

BECKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Village Centre at 7.30pm ON TUESDAY, 18 JUNE 2019

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs Tina Langmead (TL) Chairman, Ed Erith (EE) Vice chairman, Roderick Chapman (RC) and Nic Hamilton (NC).

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Valerie Ades (Parish Clerk), District Cllrs Tony Ganly (TG) and Martin Mooney (MM) and 11 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.

Mr Lee asked what was the position regarding the former Council Depot at Whitebread Lane. MM replied a Notice under Section 215 had been served and should the owner not comply within 28 days he can be fined. Mr Lee asked if the owner could appeal and MM replied he thought it unlikely as RDC had carried out thorough checks into what was happening at the site before issuing the notice.

Mr Taylor, representing a number of residents in the Hobbs Lane area, said their lives have been made miserable due to the disruption, day and night, caused by the Bentley & Hall operations. He played a video recording, taken from his home at 4.30am one morning, of an extremely high pitch reversing noise from an HGV. He said this was a regular occurrence at all hours of the day and night. He also enquired about the noise and dirt from demolition taking place at the Manroy Engineering site. MM replied first to the demolition and said this was in order. Referring to B&H he said they do not have planning permission to carry on the business they are running and a 'change of use' has been requested in which they must give their operating hours. Backed up by other residents, Mr Taylor asked how long this procedure would take as lives were becoming unbearable. MM said it had to go through the normal procedures. It was reported on many occasions Hobbs Lane was blocked by the number of lorries along it and residents could not get in or out of their properties. Last week an ambulance had had difficulty accessing an address. B&H had told residents to approach the lorry drivers themselves and show them B&H's operating times. Mr Taylor said this was not acceptable. He said in addition to the unacceptable disruption to the lives of residents he believed there was a road safety issue. Mr Taylor, along with other residents, of whom many were present, said they wanted action now and he requested somebody in high authority at RDC and somebody from ESCC come along and have a meeting with them. Residents want answers, actions and a fast return to normality in their lives. He said residents are paying council tax to live in a rural, residential area, but what they are experiencing is living in the middle of an industrial site. MM suggested Mr Taylor should liaise with Dan Bevan at RDC and to keep him in the chain.

Ms Charlie Grey gave some details on her planning application RR/2018/2646/P(D) - Ross Farm to retain the use of the caravan as living quarters. She explained that over the three years the business had been operating it had shown a profit then a loss was incurred which had been largely due to a health problem she had suffered. She has returned to full health and the business looks promising for the future, but more time is required to re-consolidate and build up the profits. She acknowledged a permanent building on the land would not be possible.
2.
 - a. **Apologies for absence** had been received from Cllrs Alexander-Crossan (child minding problems), and County Cllr Ms Davies who was attending another PC meeting. Accepted.
 - b. **Reports from County, District and Parish Councillors.**

Cllr Davies's report is attached.

Cllr Mooney's report is attached. He added a consultation on parking in Bexhill, Battle and Rye was open for comments until 26 July. He will report more at July's meeting.

EE reported there were some trees in the churchyard which appeared to date back to Elizabethan times. He would report in more detail at July's meeting.

RC said the large climbing frame requires attention at the top. He had seen no sign of the bees in the supporting poles which had been reported in June. He would keep an eye on the situation.

TL said Mrs Ongley is running a small recycling scheme and she will be at the Farmer's Market to receive any waste plastics, crisp packets, toothpaste tubes etc. An elderly sheltie dog has gone missing in the Hobbs Lane area. Any sightings please report to the vet at Badgers Mount or Carol Hunt.
3. **To approve** the minutes of the Annual PC meeting on 21 May 2019. These were agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman.
4. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS – to** consider those received from RDC and any other planning matters.

RR/2018/2646/P BECKLEY (D) - Ross Farm, Furnace Lane. Retention of twin unit caravan on the property, for the purposes of running an agriculture enterprise. (Retrospective). Members unanimously **supported the application (4:0)**.

