

BECKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Centre at 7.30pm on TUESDAY 1 JUNE 2021.

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs Tina Langmead (TL) Chairman, Roderick Chapman (RC), Ms Zoe Gleisner (ZG), Stephen Thorncroft (ST) Mrs Natasha Vadorin (NV).

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs V Ades (Clerk), County Cllr Paul Redstone, District Cllrs Tony Ganly and Martin Mooney and three 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 may be recorded and reported in the minutes.** Concerns were expressed on behalf of residents in the close vicinity of Northlands Farm about the activities being carried out there. Reports were made of many human and animal ashes being scattered across the land. Despite reports having been made to RDC, nothing appeared to have transpired and residents were concerned that a commercial business was being developed. **The PC shared these concerns and agreed to write to RDC requesting clarity on the terms under which a cemetery of this nature can operate.**
 2. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Erith, delayed on business. Accepted.
 3. **Declarations of interest** whether personal or personal/pecuniary in accordance with the current Code of Conduct regarding matters on the agenda. None received.
 4. **Councillor vacancy – consider any applications with a view to appointing a new member (deferred from May).** Mr Steve Bunn, the only applicant, gave a verbal presentation of the skills he felt he could bring to the PC. Nominated by ZG, proposed by RC and seconded by ST members voted unanimously to appoint Mr Bunn. A Declaration of Acceptance was signed by Mr Bunn and he was invited to join the table.
 5. **Reports from County, District and Parish Councillors.** County and District Cllrs reports had been circulated and are attached.
ZG reported changes with the Police and PCSO's. Along with Northiam and Peasmash, Beckley had been moved out of West Rother and joined Camber in East Rother on the Police chart. Crimes in the area had been reported as low.
ST reported roadstone having been put on the timber trail which comes out on Horseshoe Lane. This is private land.
TL asked Cllr Bunn if he would look at the vandalised shelter by the MUGA to see if the damaged area could be removed and replaced. There has been no further news from the police who were interviewing suspects. Mowing at the Jubilee Field is very poor; long, mown grass has been left, the cuts are haphazard, strimming in and around the play area has not been done and the area of grass at the top of the field, which the Clerk had requested IdVerde not to cut, has been cut. **Clerk.**
 6. **To consider and approve** the signing by the Chairman of the minutes of the PC meeting of 4 May 2021. The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.
 7. **PLANNING – to** consider any planning applications received from RDC and any other planning matters.
RR/2021/552/P DEL Kingsbank House, Kings Bank Lane. Proposed new outbuilding. After consideration members approved the application, but requested it be tied to the main building and the appropriate department at RDC be informed to apply the correct business rates.
Information only
RR/2021/752/FN DEL Kings Bank - Field at, Main Street. Erection of agricultural barn. RDC have informed the applicants that full planning permission is required. ZG asked **the DC's to find out who had paid for the Consultation on the land and to report back to the PC.**
Planning permission RR/2021/351/T Coombe House, Main Street. Works to two oak trees with TPO's.
a). Crown and height reduction and b). removal and replacement of tree.

8. **Northlands Farm/burial ground** – discuss recent activity and a request from neighbours to put pressure on RDC. The Clerk is writing to RDC for confirmation (as item 1 above).
9. **Parish Council meetings** – consider cancelling the August meeting due to the holiday period – this was unanimously agreed by councillors.
10. **Insurance 1 June 2021-22** - change from Zurich £844 and approve BHIB policy 1-yr £627.45 or 3-yr £594.32 annually with free mapping tool. The clerk had obtained a very competitive quote from BHIB and details had been circulated. Members unanimously agreed to appoint BHIB as the insurers and to sign up to the three-year agreement. Clerk authorised to send a cheque on receipt of statement.
11. **Donation request from Beckley & Peasmash PCC** towards grounds upkeep at Beckley church. The accounts are awaited and the Clerk will forward an application form for completion. **Clerk.**
12. **Annual Return to the external auditor for the year ended 31st March 2021** – All paperwork had been forwarded and the Council was 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. The questions were agreed and the form was **signed 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 signed by the Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer was **confirmed and signed by the Chairman.**
13. **Accounts for approval (VAT, if applicable, shown for items exceeding £100).**

Recipient	VAT £	Total £	Recipient	VAT £	Total £
Admin costs		939.12	T Lanmead -reimbursement-SuperSticker Badger £28		38.73
IdVerde Apr	34.77	208.64	Combination lock £18.00-tennis court		
RDC-Newsletter-replaces Villagers Annual Meeting 2021		200.00	Insurance – agreed at item 10 - Clerk to pay on invoice receipt.		

