

BECKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Village Centre at 7.30pm ON TUESDAY, 2 JULY 2019

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Valerie Ades (Parish Clerk), District Cllrs Tony Ganly (TG) and Martin Mooney (MM) and 17 members of the public. County Cllr Ms Angharad Davies arrived at 8.10pm

- 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. **MM** was asked why the requested meeting between Hobbs Lane residents and members of RDC had not been arranged. He replied Dan Bevan cannot arrange anything at present as he is fully committed on a legal case. Residents reiterated their complaints made at June's meeting and said action must happen fast; they were not prepared to be kept waiting. Last week an ambulance had difficulty accessing a property and was blocked in on its return. He said RDC has identified illegal operations are taking place in the Hobbs Lane area and the Environmental Agency said noise levels are illegal. These are in addition to all the other malpractices taking place and nothing appears to be happening to right the situations. Mr Broadbent said there are three main issues *a) noise from the food factory, b) lorries visiting the carpet factory obstructing the highway and c) the half-demolished building at Manroy Engineering*. It was noted there is a bat box on that building which EE said cannot be removed as bats are a protected species. Mr Broadbent asked the DC's to arrange a meeting with the involved parties as a matter of urgency when all the complaints raised by residents could be dealt with. **MM/TG**.
The owner of Apple Orchard asked why an enforcement notice appeared to have been served on his property regarding his driveway, which has simply been replaced and only the depth has changed making it 2' deeper. He has not received a notification from RDC. TG felt it was not an enforcement notice, but notification that a complaint had been received. **TG will investigate.**

8.05pm - MM left the meeting.

- Apologies for absence.** County Cllr Ms Angharad Davies would arrive after attending the Peasmarsh PC meeting.
- Reports from County, District and Parish Councillors.**
AD's report had been circulated
District Cllrs report had been emailed late afternoon and would be circulated.
TL said new Perspex fronts are needed for the two noticeboards. Clerk will speak to Wil. **Clerk.**
- Report from the Clerk** – CIL payments, website accessibility compliance and speeding drivers-how to enforce penalties. *This item moved to follow Planning and TL asked for the Manroy application RR/2019/865 to be moved to the start of planning. Agreed.*
- To consider and approve** the signing by the Chairman of the minutes of the PC meeting of 18 June 2019. The minutes were approved and signed by TL.

8.10pm - AD arrived.

- PLANNING APPLICATIONS** – to consider those received from RDC and any other planning matters.
RR/2019/865/P (D) Manroy Engineering, Hobbs Lane. Outline: Demolition of existing industrial building and erection of five dwellings and parking. **AC declared a personal interest.** Members were unsure how the development of the proposed five houses might affect the 14 houses planned under the DaSA scheme. A Preliminary Ground Contamination Risk Assessment Report had been produced showing the beneficiary as Bently & Hall and members questioned if they had bought some of the land from Manroy Engineering. TL said she was concerned that if five houses were built and would not form part of the DaSA scheme would there be sufficient space to build the 14 planned houses. If not, then an alternative site would have to be found. District councillors were unsure and said they would investigate.
- 8.23pm. *The meeting closed to allow Mr Broadbent to speak.* He said the weight of residents' objections and opinions must be taken into account when considering an application.
- 8.24pm. *The meeting resumed.* With all the uncertainties surrounding the application members said more information from Rother must be sought. **Vote 4:0 against support.** **MM/TG/Clerk.**
- RR/2018/2673/P DEL Woodgate Farm, Church Lane. Amended plans.** Erection of two buildings to be used as holiday-lets and for wellness treatment courses, together with associated parking and private drainage system. Members had concerns about the amount of additional traffic which the proposed development would generate along the shared track, which they do not own, and they would like more information on how this would be

managed. There appeared to be a lack of utilities available on the site and asked what were the proposals to have these installed. They also felt they would like to see more details on the construction of the buildings. They **voted 3:1 against support.**

Permissions granted:

RR/2019/984/P - Cherry Tree House, Hobbs Lane. Erection of a part single and part two storey side and rear extension.

Item 4 – CIL payments - the clerk drew attention to a letter received 20 June from RDC stating bidding from Town and Parish Councils for monies received by RDC from the CIL fund was open for an eight-week period from 24th June 2019, closing on 19 August 2019. PC's have questioned RDC why the letter had been sent out too late for those parishes who could apply from doing so. **Website accessibility compliance** for disabled users comes into force next year meaning changes must be made to our website to enable easier reading etc for disabled users. PC's are asked if they would like to support **initiatives to reduce speeding** through their areas. This will be discussed at the RALC meeting 10 July with a view to taking it forward and arranging a meeting with PC's and the involved agencies. Members agreed they were interested in supporting the initiative. **Clerk will advise RALC.**