5. **Matters arising:** -
 - a. **Cost of wood** to refurbish seating on the field, the bridge in the Frog Field and play area. **Deferred to July.**
 - b. **Tennis court refurbishment.** Any further actions to report. Grant applications have been submitted.
 - c. **Fingerposts:** - Horseshoe/Moores Lanes and junction of Main Street/Kings Bank Lane. Response from ESCC regarding funding. These should be installed 22/23 June.
 - d. **Vehicle accident** on the field. EE has requested two quotes to repair the fence for an insurance claim. **EE.**
6. **Co-option of two councillors.** Consider any applications or discuss our next steps. As nobody has applied the clerk will make arrangements to advertise two casual vacancies. **Clerk.**
7. **Telephone Boxes.** Price for glass inscribed 'Defibrillator' for top panels of box by the public house. And the clerk will check if any permissions are required to install a defibrillator. TL asked if members felt it worthwhile to advertise a competition for suggestions for the use of the box close to the school. Agreed. **Clerk/TL.**
8. **Approve the amended Donations Policy.** Clerk advised members this need be only a document, which she had already circulated, but amended to include an application form. She had deleted one section referring to donations to charitable organisations, but check on its correctness, amend the document and re-present at July's meeting. TL said Ann Jones had reported last month that the village hall kitchen was to be refurbished at and wondered if the PC could make a donation. Ms Jones reported the total cost would be £25k of which they had already raised £14k and hoped RDC would grant them £5K. This would leave a shortfall of £6k. She was given forms and asked to complete and return these for consideration in July. **Clerk/July.**
9. **Annual Return to the external auditor for the year ended 31st March 2019** - Council is asked to approve by resolution:-
 - a. **Annual Governance Statement** to review the system of internal controls and authorise signature by the Chairman and Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer. Agreed by the returning councillors. The clerk completed the boxes then the form was signed by the Clerk/RFO and Chairman.
 - b. **Accounting Statements** - the preparation including the statement of accounts, bank reconciliation, explanation of variances, summary of receipts and payments to be signed by the Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer before being confirmed and signed by the Chairman. Agreed and signed by the Clerk/RFO and Chairman.
10. **Accounts for approval (Reclaimable VAT shown for items exceeding £100).**
TL said an error had occurred and the admin costs should read £783.67, not £883.67.

Recipient	VAT £	Total £	Recipient	VAT £	Total £
BVH Committee room 1/4 & 30/4		18.90	Bourne Sport-playpark bark	110.88	665.28
Admin costs		783.67			

With the error corrected EE proposed and RC seconded approval for payment – carried.

The clerk reported the following bank balances as at 5 June 2019 – Current Acc £40,170.67. Reserve Acc £600.27.

11. **Date of next meeting – Tuesday 2 July.**
12. **Matters** for consideration as an agenda item for the next meeting. Trees, donation to Village Hall kitchen refurb., bees and wood - play park, telephone box.
13. **Public questions** - not to exceed 10 minutes. There were no questions.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

ESCC Cllr Ms Angharad Davies - Northern Rother - Report for Parish Councils - June 2019

Mental Health Awareness Week was from May 13th to May 19th. This is an annual campaign backed locally by Public Health at ESCC. During the week, the county's School Health Service, commissioned by public health, hosted assemblies and ran events in a bid to encourage young people to have a healthy understanding of body image. In East Sussex more than half of 14-15 year olds say they "worry a lot" about the way they look, while a third say they have been bullied for the way they look. With half of mental health problems established by the age of 14, it is vital that we promote body confidence at an early age.

An hour's free child care is being offered to mothers so they can attend a cervical screening test. 30,000 women in East Sussex missed their last smear test. Childcare.co.uk has launched the nationwide initiative to encourage more women to attend for a smear test. More than 500 childcare providers have signed up. Women can book at www.childcare.co.uk/news/free-childcare-for-smear-tests.

