good working relationship with Laughton Parish Council.

38. FINGERPOST SIGNS – Councillor Webb circulated a list of the fingerpost signs in the parish and the condition of them in which he noted the following;

1. Corner of Church Road and Chalvington Lane – This was found to be new and in very good order.
2. Corner of Church Farm Road and Chalvington Lane – The structure was sound but the sign will need painting soon.
3. Corner of Poundfield Lane near Meadow View – The structure was also sound but the sign will need painting in the future.
4. East end of Langtye Lane near Meadow View – The structure was sound but the sign will need painting in the future
5. Corner of Darp Lane and Ripe Lane – This is new and in very good order.
6. Mark Cross – This has a slight lean but sound base and will need painting in future
7. Corner of Mark Cross Lane and The Street in Ripe – The base is sound but leans slightly. The finger to Laughton is good but the cross finger north/south is in bad repair. This sign will need painting in the future.
8. At the cross roads in Ripe at The Lamb – This is new and in good order.

Councillors asked the Clerk to get a price to repair the fingerpost sign at the corner of Mark Cross Lane and The Street in Ripe and report this back to the next meeting. They will then seek 50% funding from East Sussex County Council.

39. POTHoles IN THE PARISH – Councillor Dunbar-Dempsey circulated a list of potholes in the parish which need repairing, namely;

1. Opposite the entrance to One Acre Field.
2. Several in the road leading to the church at Chalvington.
3. Outside Martins Wood Farm.
4. Outside Little Meadow Farm.

5. Outside the Yew Tree Inn.
6. Outside Church Farm Stud.

Potholes outside Brooklands were also noted.

Councillor Dunbar Dempsey also reported that the road surface at Langtye Lane is lifting and is becoming quite dangerous. Councillor English asked that when traffic is redirected through the lane, ESCC erects signs to make it one way thereby protecting the verges.

Councillor Brass car was recently damaged by potholes and he tried to claim the cost of repairing the damage from ESCC. He was unsuccessful but the pothole has since been repaired.

Councillor Dunbar Dempsey will send an updated list of all the works required to the Clerk, for her to take up with ESCC.

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

Mass Media – Website £126.00	Cheque Number 100807
Chiddingly PC – Training - £35.00	Cheque Number 100808
A Hillman – July Wages	Cheque Number 100809
A Hillman – Aug Wages	Cheque Number 100810

41. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS – There were no questions from members on this occasion.

There being no further questions, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.