

BECKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held by ZOOM video link at 7.30pm on Tuesday 2 JUNE 2020.

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs Tina Langmead (TL) Chairman, Christopher Broadbent (CB), Roderick Chapman (RC), Ed Erith (EE) Vice Chair, Nic Hamilton (NC).

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs V Ades (Clerk), County Cllr Ms Angharad Davies (AD) and District Cllrs Tony Ganly (TG) and Martin Mooney (MM) and one member of the public.

1. **Public Questions – (10 minutes)** to allow questions 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 may be recorded and may be reported in the minutes. **None.**
2. **Apologies for absence.** AD said she would have to leave us for a short while whilst she logged onto the Peasmarsh PC meeting.
3. **Declarations of interest** whether personal or personal/pecuniary in accordance with the current Code of Conduct regarding matters on the agenda. **None declared.**
4. **Reports from County, District and Parish Councillors.** Reports from County and District councillors had been circulated.

RC reported Wil had repaired the base to the castle on the playground

TL Said a waste bin should be purchased and positioned close to the MUGA. Agreed

Clerk

DC's reported on Ebrofrost saying planning permission had been granted and residents must keep notes on any infringement of the permission including noise abatement and report these to RDC. Ebrofrost has money set aside for the acoustic barriers, but planning has said they should wait for approval, but the barriers had been ordered and should be ready within two months. Regarding traffic movements planning said they could see no reason to make them the same as Bentley & Hall.

The Clerk reported Wil had shortened the chains to the twin cableway seat. Highways had cut the verges in the lanes despite many communications when she had requested these be cut only once a year in August. Highways could find no record of this on their work list. CB asked the Clerk to send them a letter reiterating our request.

Clerk.

On behalf of neighbours living next door to Oak Cottage in Main Street she had reported to Enforcement certain building works which had taken place for which she could find no planning application.

5. **To consider and approve** the signing by the Chairman of the minutes of the PC meeting of 5 May. **Approved.**

6. **Planning Applications** – to consider those received from RDC and any other planning matters.

RR/2020/416/P DEL Little Gate Farm, Horseshoe Lane. Erection of two storey side extension and single storey rear extension, cladding of existing walls. While the farm is an important resource for vulnerable people and its role is supported by residents of the village, Councillors were concerned at the scale of the proposed extension to the private dwelling part of the site. It would set a precedent which could lead to unintended consequences, and negatively impact affordability. Councillors required further information on percentage expansion in relation to the existing building and on its purpose. If Planners saw fit to grant permission, we ask if the District Councillors would consider referring it to the full Planning Committee. **(5:0).**

RR/2020/419/P DEL Chestnut Garden Cottage, Main Street. Alteration and extension of existing property and detached garage. Members discussed the past history and noted an application in 2019, which they had not supported, had been withdrawn. They noted some of the previous issues had been dealt with but observed that the building would be within the curtilage of a Grade 2 listed building. It is also clearly visible from the public footpath, the design is not consistent with the vernacular, and the garage has a room above, with no stated purpose. Councillors ask that the garage be tied to the house. If Planners saw fit to grant permission, we ask if the District Councillors would consider referring it to the full Planning Committee. **(5:0).**

RR/2020/509/P DEL - 2 Green View, Main Street. New vehicular crossover for new parking and turning space to allow off road parking by utilising a section of front garden. Members discussed the plans and unanimously supported the application **5:0.**

RR/2020/300/P Del Scotsdale, Main Road. Proposed extension to existing rear second floor dormer. Members discussed the plans and unanimously supported the application **5:0.**

RR/2020/589/P Del Myrobalan, Main Street. Insertion of rooflights and balcony rooflight in rear roof slope as part of conversion of roof space to bedroom, ensuite and study. Members discussed the plans and felt as all the windows were the Velux type and lay flat to the roof they unanimously supported the application **5:0.**

Permissions Granted: RR/2020/197/P Two Steps, Main Street. Proposed conversion of existing garage and associated alterations including raising of the flat roof.

7. **Ebrofrost** – response to request for information about future plans to reduce noise etc. They responded making clear their co-operation and setting out their plans in addressing all complaints regarding noise and smells.
8. **Covid-19** - update on matters or any concerns within the village. TL had spoken with Chris at the Food Bank in Rye who confirmed this time last year they were issuing 45 food parcels monthly; now they're issuing 60+ a week (and rising), equalling 97 adults and 89 children; costing £2k weekly. Chris added that the users were finding the free school meal vouchers/money difficult to access as many didn't have PCs. She said the bank has money for at least two months supplies and added Jempson's have been very supportive and they are grateful for any help. There are two people in Beckley who are receiving help. A resident's employer, having asked the resident for recommendations of where to donate money, donated £5K to the food bank. Another resident is making and selling face masks and all money raised is being divided between the Food Bank and the Air Ambulance.