A new urine test for cervix cancer screening is in the pipeline. Researchers from the University of Manchester have discovered urine samples could be as effective as smear samples in detecting the HPV virus. This would offset the embarrassment and fear women feel towards the more invasive test. Testing for the detection of HPV is important as it carries the potential to eliminate cervix cancer.

The public could have their say on a strategy which ensures the best possible support is available for vulnerable families. The strategy safeguards services which help prevent vulnerable families' problems escalating into a crisis. ESCC's lead member for children and families will approve a 10 week consultation on the draft Early Help Strategy. With greater focus on services, a smaller network of Children's Centres would be maintained, and all four youth centres would continue. As well as Health Visiting Services for 0-5 year olds, all families in East Sussex would have access to the School Health Service, the Family Information Service and improved online advice and information about services offered by the county council. £4.2 m will continue to be invested in Early Help Services. More funds will be available if central government provides the Troubled Families 3 programme. The consultation will run from May 21st to July 29th 2019.

The Fostering Service is running an awareness campaign, Fostering Care Fortnight, from May 13th to May 26th to highlight the difference people can make by opening their homes to vulnerable young people--either as a Foster Carers, or supported lodgings providers. Kind people are needed particularly for Asylum Seeking Children. This action can change a child's future. www.eastsussex.gov.uk/childrenandfamilies or call 01323 464129 or 01424 726155

There will be an Adult Social Care public consultation on changes to remove the subsidy for meals in the community, and a review of long term support for working age adults. Despite one-off funding from central government for social care, we still need to save £730,000 from our budget for 2019/20. Removing the subsidy which is not means tested, costs the council £4.10p per meal. This amounts to £500,000 per year. Under the proposals, those receiving the subsidy would be able to continue receiving the meals, in their home, but would pay the full cost which ranges from £4-£8.

A further £247,000 could be saved by changing the way the council supports working age adults, aged 18-64, to live independently. The proposals only look at the long term support received by those eligible under government set criteria. Short term support, help in accessing community support, and the provision of equipment would not be affected. This consultation will run from May 28th to August 13th. Further discussion on the results of the consultation will occur in September.

Plans to improve the A265 between Heathfield and Hurst Green are in the pipeline. This could include structural repairs, patching and resurfacing. Some work will be done in this financial year and some in 20/20. The initial work will occur between Burwash Common and Foots Lane. This work will obviously cause disruption to residents but the work is desperately needed. Dates are not yet confirmed.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT - JUNE 2019

Performance Report Fourth 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

During Quarter 4, of the 8 individual measurements, 6 met or exceeded their target/forecast. 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 22 lower is better.
- b) Days taken to process changes to existing claims: Target 17 Result 5 lower is better.

- c) Number of households placed in temporary accommodation: Forecast 60 Result 55 lower is better.
- d) Number of new affordable homes completed in the district handed over 60 target exceeded.
- e) The net income and return on investments including Council owned property: Target £780,447 for the year. The return for the year to 31st December is £1,161,220.

The Council aims to achieve at least 6% a year return on investment on rented properties. The overall return on investment for the year was 9.2% based on property valuations of £10.8m as at 31st March 2019 against a forecast of 6% for the financial year.

Net Additional New Homes

The Target for 2018/19 was 240, the result 254. This is 68 more homes than were delivered in 2017/18. However, these targets are well short of the Local Plan target currently required of 525 homes each year.

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 year is 331. Therefore, this indicator does 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.

Take for instance the initiative taken by Icklesham Parish Community Land Trust which application received planning approval last Thursday to build 15 affordable homes at the edge of the village to provide good quality homes for people with connections to the village who are unable to find affordable housing.

Fly Tipping

For 2016/17 Local Authorities in England dealt with 1,002,000 incidents of fly tipping, a 7% increase from the previous year two thirds which involved household waste. (katie.fisher@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

Councillors Tony Ganly and Martin Mooney
Northern Rother Ward.