

## BECKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Village Centre 7.30PM ON MONDAY, 7 JANUARY 2019

**PRESENT:** Councillors Mrs Lauren Dobson (LD) Chairman, Ed Erith (EE), Mrs Sue Evans (SE), Mrs Tina Langmead (TL) and Mike Rowe (MRO).

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs Valerie Ades (Parish Clerk), County Cllr Ms Angharad Davies (AD), District Cllrs Ian Jenkins (IJ) and Martin Mooney (MM) and two members of the public.

1. **Public Questions** – to allow questions (10 minutes) from members of the public following which they may leave the meeting if they wish, but must remain silent if they stay. A further period of public question time is allowed at the end of the meeting. **Names of those speaking will be recorded and may be reported in the minutes.** Miss Howse reported the poor state of the pavements along Main Street. **AD/Clerk to report to ESCC.** She also drew attention to fingerposts in the village, which she thought required painting. MM suggested the PC contacted the Conservation Society in Northiam who, he said, had done a very good job with Northiam's fingerposts. Members said they would see if they could organise a village clean-up, such as the one they had carried out a couple of years ago. **SE.**

2. **Appoint a Vice-Chair.** MRO said he was willing to stand and he was proposed by SE, seconded by TL – carried.

**The meeting commenced at 7.40pm.**

3. **Apologies for absence** were received and accepted from Cllr Mrs R Parsons absent due to illness.
4. **Declarations of interest** whether personal or personal/pecuniary in accordance with the current Code of Conduct regarding matters on the agenda. **SE declared a personal interest in item 6 RR/2018/3112 Metersham Farm.**
5. **Reports from County, District and Parish Councillors.**

**AD's report** had been circulated.

IJ said malicious telephone calls, supposedly from HMRC, have been reported and are being investigated.

**MM said Cllr Tony Ganley would like to report on waste.** He said RDC had negotiated a new deal with Biffa, who would handle our waste from June 2019. Changes would be made which would include glass, plastic, paper, and cardboard all being put into one bin. More details would be circulated later. He advised that there could be delays with some current collections due to waste overload at the recycling plants as this could no longer be forwarded on to the overseas agents who were no longer taking waste.

**MRO** reported damage to the phone box by the Rose and Crown. He would get costs for new panes. Use of the two boxes was briefly discussed and TL said the school had a spare defibrillator which could be put into a box. Members felt a second defibrillator located further towards the Clayhill end of the village could be beneficial.

**TL/MRO.**

**TL** reported there had been car break ins parked at Bixley Lane.

**EE** reported overgrown bushes partly obscuring the signs at the roundabout. SE said she would arrange a working party when it would be dealt with. **SE.**

**LD** had received a letter of complaint regarding excessive noise coming from Ebrofrost site on Hobbs Lane. RDC enforcement officers had attended and, along with other matters, were following up with the owners. **February.**

6. **To consider and approve** the signing by the Chairman of the minutes of the PC meeting of 3 December 2018. The minutes were confirmed as correct and signed by LD.

7. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS** – to consider those received from RDC and any other planning matters.

**RR/2018/3079/P BECKLEY DEL Coach House - Land Adjacent to, Main Street.** Variation of conditions 2, 3, 6 and 8 imposed on planning permission RR/2018/1062/P to allow amendments to design of dwelling and for approval of details relating to cycle & bin storage, visibility splays and materials. After discussion members voted **5:0 to support the application.**

**RR/2018/3112/P BECKLEY DEL Metersham Farm, Hobbs Lane.** Change of use of part of a redundant agricultural building into a holiday let. (Retrospective.) After discussion, and with one declared interest, members voted **4:0 to support the application provided a condition be put on the property that it could only ever be used as holiday accommodation.**

**RR/2018/3046/P (RR/2018/3047/L)** - Knelle Dower, Rye Road. Erection of a two-storey extension to form a dining/family room with bedroom and bathroom above. Members felt the alterations were sympathetic with the existing building and **voted 5:0 in support** of the application.

**RR/2018/2990/P (RR/2018/2991/L) - Hobbs Farm, Hobbs Lane.** Conversion of redundant agricultural building to holiday accommodation. **Members supported the application 5:0.**

8.30pm – I left the meeting.