7. Matters arising: -

- a. **Cost of wood** to refurbish seating on the field, the bridge in the Frog Field and the climbing frames. Sheets are £75 each and the clerk was asked to order 4 sheets. Special paint is also required for edges. RC said the bees, which were reported last month, appeared to have gone away. **Clerk.**
- b. **Tennis court refurbishment.** Any further actions to report. TL had nothing new to report.
- c. **Fingerposts:** - Horseshoe/Moores Lanes and junction of Main Street/Kings Bank Lane. Response from ESCC regarding funding. The fingerposts have been erected and look good, but the main post on one requires painting. Clerk would chase up and hold the cheque until the work was done. Application for ESCC funding in hand. **Clerk.**
- d. **Vehicle accident** on the field. Quotes to replace hedge - insurance claim follow up. Quotes awaited. **EE.**
- e. **Telephone Boxes.** Price for glass inscribed 'Defibrillator' for top panels of box by the public house and change of use requirements. Clerk asked to order 3 panes and check if a 'change of use' was required. **Clerk.**
- f. **Damage caused to rubber matting** – Idverde's response. It would appear that IdVerde are now using a smaller mower so the problem should not arise again.

8. **Response from Eibe following RoSPA's report on the zip wire** and any follow up by the PC. RC will check the wire and report back. **RC.**

9. **Trees – EE** to report on meeting with Jim Smith-Wright, from the Woodland Trust, re the Sweet Chestnut trees in the churchyard. The trees had been noticed when Mr Smith-Wright visited Beckley to look at the Frog Field. He believed some were extremely ancient, possibly dating back to Elizabethan times, and recommended a veteran tree survey be carried out. EE said the news was exciting and he felt not only the church should be involved, but the whole village and the school. He felt the news could make the trees a great tourist attraction. He will report more at the next PC meeting. **EE.**

10. **Request from the Village Hall Trust** for a donation towards the cost of refurbishing the village hall kitchen. Total cost £25K. Raised to date £14K. RDC would hopefully grant £5K leaving a shortfall of £6K. The clerk advised money for donations this year would be extremely tight, but said almost £700 had been received from a CIL payment on the development at the former garage on Main Street and some of this could be used. Members agreed to donate £500.

9.20pm. AD asked if, in future, her report could come after 'Matters Arising'. This would give her time to attend the Peasmarsh PC meeting then come along to ours. She then left the meeting.

11. **Consultation on 'Building for the High Weald' - A Design Guide for new housing development in the AONB** – do we wish to comment. Members agreed they would respond individually.

- 12. a. **Risk Assessment document.** Approve amendments and adopt. **Adopted.**
- b. **Donations document.** Approve amendments and adopt. **Adopted.**

13. **Casual vacancies** – discuss our next steps. The clerk advised the date for co-opting had expired and we should continue to advertise the vacancies as 'Casual Vacancies'.

14. **Accounts** for approval (*Reclaimable VAT shown for items exceeding £100*).

Recipient	VAT £	Total £	Recipient	VAT £	Total £
BVH Committee room 21.5.19		12.60	ICO GDPA -protection fee		40.00
Admin costs		420.09	Keith Robertson-Internal Auditor		116.93
HMRC – income tax and NI		363.72	Phillsigns 2x finger posts		1125.00

The accounts were proposed for payment by NH and seconded by RC – carried.

Bank balances at 5 June 2019 - Current Account £40,170.67 Reserve Account £600.27.

15. **Date of next meeting – Tuesday 6 August 2019.**
16. **Matters** for consideration as an agenda item for the next meeting.
17. **Public questions** - not to exceed 10 minutes.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

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

Potholes in East Sussex are set to have a "Blast" this summer as a fleet of 3 Road master machines will tour the county repairing potholes and other defects. Road masters are similar to the Jetpatcher (used previously). The Road master works by blasting in high pressure air to clean out potholes and cracks and crevices which are then filled with a mixture of bitumen and fine stone and grit. The scheme began in Burwash, Battle and Blackboys at the end of May, and will be rolled out to Bexhill, Eastbourne, Hailsham, Hastings, Lewes and Seaford. Using the Road master means the work can be done without the driver leaving their cab, and the road can be opened immediately. The programme will be published on the ES Highways Face book and twitter feed.

East Sussex Highways has once again been awarded the central government backed Customer Service Excellence Award.

The Superfast Broadband project has been completed for Contract 2 and has exceeded its target. ESCC signed a third contract with BT in February 2018 . This contract is unique in the whole of the UK in that our project requires the supplier to survey all premises as yet unable to access superfast broadband up front, instead of quarterly, throughout deployment as with Contracts 1 and 2. This means that, after the surveys, we will know which premises will be reached and we can identify those premises that Contract 3 will not cover. We will be in a position to consider options for those not reached. The aim is to achieve 100% coverage. Residents requiring information should contact Katy Thomas at ESCC.

There are currently two national schemes for those not reached by the contracts:

<https://www.esussex.org/PublicContent/National%20schemes>

EU citizens living and working in East Sussex can now use county register offices to check their identity documentation as part of a free scheme enabling them to stay in the UK after Brexit. The service runs at Eastbourne, Hastings, Lewes and Crowborough register offices.