9. **MUGA arrangements.**

- a. Consider a booking system and if a charge will be made. A booking system was discussed at length, but more thought was required to avoid confusion. Charging a small amount for bookings was considered, and money collected would be used to pay for the annual maintenance. TL would check with RDC for any restrictions. It was agreed to position a noticeboard by the MUGA to advise users of the conditions, contact etc. **TL/July**

8.30 – due to a business commitment CB left the meeting.

- b. Consider purchase of a seating arrangement. TL suggested a seat with a canopy be positioned by the MUGA and play area and prices varied from £1K - £4K. She will report back in July. **TL.**

10. **Zurich Insurance** - Agreement to insure the MUGA for an additional £183.46 taking total to £825.45 including insurance premium tax (IPT). The Clerk said this was a large overall increase on previous years premiums, but last year we had added the playground equipment and now we should consider the MUGA. MM asked what was the excess and did it cover personal liability. The Clerk said it was £100 per claim and she would check the personal injury cover remained the same. **Members resolved to pay the additional sum to cover the MUGA.**

AD had re-joined the meeting earlier and TL asked if she wished to add anything to her circulated report. She said Social Care and Child Support were working very hard and the number of children attending school are being recorded. Children's Services data base is linked to Social Services to find out where vulnerable children are. ESCC's Covid-19 figures for cases and deaths are the 2nd lowest in the country.

11. **Updated or reviewed Policies and Documents for acceptance:- The following were accepted.**

- a. Financial Regulations - updated
- b. Standing Orders - updated
- c. Risk Assessment (GDPA) – reviewed.
- d. Risk Assessment (Finance) – reviewed.

12. **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.
- 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.

If any of the above information is unavailable the matter will be deferred to July's meeting. **Deferred July.**

13. **Casual vacancies** – advertising and processing. Despite the lockdown members agreed to advertise the two positions and interviews could be conducted via Zoom. **Clerk.**

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

Recipient	VAT £	Total £	Recipient	VAT £	Total £
Admin costs		414.23	Dom & Fiona Sidwell -Covid-19 travel exps		63.45
HMRC		541.16	IdVerde – May April	26.08	156.49
			Zurich Insurance		825.45

The accounts were proposed by EE and seconded by NH – carried.

15. **Date of next meeting – Tuesday 7 July 2020.**

16. **Matters for consideration** as an agenda item for the next meeting – send to the Clerk.

17. **Public questions** – not to exceed 10 minutes.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

ESCC Report for Parish Councils June 2020

We seem to be moving slowly out of lock down as the numbers of Coronavirus cases decreases.

As I write this at the end of May, the daily new cases of infection stands at 217-412 cases in the North West, 101-176 cases per day in the South East, and 88-179 cases per day in London. This is a dramatic reduction ,apart from the north west ,and let's hope this trend continues.

It is pleasing that several Parish Councils in Northern Rother now feel they can operate virtually. Obviously we don't know how long we will need to continue to do this but, at county hall, we have been instructed to work in this way till the year end.

There are concerns about the increase in Domestic Abuse incidents during lockdown. Lockdown is particularly difficult and dangerous if you live with an abuser. From February to March 2020 traffic to the website for the National Domestic Abuse Helpline increased by 156%. ESCC are running a campaign so that people know where to go for help. **The stay-at-home instruction does not apply if you need to leave home to escape domestic abuse.**

For advice and support contact: **The Portal 0300 323 9985. If you are in immediate danger ring 999**

If unable to talk, call 999, listen to the operator, then press 55 on a mobile when prompted, or on a landline wait to be connected to the Police.

For more advice: **SafeinEast Sussex website**

Vulnerable and disadvantaged young people in East Sussex can now access free laptops under a DfE scheme to facilitate home learning. During the week 22nd May, 1187 laptops have been delivered with 170 dongles to children having a social worker, and a further order has been placed for disadvantaged Year 10 pupils.

