

## BECKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Village Centre 7.30PM ON MONDAY, 1 APRIL 2019

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs Valerie Ades (Parish Clerk), ESCC Cllr Ms Angharad Davies (AD), RDC Cllrs Ian Jenkins (IJ) and Martin Mooney (MM) and 13 members of the public.

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- 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.**

**Mrs S Broadbent**, on behalf of herself and residents in Hobbs Lane, referred to the ongoing problems and suffering for many residents due to lorry movements, noise and effluent smells connected to the Ebrofrost premises. She said whilst RDC was looking into matters residents were concerned and alarmed at the planning application submitted by Ebrofrost to further extend their operating hours. She asked that the PC take these matters into consideration when discussing the application and urged the PC to recommend refusal of the application. LD said her remarks would be borne in mind when the application came before the council later in the meeting.
- Apologies for absence.** None.
- Declarations of interest** whether personal or personal/pecuniary in accordance with the current Code of Conduct regarding matters on the agenda. LD and TL declared personal interests in item 6, planning application RR/2019/368/L, The Granary.
- Reports from County, District and Parish Councillors.**

**AD's** report had been circulated and is attached. She referred to Mr Baverstock's email regarding a blocked ditch at the junction of Bixley Lane and the A268 to which the Highways had replied saying the water was coming from private land and as such it was not a Highways problem. Mr Baverstock said he wanted a meeting with the Highways Steward and Cllr Davies on the land to establish which piece of land Highways was referring to. **AD/Clerk.**

**IJ** said this was his last meeting representing Beckley and he thanked the council and the Clerk for their helpfulness and support over the last four years. He also thanked Mr Baverstock for his work when he was chairman. Everyone joined with LD in thanking IJ for his invaluable help over the years and wished him well in the future.

**MM** referred to the number of affordable homes which had been built in Rother and his report is attached.

**TL** - obnoxious smells had been reported along footpath 3a/3b which appear to be coming from Castle Holdings sewage works. **Clerk report to Environmental Agency.** Some speed watch signs erected around the village had been removed. **Clerk to obtain more.** Police are carrying out random speed checks in the village. **Clerk.**

**LD** reported unemptied dog bins, especially in Hobbs Lane and said the other bins did not appear to be emptied weekly, which was what the PC was paying for. Union flag on the field requires replacing. Clerk said this had been approved at a previous meeting. LD would purchase one. **LD.**

**EE** said a map recently received from RDC doesn't show trees in the village with TPO's. He is extremely concerned about trees in the churchyard and will investigate with RDC. **EE.**
- To consider and approve** the signing by the Chairman of the minutes of the PC meeting of 4 March 2019. Approved.
- PLANNING APPLICATIONS – to consider those received from RDC and any other planning matters.**

Councillors agreed to bring forward **RR/2019/490/P-DEL Ebrofrost UK Ltd, Hobbs Lane.** Variation of condition 15 imposed on RR/2011/760/P for production/processing. From 04.00 Monday until 18.00 Saturday. No external lorry or truck movements outside existing hours of 05.30 to 18.00 daily. Also, to update company details. Members were aware that the Enforcement Department at RDC is dealing with a number of complaints about noise relating to this company's operations, including alleged lorry movements outside the permitted hours. After detailed discussion members felt this application to extend the hours of continuous operation should not be considered until after the problems at the Ebrofrost site had been resolved satisfactorily. Members voted **unanimously against supporting the application 6:0.** IJ said he would speak with the Enforcement team about the problems. **IJ.**

**RR/2019/218/L (D) and RR/2019/219/P Gate House, Horseshoe Lane.** Addition of timber and double glazed garden room to rear. Members **unanimously supported the application 6:0.**

**RR/2019/368/L (D) The Granary, Main Street.** Installation of solar PV panels on existing roof. With two declared personal interests, members **unanimously supported the application 4:0.**

**RR/2019/439/P-DEL Chestnut Garden Cottage, Main Street.** Two-storey side and rear extensions with raised roof. New first floor rear terrace. Change of cladding. Detached double garage and annexe building. Members felt this was an over-development, not in keeping with neighbouring properties and was outside of the development boundary and voted **unanimously against supporting the application 6:0.**

**RR/2019/601/P-DEL Abbey Lodge, Horseshoe Lane.** Single storey side extension with room in roof. First floor extensions to front and rear. Change windows to doors. Members were aware that this property was originally a small cottage and over the years numerous alterations and additions had been made making it into a very large property which is clearly visible from both the public footpath, which runs along the side and back of the property, and from Horseshoe Lane. In addition to the extensions it was noted that the plans also contained two staircases within the property. Although acknowledging that a previous similar application had been granted by the LPA, members felt this was an over-development of a historically small rural property and **voted 5:1 against support.**

**GRANTED**

**RR/2019/48/P (D) & RR/2019/49/L (D) Metherham Manor, Hobbs Lane.** Remove existing porch and replace with new single story pitched roof porch.

