

## BECKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Village Centre 7.30PM ON MONDAY, 3 DECEMBER 2018

- PRESENT:** Councillors Mrs Lauren Dobson (LD) Chairman, Ed Erith (EE), Mrs Rebecca Parsons (RP) 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 seven members of the public.
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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.**

Mr & Mrs Markson-Brown of Woodgate Farm, Church Lane, representing the applicant of planning application RR/2018/2673/P (D) said the proposed buildings would be used not only as holiday lets but also as much needed accommodation and additional space for an existing retreat and a language tuition business.

Two gentlemen with farms on the B2165 road were concerned about item 10 and said restrictions of HGV's visiting their respective farms would have a detrimental affect on their businesses. LD said she felt that the councillor who had raised concerns, but was not present, had seen a large increase in heavy goods traffic using that road and this could have been due to road diversions. She assured the farmers the PC was not proposing asking for restrictions on that road, but IJ suggested they should ask ESCC if there were any restrictions. LD asked AD to ask ESCC that if diversions were made signs be displayed informing drivers of any size restrictions. **AD.**

Mr Horton, from Kingsbank Lane, said on many occasions he had requested RDC to put Tree Protection Orders (TPOs) on the line of oak trees which ran along the southern boundary of the Jubilee Field. MM would pursue with RDC. **Jan agenda.**

He asked what representation was the PC making regarding the DaSA local plan. MRO advised him the PC had responded during the consultation period. The current representation period was for members of the public or PC's to advise RDC if they felt RDC had not carried out and/or responded to the consultation correctly. LD advised Mr Horton the PC would discuss anything relevant during agenda item 8 and if he had any questions, he should ask these during the public section at the end of the meeting.

**The meeting commenced at 7.40pm.**

2. **Apologies for absence** were received from and accepted from Cllr Mrs Langmead. LD said Cllr Mrs Deborah Ongley had given notice and finished her duties with the PC on Monday 27 November. She praised the work Mrs Ongley had carried out during the eight years she has spent with the PC and for her dedication to the PC and village. All members joined LD in expressing their grateful thanks and said she would be sadly missed. MM asked to be included.
3. **Declarations of interest** whether personal or personal/pecuniary in accordance with the current Code of Conduct regarding matters on the agenda. **LD – declared a personal interest in item 6 RR/2018/2450/P D -Woodgate Farm.**
4. **Reports from County, District and Parish Councillors.**  
**AD's report had been circulated** and she further commented on funding for the Highways and said more information would be available at a later date.  
**MM** reported the Council Tax reduction scheme was to replace people on benefits. There had been many initial teething problems resulting in an unworkable scheme and much of it had had to be re-written. The new scheme should be operating by 1 April 2019. See full report attached.  
**IJ** praised the tremendous hard work and effort put in by all those involved in producing the WW1 concert performed by the children at Beckley School. It was a full house. He drew attention to the LGA Association in Westminster concerning their work on coastal issues, the amazing work they are doing for the area and the money they are contributing. Hugh Merriman has concerns over the diminishing number of cash machines around the county. Council tax is going up by 2.99% and there may be additional charges to be paid to the Police Force. New parking measures should come into effect during 2020 and there will be certain areas where we will have to have permission to park.  
**MRO** reported the return of moles on the Jubilee field.  
**EE** asked if assessments of the trees in the village could be carried out. Clerk reported this had been investigated a few years ago and we had been informed a map of all the trees was required, which would have been hugely

expensive. She would pass to him details of a recently received email concerning this subject. He said ESCC had done a fantastic job digging and clearing the ditches/gullies. **EE/Clerk.**

**LD** - the school had done a fantastic job in presenting their WW1 concert held in the Village Hall.

5. **To consider and approve** the signing by the Chairman of the minutes of the PC meeting of 5 November 2018. An addition was made following item 13 - *'Members resolved that requests for donations for 2019/20 must be applied for by means of a request form and supplying certain details of the organisation. Requests should be made twice yearly by set dates. TBA. Clerk.'* The minutes were then confirmed as correct and signed by LD.