Councils across the country fear a rise in vulnerable children and "troubled families" as a result of the Covid/19 lockdown. Councils will struggle to cope with a surge in demand. Issues such as financial hardship, lost schooling, loss of support networks, neglect, domestic abuse, dealing with deaths from the disease, and families relocating, are all problems that might emerge, as well as many families who have not previously needed support. Recent analysis shows spending on preventative and early intervention services by county authorities decreased by £172m since 2015/16. Councils are calling on central government to cover all additional costs in Children's Services Departments due to Covid, and also to bring forward the £165m from the Troubled Families programme to support families as lock down is eased.

In East Sussex the 10 Household Waste Recycling Sites opened to the public on May 18th. However the sites will be busy and social distancing has to be maintained which means:

- 1) A limited number of unloading bays will be in use
- 2) Only one person at a time will be able to access ramps
- 3) Staff will not be able to help unload
- 4) Trailers and oversized vehicles will not be allowed initially
- 5) Chargeable waste will not be accepted
- 6) The re-use shops will remain closed.

The public are warned there will be long queues,

Walkers during lockdown and after, are being warned to stay safe along the Sussex coast. The White Chalk cliffs are unstable so do not walk too close to the edge, and don't walk at the base of the cliffs as you may get cut off by the tide. Recently there has been a cliff fall in Peacehaven, a visitor stuck at the base of a cliff cut off by the tide at Seaford, and people posing for a selfie at the cliff edge at Eastbourne required rescue. Signs and posters are displayed along cliff top walks and at various bus stops and notice boards.

If a member of the public sees someone who needs rescue, do not attempt to try to rescue, **CALL 999.**

Highways crews in East Sussex have taken advantage of less traffic on the roads to complete resurfacing programmes, clear drains, and 6000 potholes have been filled since lockdown. Six large scale plans to pre-patch in preparation for surface dressing have been completed and I have personally seen our Highways Steward out on the roads. Pavements have been resurfaced and repaired, signs cleaned or replaced, street lighting faults repaired and drains cleared. Five major pavement resurfacing programmes have been completed in Bexhill, Eastbourne and Hastings.

Minor drainage works will be carried out in Dixter Road, Northiam on 3rd June. Minor drainage works in Main Street, Peasmarsh will be completed between 1st-5th June.

Highways have followed government guidelines re: health and safety at all times. The Customer Team can be contacted at www.eastsussexhighways.com or 03456080193

Stay well

Angharad Davies East Sussex County Councillor Northern Rother

District Councillors' report June 2020 – Cllr Tony Ganley & Cllr Martin Mooney

Bank holiday weekend - an update

Bank holiday Monday was a busy one for all of our coastal towns but in particular, Camber Sands. The car parks at Camber were full and had to be closed shortly after midday on Monday and Sussex Police who were also in attendance closed the junction into Camber from the A259 for part of the afternoon.

The high volume of visitors to the beach meant that for some of the afternoon coastal staff had to withdraw from the western end of the beach as they were unable to social distance from the crowds of visitors. They did however maintain a presence at the eastern end of the beach and worked with the coast guard to ensure that a truck was positioned at the western end in order to assist members of the public.

With the warmer weather continuing this week and most children remaining off school for the foreseeable future we anticipate visitor numbers will remain high. It has therefore been agreed with our partners that we will continue to coordinate our efforts to ensure the level of resources available to support operations at Camber are maximised; however, the public are reminded that the ability of the partnership managing the beaches in Rother to do so effectively under Covid-19 conditions is restricted.

Inevitably the toilet block in Camber Central was well-used by the public under the close supervision of RDC's toilet facilities contractor who offered a limited service in a demanding environment. This service remains under review whilst we monitor the situation at Camber Western.

We are expecting a limited lifeguard service to commence at Camber Sands from this Saturday 30 June but don't expect the RNLI to be able to provide a service at Bexhill beach this season.

The return of retail

Subject to being COVID-19 secure - outdoor markets and car show rooms can open from 1 June, followed by other non-essential shops, including clothes shops, betting outlets and charity shops from 15 June. All businesses wishing to reopen will need to complete a [risk assessment](#) and there will be spot checks to ensure social distancing is happening.

There are other suggested measures to protect customers such as storing returned stock for 72 hours before putting it back out on the shop floor.

Should local businesses require further advice on preparing risk assessments or if you are concerned about how a business is operating please contact foodhs@rother.gov.uk

Reopening the high street safely

Rother has been allocated £85,837 from the Government's 'reopening the high street safely' fund.

This additional funding, although limited, is a welcome contribution and its allocation will be considered by the Economic Recovery steering group to be established following Cabinet on the 8 June.