8. Matters arising:-

a. Playground:-

- i. Team report and path funding plans. Eibe have agreed to pay for a safety inspection of the zip wire. LD is meeting with them on Wednesday 9 January to finalise all arrangements. The Clerk had received a price of £35 for a ‘dogs must be kept on leads’ sign, which members felt was excessive. **Clerk/other avenues.**
- ii Path to the play area – Bourne’s response, type of path and final cost – EE had spoken with Ewan Oliver and exchanged ideas about the type of path required. It was felt the tarmacadam type suggested by Bourne’s would be the best. EE suggested that as Bourne’s quote last year was for approximately £9K a figure of up to £10K should now be considered, which members agreed was fair. EE said he would have further talks with Bourne’s and ask for a firm price. **Drone photos for RDC** – the person who has offered to take the photos is currently away - **EE** will follow up. **EE.**

9. **Tennis Court** – discuss possible repairs and refurbishment. TL suggested a sub-committee be set up, initially to consist of herself and LD, who will look into requirements and costs and report back to the PC. **LD/TL.**

10. **Trees on the Jubilee Field and Buddens Green – report from Bill Bullocke and discuss which trees require attention. Follow up Mr Horton’s request for TPO’s to be placed on oak trees along southern perimeter of Jubilee Field. Discuss any ancient trees in the village on which we could apply for TPO’s.** Mr Bullocke’s report was discussed and he had volunteered to attend to some of the work he considered was necessary to some trees. The Clerk would obtain estimates for the felling of a young poplar tree at the top of the Jubilee Field, which Mr Bullocke felt should be removed as branches could fall onto Kings Bank Lane. MM would follow up with RDC regarding Mr Horton’s request for TPO’s to be placed on oak trees at the southern end of the Jubilee Field. **Clerk/MM.**

8.50pm – MM left the meeting.

11. **Dog bin on Main Street.** Discuss request from a resident on Main Street to re-site dog bin as he has advised RDC it obstructs his view when exiting his driveway. LD had attended the property and learnt though the dog bin had been in situ for some years an adjacent post box had been re-sited just before Christmas, following a similar approach to Royal Mail. LD felt the dog bin did cause a slight obstruction when exiting the drive and members felt the owner should be asked to contribute towards the cost of its re-siting. Clerk to obtain quotes for moving before approaching the owner. **Clerk / LD.**

12. **Elections – May 2019** - preparation arrangements. The Clerk will attend a SALC ‘refresher’ course in February, following which she will email members with details of deadline dates etc to be complied with. **Clerk.**

13. **Village Assembly** - consider bringing forward the meeting to April from May. Mindful that Easter fell in April, along with school holidays, members considered bringing forward the meeting to March and felt this would be useful to promote interest in villagers into becoming parish councillors. Posters around the village to advertise the meeting and make people aware that councillors would be needed were considered. Members were asked to consider possible dates and bring their ideas along to February’s meeting in order to make arrangements. **PC.**

14. **Budget and precept 2019/20** - The provisional budget figures were considered and with a few amendments it was agreed. Whilst members acknowledged things would be tight next year, they agreed the precept should remain the same as last year at £23k.

15. **Accounts for approval (VAT, if applicable, shown for items exceeding £100).** The Clerk said the figure for admin costs was incorrect and should read £309.80, not £379.80.

Recipient	VAT £	Total £	Recipient	VAT £	Total £
BVH Committee Room Nov £12.00 Hall -school WW1 rehearsal & production £24.60 1/11 Nov £24.60		36.60	IdVerde – Nov maintenance £211.61 Dec maintenance £211.61	70.54	423.22
Admin costs		379.80-309.08	HMRC		406.60

With the amendment made, the accounts were proposed by TL and seconded by EE.

**Account balances 5 December 2018: Current Acc: £28,510.36 - Reserve Acc: £599.67.**

16. **Date of next meeting** – Monday 4 February 2019.

17. **Matters** for consideration as an agenda item for the next meeting. Mr Thurston, Headteacher Beckley School would address members at the next meeting.

18. **Public questions** - not to exceed 15 minutes. None.

**The meeting closed at 9.20pm.**

## **ESCC Report to Parish Councils - December 2018 Northern Rother**

A major road work scheme in Heathfield was finished earlier than planned on November 28th. This scheme involved reconstruction of the High Street as a leaking water main, and underlying weaknesses in the road foundations (many due to previous utility company repairs) required a complicated project involving reconstruction and resurfacing with some pavement resurfacing also. The high street is now open again in time for the Christmas shopping season, and a safer smoother high street is welcomed by road users.

On November 25th the **UN International Day of Elimination of Violence against Women** was launched, backed by ESCC and Brighton & Hove City Council. This campaign runs until Human Rights Day on December 10th. This coincides with the White Ribbon Campaign which encourages community leaders to lead by example and recognises the positive role that men play in preventing violence against women. Both councils, which have been awarded White Ribbon status, are encouraging residents to sign the White Ribbon pledge and speak out against domestic violence.