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

**With the chairman's (LD) declared interest, MRO was voted in to act as chairman.**

**RR/2018/2673/P (D) Woodgate Farm, Church Lane.** Erection of two holiday lets with associated parking and private drainage system. Representatives of the applicant had earlier explained that the proposed buildings would be used not only as holiday lets but also as accommodation and additional space for an existing retreat and language tuition business. After discussing the plans in detail two members considered the size of the chalet building was extremely large in the context of the surrounding area and questioned why a holiday let building would require such generous living accommodation. With one declared personal interest members **voted 2:1 against supporting the application.**

**LD took back the chair.**

**APPLICATIONS APPROVED:**

**RR/2018/2450/P - Headwinds, Kings Bank Lane.** Orangery extension and general alterations.

**RR/2018/2598/P - Oxney View.** Proposed garage (alternative to that proposed under RR/2017/860/P).

7. **Matters arising:-**

**a. Playground :-**

- i. Team report and path funding plans. Eibe had confirmed if the PC would accept the shorter zip wire length of 20M instead of the 30M ordered they would waive their charges for the work incurred when the location of the zip wire was changed after work had commenced – unanimously agreed. LD would get confirmation from Eibe that they will inspect the installation of the zip wire and also, they will reimburse the PC for a safety inspection, which the PC would arrange. After their confirmation the cheque for £5854.40, final payment, would be posted. **LD/Clerk.**

- ii. Path to the play area and drone photos for RDC. EE said after extensive enquires he felt short cuts with cheaper paths were not viable due to the boggy conditions of the field. He felt the path suggested by Bourne's would be the best solution, approximately £10,000. He didn't feel the maintenance of this would amount to significant costs. Bourne's will be asked for a final figure, which must be honoured even if work cannot commence until close to springtime next year. Photos of the play area are in hand. **EE/Clerk.**

**8.29 – AD left the meeting.**

8. **DaSA Local Plan** – The 'Representation', running from 26 October to 7 December, is for anybody to comment on the legality and soundness of what has been agreed. The PC has been asked to confirm if RDC has followed the rules. As it is satisfied it will not be logging any comments. The documents can be viewed online at [www.rother.gov.uk/dasa](http://www.rother.gov.uk/dasa).

9. **Trees on the Jubilee Field and Buddens Green** – report from Bill Bullocke is awaited. **January.**

10. **Restriction on HGV's** using the B2165 road between the Rose & Crown public house and Horns Cross. SE. Discussed during Public Questions.

11. **Bank reconciliation 1 July – 30 September 2018** – the figures were agreed and signed by LD.

12. **Budget and precept 2019/20** – discuss budget proposals and precept figure. The budget figures will be adjusted and brought to the January meeting for finalisation. It was felt the precept would remain at £23,000. **January.**

13. **Accounts** for approval (*VAT, if applicable, shown for items exceeding £100*).

Recipient	VAT £	Total £	Recipient	VAT £	Total £
BVH Committee Room Oct		12.00	IdVerde – Aug maintenance	35.27	211.61
Admin costs		734.35	Eibe	975.73	5854.40
SALC - Chairmanship training		72.00	Beckley & Peasmarsh PCC/donation		350.00
			Mr Banyard -Water usage on Jubilee field-June		20.00

The accounts were proposed by MRO, seconded by RP – carried.

**Account balances 31 October 2018: Current Acc: £29,124.52 - Reserve Acc: £599.57**

14. **Date of next meeting** – Monday 7 January 2019.

15. **Matters** for consideration as an agenda item for the next meeting.

16. **Public questions** - not to exceed 15 minutes.

**Mr Horton** said the PC had no vision for the village and RDC doesn't care. People say the village has no heart and the way in which the PC and RDC has set about Beckley's housing allocation acerbates this belief by allowing Buddens Green and the former Manroy Engineering sites to be finalised for housing development. He believes the PC wants the money from the land it owns at Buddens Green and is prepared to sacrifice the future of the village for its short-term gain. He said building more houses at Buddens Green would spoil the countryside environment and the Manroy site was too far out of the village.

LD explained that when the consultation was open the PC had discussed and agreed on two key aims - to avoid the 20 houses being built on one site and to use brown field sites where possible. Most of this had been achieved with the final site allocations so the PC had largely met its aim. She challenged him on saying the village had no heart and asked him to explain.

Mr Horton said felt the PC had not done enough to have the sites for our housing allocation changed and felt the new homes should be built in, or close to the centre of the village to give it a 'heart' and he felt the site at the Old Vineyard, which he had purchased specifically with housing development in mind, would have been a far more suitable location for housing.

MRO responded that the PC had previously held an open morning at the Village Hall for residents to bring along their ideas or to find out more about the proposed sites, and the overwhelming opinion was they supported the two sites; they did not want to see 20 houses built on one site. He also pointed out that village boundaries are changing in order to accommodate housing needs.

Mr Horton felt the Manroy site should have been used for employment and was not happy that the garage on Main Street had been allowed to close and be developed for housing. Both LD and MRO explained that the garage couldn't be sold as a business and the Manroy site had been empty for a number of years and no one had shown an interest in using it for employment.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm, but exchanges of opinions continued between members of the public and councillors.

## 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.warmeastsussex.org.uk](http://www.warmeastsussex.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.** 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

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## **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.

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