**RR/2018/3120/P – Wrens Wood, New Road, Clayhill.** Erection of double garage.

**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.

**REFUSED**

**RR/2019/32/P - Former Council Depot, Whitebread Lane.**

8.55 AD and IJ left the meeting.

**7. Matters arising:-**

- a. **Path to the play area** – Start date with Bourne’s – as soon as the field is dry enough – May!
- b. **Maintenance/replacement of seating** on the field, the bridge in the Frog Field and damage to waste bin. RP reported Wil is obtaining quotes for wood etc required for repairing some of the old play equipment, bridge etc. as reported last month, and he will look at repositioning the gate to the field at King’s Bank Lane. Referring to the RoSPA inspection report in March, she said we should order 6 bags of bark to address the comments that there was insufficient flooring in the play area. SE felt continual replacement of bark was costly and she would like to see an alternative form of flooring used in future. It was resolved to purchase 6 bags of bark. Clerk was asked to approach Eibe to make alterations to the zip wire, as recommended by RoSPA. **Clerk.**
- c. **Tennis Court refurbishment.** Discuss funding plans and contractor’s quotations and any works required to the path from the car park. There were no further developments except Magnox has awarded us £995 and along with the PC’s contribution of £1000 we now had almost £2000.
- d. **Fingerposts:-** Horseshoe/Moores Lanes and junction of Main Street/Kings Bank Lane. Three quotes had been received and members approved the lowest one from Phil Signs (ESCC approved) for two posts each with 3 fingers for £600 each. Clerk would approach ESCC and ask for 50% funding. **Clerk.**
- e. **Trees on the Jubilee Field and Buddens Green** – tree for removal and TPO’s. Dealt with above.
- f. **Groundworks** – Id Verde response for a three-year quote. This would be today’s price of £1750 with annual adjustments applicable in line with RPI. Leave as a one-year contract.

- 8. **Sign for the playpark.** Discuss outcome of approach made to the suppliers (Minutes 6 August 2018 refer) for quotes. TL would let the Clerk have details of names. Clerk would order the sign from Care Designs Ltd. **TL/Clerk.**
- 9. **Telephone Box by the Rose & Crown - accident repairs** - Approval of welding quote received from R+E Engineers, Rye for £235 net and agreement to order replacement glass and any other sundry purchases required to restore the damage. Members resolved to place the order with R+E Engineers and for MRO to arrange the purchase of all other materials to include 3 large panes of glass and possibly 2 smaller panes. TL said a defibrillator *had been donated* which she felt could be put in the telephone box. Members discussed the possibility of moving the box to another location, but this was deemed impractical. **MRO/Clerk.**
- 10. **Annual Village Meeting 18 March 2019** – report on the evening. There had been pleasing turn out and many speakers had attended.
- 11. **Set date** of the Annual and Monthly PC meeting in May to allow time to receive election results. **Tuesday 14 May.**
- 12. **Accounts** for approval (VAT, if applicable, shown for items exceeding £100).

Recipient	VAT £	Total £	Recipient	VAT £	Total £
BVH Committee 2019		12.60	HMRC		335.40
Admin costs		459.98	T Langmead		7.99
			ESALC – SALC + NALC subs 2019-20		350.21

Account balances at 5 March 2019 - Current acc £19,174.43 Reserve Acc £599.96.

The accounts were proposed for payment by RP and seconded by MRO.

- 13. **Date of next meeting – Tuesday, 14 May at 7.00pm.**
- 14. **Matters** for consideration as an agenda item for the next meeting.
- 15. **Public questions** - not to exceed 15 minutes.  
The meeting closed at 9.40pm

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## **ESCC Councillor Ms Angharad Davies' Report for Parish Councils 2019**

It seems to have been rather quiet---apart from the all consuming Brexit conundrum!