**The Community Highways Initiative** was launched in 2014 comprising 3 key elements: Community Match, Community Extras and Community Local Delivery.

Community Match funding has been increased to £250,000 per annum for parish councils or groups of local people to take local schemes forward.

Community Extras is a "pay as you go" option to purchase extra support and works for highway services and funded entirely by the PC or local group.

Community Local Delivery is a way to take on some elements of maintenance, and deliver services using local suppliers. Robertsbridge PC had a successful bid recently to install some new yellow lining. I urge Parish Councils to consider utilising these initiatives in order to "get things done" for local people.

Residents and businesses have been asked for their views on CPE -**Civil Parking Enforcement**-which is being considered by RDC for the district to solve parking and traffic obstruction problems. This is out for public consultation until 14th January 2019 and several public meetings are being held in Bexhill, Battle and Rye. [www.eastsussex.gov.uk/haveyoursay](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/haveyoursay)

Changes include:

-introducing permit holder parking in Bexhill, Battle and Rye

-pay and display parking at some locations where there are existing time limited bays in Bexhill, Battle, Rye and Robertsbridge

-introducing shared permit holder and time limited parking in Bexhill and Battle

-minor changes to existing parking restrictions

-formalising school keep clear markings

Response to this consultation will help determine the final scheme proposals. These changes are not expected till 2020.

Vulnerable people who struggle to heat their home can benefit from a free service which offers advice and support. The **Warm Home Check service** provides a home visit to people on low incomes, the elderly, with children, are disabled, or with a long term health condition or on certain benefits. [www.warmeastssussex.org.uk](http://www.warmeastssussex.org.uk) text WARM to 81400 or call 03444 111444

People are being urged to have a flu "jab"-available at GP surgeries and at pharmacies. **Free flu vaccination** is available to everyone over 65, pregnant women, and people with long term health conditions. The vaccine is also available to carers of older or disabled people, people with reduced immunity, primary school children, those who are very overweight, care home residents, and frontline health and social care staff. It is important to prevent flu because flu is a serious illness.

**Open Doors 2018** was launched at the beginning of November. 500 students from years 7 to 13 will be given a taste of the world of work as 44 businesses from Dungeness to Forest Row open their doors to give students insight into their businesses. This is a 4 week even, run by ESCC, and 4 MPs will be taking part as well this year.

**The East Sussex Careers Hub** is a scheme to improve careers guidance and support for young people across the county. The Hub will link secondary schools, special schools, and colleges with employers. The Hub is part of the government's careers strategy and £200,000 of external funding across 2 years has been secured from central government to strengthen links between employers and education providers to help young people prepare for the world of work.

A motion on homelessness was put forward by Indya Wardle from Eastbourne, a member of the **UK Youth Parliament**.

**Youth Parliament.** The motion received more than 120,000 votes in the national "make your mark" ballot. This issue will now be debated when young members sit in the House of Commons this month to decide which of their issues will be selected by the Youth Parliament as their priority campaign for 2019.

I would like to thank all parish councillors for their hard work during 2018, and wish everyone a very happy Christmas.

Warmest wishes for the new year.

Angharad Davies ES County Councillor Northern Rother

## **Report from District Councillor Martin Mooney - Rother Levels Ward - December 2018**

### **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)**

Introduced for the greater part to replace Section 106 Agreements, was the first report before cabinet of this new scheme and its distribution to successful participating applicants resulting from developments in the District. On its inception we were informed that this would be at 15% and 25% of developments in parishes without a neighbourhood plan and those with a neighbourhood plan respectively. Fair enough, but what we didn't know was that 10% would be held back for administration expenses by the Local Authority, leaving one to wonder whether we might not have been better with the status quo. The CIL is capped at £100 per house on Parishes without a Neighbour plan.

### **Housing Benefit Performance Update**

You will already be aware from my previous reports of the poor performance of this, one of our many performance reported targets.

I am now pleased to report that the direction of travel of this target is positively upwards mainly because of the application of additional resources and the working together another local authority. The latest result shows an improvement of over 50% from that reported in the first quarter to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018. With the revised schemes for Universal Credit and Council Tax Reduction coming on line in April 2019, this can only get better. With applicant's information necessary to bolster and maintain their claim, being supplied by the Pensions Agency, this is a big plus for all involved.

--- oOo ---