Plans to raise parking charges are being considered---the first significant increase for 10 years. A public consultation was agreed on June 17th on changes to the cost of parking permits (a fairer charging system so that permits cost the same wherever you live in the county), and pay and display fees.(increase of 20p to £1.90p) . Monies raised will be used initially to cover the cost of the scheme, and then to manage the growing demand for parking, to promote more sustainable forms of transport, and improve air quality in town centres.

Safeguarding ES countryside sites has been considered recently. The ownership of Seven Sisters Country Park is proposed to be transferred to the South Downs National Park Authority. The organisation has pledged £1.4m to improve the environment and visitor facilities . There are proposals to transfer the Ouse Estuary Nature Reserve, and Riverside Park Countryside site to Newhaven Town Council, and Ditchling Common Country Park to Sussex Wildlife Trust. These proposals aim to protect much loved sites and enhance them as places to be enjoyed for generations to come. These sites would be transferred to not-for-profit organisations with expertise in conservation, involving local communities, and improving visitor experience. All sites will remain unspoilt, in public ownership , and fully accessible to residents and visitors.

Newhaven community schemes, funded by a £400,000 boost from Newhaven Energy Recovery Facility, have all been completed. This includes a new education centre exploring pre-historic life at Newhaven Fort, a bespoke bandstand on Denton Island, and new play equipment at South Heighton. The money was made available after landscaping and tree planting was completed in the town and surrounding areas---part of a planning agreement with the operator, Veolia. These schemes have come to fruition as a result of the energy plant development.

Residents of East Sussex who burn wood or other solid fuels like coal to heat their homes will be encouraged to cut down their use, or switch to less polluting alternatives . 1 in 10 households in the south east burns wood-the highest rate in the country-producing harmful gases and particles which have an adverse effect on air quality. Sussex Air has received £32,000 government funding for the project "Clean Burn Sussex" which runs across East and West Sussex and Brighton and Hove. This project will raise awareness of the health and environmental impact of burning solid fuels and encourage people to choose cleaner, more efficient fuels.

There are proposals out to public consultation for the possible closure of two rural schools. The proposals, which follow an extensive review of places at 62 rural schools across the county, are to close Broad Oak Community Primary School by 31st August 2020 and close Fletching CE Primary School by 31st August 2020. The closure of these 2 schools would reduce the number of surplus places in each area and have a positive impact on other local schools and the provision they can provide for all pupils. Broad Oak Community Primary School has been undersubscribed for 5 years. The school has 81 pupils with a capacity for 140 with two thirds of pupils living outside the school's community area. Children can be absorbed into the Heathfield community area. There are approximately 30-40% surplus places at Fletching. Currently the roll is 71 with a capacity of 105 and two thirds of children live outside the area. The Fletching community area will be merged with St Peters Chailey. The Diocese of Chichester fully supports the proposals being recommended. The public are encouraged to respond to the consultation.

East Sussex County Council has been awarded funding from National Grid's Warm Homes Fund aimed at helping people in fuel poverty. The funding is to enabling the installation of at least 100 new gas central heating systems free of charge to

vulnerable residents such as older people or families on low income. People who think they might qualify should apply for a free

warm Home Check : www.warmeastsussex.org.uk or text WARM to 81400 or call the charity's advice line 03444 111444

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT – JULY 2019

Civil Parking Enforcement

By adopting Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) East Sussex County Council (ESCC) in agreement with Rother District Council will take over responsibility for parking enforcement from Sussex Police in the Rother District Council area. Rother District Council's existing off street parking is not affected.

CPE will empower ESCC to enforce all on-street parking contraventions, the enforcement of yellow lines, limited waiting bays, taxi ranks, loading bays, bus lanes and zigzags; currently enforcement can only be carried out by Sussex Police who no longer sees this as a priority.

Implementation is expected to be in place during 2020/21, initially in the towns of Battle, Bexhill and Rye. The scheme will be cost neutral for ESCC during the first year of operation.

Adoption of CPE powers is anticipated to have the following benefits:

- Reduce and ease congestion arising from inappropriate parking, ensure a more free flowing traffic – benefitting the economy and the environment.
- Protects communities from illegal and inconsiderate parking and would also make the streets safer and easier to navigate.
- Easing movement for the emergency services.
- Help to improve the transport network across East Sussex as any income from enforcement of illegal parking is retained locally and can be spent directly on transportation improvements.
- A more consistent approach would also be fairer to all, including those who abide by the rules.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Rother District Council is the Charging Authority responsible for collecting and administering the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) The Council has been collecting these contributions under the CIL since its adoption in Rother on 4th April 2016.

The Strategic CIL is now ready to allocate to successful bids for projects in the District in excess of £100,000 but the CIL Officer Group is advised to give extra weight to proposals that are considered important – critical, from the three classified categories: read more using the following link: <http://www.rother.gov.uk/cilbidding>

The smaller projects may be more appropriately funded through alternative schemes such as Community Grants Scheme or funded through the neighbourhood portion of CIL. As you will be aware the Council is required to pass 15% (25% where there is a Neighbourhood Plan) of the total receipts raised in a town/parish council area directly to the town or parish council where the development is taking place.

Councillors Tony Ganly and Martin Mooney Northern Rother ward