Proposed by ZG, seconded by TL and agreed, the accounts were passed for payment.

The fingerpost at the junction of Main Street and Rectory Lane was leaning dangerously. A quote had been obtained from Phillsigns (a company used for previous fingerpost replacements) for £660 to replace complete. Members accepted the quotation and asked the Clerk to place the order. **Clerk.**

14. Date of next meeting – 6 July 2021 commencing 7.30pm.

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

16. Public questions - not to exceed 10 minutes.

The meeting closed at 8.34 pm.

Reports, as written, from ESCC & RDC councillors are attached.

ESCC – Cllr Paul Redstone - Report to Parish Councils – June 2021

I am of course very pleased to have been elected to represent Northern Rother and hope to give at least a good a service as Councillor Angharad Davies. This report is a little shorter than normal as the new council has only just had its first meeting and I am, of course, still getting up to speed.

Council Organisation

The new county council is made up of 27 Conservative, 11 Liberal Democrat, 5 Labour, 4 Green and 3 independent councillors.

At a short and minimal council meeting this morning (due to pandemic restrictions) Keith Glazier was re-elected as leader and announced a largely unchanged cabinet. He also announced that priorities include recovery from COVID and making ESCC carbon neutral as quickly as possible.

COVID update

As of 20th May, East Sussex has the lowest rate amongst upper tier authorities of 12 cases per 100,000 population putting us at the bottom of the list of 149 such authorities, which is of course very good. However, there is concern about the potential escalation of rates due to new variants. eastsussex.gov.uk

As regards vaccinations, on 14th May, the latest date for which I have figures, nearly 1.5 million jabs had been given to people across Sussex (both East and West), approximately 950,000 people having had their first dose and 500,000 both doses. East Sussex has about 39% of the population across the two counties. Vaccinations are currently being offered to people aged 32 and over. 90% of priority groups 1 to 9 have had their first dose and 47% their second dose.

Despite case numbers being so low it is vital that we all remain alert to pick up early signs of infection. We should also consider regular testing using lateral flow tests, particular as people return to work and socialise. These are free and can be picked up from many supermarkets and chemists or ordered to be delivered by post.

Cases

I already have a number of cases where I am supporting parish councils, organisations and residents. Please let me know if you have any issue where I may be able to help. Even if it falls outside my area of influence, I would like to be kept informed and will work closely with district councillors and organisations as appropriate. My contact details are available on the web and shown above. E-mail is always best, but phone and post also work!

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NORTHERN ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT JUNE 2021 – Cllrs Martin Mooney and Tony Ganly

CORONAVIRUS NEWS AND GUIDANCE

Hugs & Pubs

People in England are now able to enjoy indoor hospitality, travel abroad and meet friends and family indoors as the country proceeds to step three of the Government's roadmap for lifting pandemic-related restrictions. Pubs, cafes and restaurants in Wales will also open indoors. It comes as the UK's COVID alert level was lowered from four to three, meaning coronavirus is in "general circulation" but that transmission isn't "high or rising exponentially". More than 38 million people have received a first dose and over 20 million a second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

Meanwhile, the country remains on track for the lifting of all pandemic-related restrictions on the 21st June.

PLANNING “NOT THE BARRIER TO HOUSE-BUILDING”

Planning is not the barrier to house-building, with more than 1.1 million homes granted permission over the past decade still not built, the LGA has said in response to planning reforms set out in the Queen’s Speech. A new Planning Bill would see local areas stripped of their power to assess building applications case-by-case.

Cllr David Renard, LGA Planning Spokesman said councils need powers to incentivise developers to get building, adding: “Councils want to work with government to reform and strengthen our planning system, ensuring it is locally-led, and that communities are able to shape their local areas, have their say on new developments in their neighbourhoods and see they are supported by the right infrastructure.”

MPs support greater freedoms for councils

Eight in 10 MPs say councils should have more financial freedoms and powers to build homes in their area and almost three quarters (72 per cent) say they should have more control over local taxes, according to exclusive LGA polling by Savanta ComRes. Four in five Peers and 58 per cent of MPs also agree that councils should be given greater powers and funding to drive employment and training schemes in their areas. The LGA is calling on government to bring forward “turbo-charged” proposals for devolution that give all councils the power to meet the challenges and opportunities facing their communities over the coming decade. LGA Chairman

Cllr James Jamieson said: “Bringing power and resources closer to all of us is the key for all our communities to thrive”.

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