We had a heartening experience at our last Full Council meeting when we were visited by members of the East Sussex Youth Cabinet. This consists of 21 members, boys and girls, all elected from East Sussex schools. They described their aims for 2019, the top 3 being: 1) Knife crime, 2) mental health 3) homelessness. They described how their assembly in the summer discusses a wide range of topics, important to young people, which they then vote into a table of priority. They showed us a film they had put together showing their achievements during 2018. They were particularly proud of a "10 tips for teachers" which could enable the signs of mental illness to be recognised, and action taken.

They were keen on voting from the age of 16 and they seemed pleased and proud to be involved in the process of democracy. They were keen to make a difference. They are invited to the House of Commons on an annual basis when they debate their top priority. [youth.cabinet@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:youth.cabinet@eastsussex.gov.uk) [c360.org.uk/youthcabinet](http://c360.org.uk/youthcabinet)

The subject of "Knife crime in East Sussex" was discussed at People Scrutiny Committee. We asked for the number of cases reported annually, and there has been a very significant increase in the past 2 years. We will be considering how we can investigate this difficult topic further. We need to know the link between truancy and exclusions from schools and knife crime. This worrying subject was also raised at Full Council.

Our PCC met Victoria Atkins, Crime Minister, and Policing Minister, Nick Hurd and other PCCs across the country for a round table discussion on knife crime. It was recognised by all that there is a need for closer partnership working to tackle serious violent crime. In Sussex, work has already started to provide a robust response to serious violence. This includes the implementation of a focussed strategy and an Early Intervention Youth Programme funded by the Home Office.

Recent changes have been made to the terms of reference of the **Health and Wellbeing Board**. This Board was set up in 2011 at ESCC in the early stages of ESBT (East Sussex Better Together) in order to bring about change, and focussing on health priorities directly related to local people's health needs. A review was carried out as a result of some criticisms made by the CQC in their local system reviews of health and social care integration in 2017. Comparisons were also made to other authorities. The following principles will apply in future:

- the HWB should provide whole system leadership for the health and wellbeing of the people of East Sussex and the development of sustainable and integrated health and care services
- East Sussex is the appropriate geographical building block for priority setting and the county is the primary planning unit
- a robust and up to date evidence base will be used to agree priorities and devise plans
- there will be strong and effective engagement and communication between residents, communities, commissioners, and providers
- there will be a shared vision for health and social care in East Sussex that clearly explains our joint purpose
- plans and accountability for delivery must be clear and robustly exercised
- the partnerships and bodies involved in the local system must be coherent, well articulated and connected
- the HWB needs to work effectively both in and outside meetings
- the core test must be "does this feel right for East Sussex?"

Subsequently a workshop was held in October 2018 to develop the changes needed to turn these principles into practice. The HWB has now instituted a number of changes to achieve far better practice with a degree of scrutiny not present previously. The membership has changed somewhat, new HWB members will have an induction programme, more informal discussion will be encouraged, the Health and Wellbeing strategy has to be delivered with a new reference to prevention.

These changes should move us forward in the programme of development of East Sussex Better Together.

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## **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR MARTIN MOONEY'S REPORT - April 2019**

### **Performance Report Third Quarter 2018/19**

For the financial year 2018/19, Councillors of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet selected a set of eight key performance indicators (KPIs). These indicators stand as a measure of the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan and those service areas Councillors wished to scrutinise over the year. For this financial year the focus is on housing and homelessness and the financial return on investment assets.

## Key Performance Indicator Results

The indicators on target and likely to meet the end of year target are:

- a) Days taken to process new housing benefit claims: Target 35 Result 25 lower is better.
- b) Days taken to process changes to existing claims: Target 20 Result 11 lower is better.
- c) Number of households placed in temporary accommodation: Forecast 60 Result 40.
- d) Number of affordable homes completed in the district handed over 77 target exceeded.
- e) The net income and return on investments including Council owned property: Target £780,443 for the year. The return for the nine months to 31<sup>st</sup> December is £896,852.

It must be emphasized that targets for a) and b) are set well above the median for all English District Councils which is 22 calendar days (DWP: 2017/2018).

This is because RDC is recovering from the effects of key staff having chosen the redundancy option in the cost efficiency exercise carried out two years ago and is now having to contract out some of the work.

Overall direction of travel: improving.

## Homelessness Applications Received

This measure is the number of homelessness applications from Rother households received in the financial year. This indicator monitors the action needed to provide support for those in housing need. The forecast for the end of 2018/19 is 204. The actual for the three quarters so far is 225. Therefore, this indicator will not meet the forecast for the end of the year.

Providing suitable affordable homes for our residents is one of our key priorities. Novel ideas like providing sites for self-build or community housing come to mind.

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