

# FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL

**Clerk: Lorna Thwaites**

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## MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April

**Members of the Public in Attendance:** 0

**Questions RECEIVED from the Public:** None

**Members in Attendance:** Cllrs Rothery (Chair), Collum, Minch, Borton, Hannay, Shaw (arrived 19.35)  
District Cllr Galley and Lorna Thwaites, Clerk and RFO. This meeting was recorded.

### 215. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence as reported at the meeting were accepted: Cllr Greenish and Cllr Kerwood; Cllr Shaw sent apologies for the first part of the meeting; Cllr Constantinou was not in attendance.

### 216. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Declarations of Interest in respect of items on the Agenda, as required by the Members Code of Conduct were RECEIVED: Agenda Item 13 iv: Cllr Hannay has undertaken some work with one of the quoting contractors and would not participate in the discussion or vote on this item; agenda item 10:2:iii Cllr Rothery declared that the planning applicant is known to him and he did not participate in the site visit or the comments made on this application.

### 217. MINUTES

The Council RESOLVED that the minutes of the extra-ordinary meeting of Fletching Parish Council held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 and the ordinary meeting held on 01 March 2021, as circulated with the Agenda, are both confirmed as a correct record, and were signed by the Chairperson.

### 218. REPORTS

A report from the District and County Councillor Roy Galley was RECEIVED:

East Sussex County Council: are currently in discussion regarding the format of future meetings and legislation covering the flexibility of Local Authority meetings which ends on 7<sup>th</sup> May.

East Sussex Cabinet: the current numbers reported to have COVID are reassuringly low; extra expenditure has been funded by taxpayers; plans are in place to deal with a surge in variants and cases if required.

Wealden District Council: The Great British Spring Clean 2021 (28 May - 13 June); Cllr Galley advised there is a horrendous litter problem in Wealden and further afield; the waste contractor has been instructed to clear verges which is sometimes done at night; Cllr Galley is pushing to increase the frequency of litter clearance and a campaign is being planned to stop people throwing litter out of cars.

Resident parking issues: Cllr Galley advised proceedings are in place with regards to anti-social parking of a resident in the parish.

Questions were raised by the Council: a statement made by Cllr Waller at the meeting of Wealden District Council Planning Committee North, as quoted in the SussexExpress did not reflect the comments made by Parish Councils with respect to the Planning Application WD/2020/1244/MAJ - Land South of Copwood Farm; Cllr Galley suggested that the Parish Councils involved could jointly write a letter to Trevor Scott and Cllr Waller requesting an apology.

If there was any substance to concerns that a large-scale residential development near Little Horsted and Isfield was a possibility; Cllr Galley assured the Council that there was not.

### 219. FINANCE

i. Payments for April were AUTHORISED and the bank reconciliation RECEIVED.

ii. To RESOLVE to increase the Parish Council support for the Poppy Appeal 2021 - Cllr Kerwood. DEFERRED.

iii. A report on the spend vs budget for 01 March 2020 to 01 April 2021 was RECEIVED: The financial year ended with a slight underspend vs budget which would result in a small contribution to reserves.

iv. The Council did not RESOLVE to jointly insure Fletching Recreation Ground with the Parish Council; the Treasurer of Fletching Recreation Ground is to seek further independent quotes.

v. The Parish Council RESOLVED to renew its insurance with Came and Co.

### 220. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 17 May 2021

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Approved at a Parish Council Meeting of 7 June 2021

Signed:

Date

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ii. Agenda items and speakers were AGREED: a presentation with achievements during 2020/21; objectives for 2021/22; discussion areas - Neighbourhood Plan; a flagpole at Cherry Cottages; parking concerns on Fletching High Street; planting an oak tree in memory of HRH Prince Philip.

*Cllr Shaw arrived 19.35; Cllr Galley left the meeting 19.42.*

## 221. MATTERS ARISING SINCE THE LAST MEETING

- i. An update on the progress of installing a flagpole at Cherry Tree Cottages: costings for works to site a flagpole at Cherry Cottages had been circulated to the full council; to site a flagpole on land owned by East Sussex County Council incurs significant costs for excavation works and a license; the Council AGREED to DEFER a decision until after the discussion at the Annual Parish Meeting.
- ii. To RECEIVE an update on protective leg cuffs for the bench at Cherry Tree Cottages and Piltdown Pond - Cllr Constantinou: DEFERRED
- iii. An update on the installation of the bench at Piltdown Pond was RECEIVED: the bench has now been installed and it was reported that local residents are pleased.
- iv. Parking in Fletching: An update on this item was received from Cllr Galley during agenda item 4.

## 222. POLICIES

The following policies were ADOPTED/RE-ADOPTED:

- i. Grievance - ADOPTED
- ii. Absence - ADOPTED
- iii. Complaints - RE-ADOPTED

## 223. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

The following correspondence was RECEIVED and actions AGREED:

- i. Tunbridge and District Samaritans: thanks were RECEIVED by the Council for the Grant awarded.
- ii. Cape Breton Highlanders: an article has been sent to the Fletching Parish Magazine by a local resident; the Clerk was asked to contact the Danehill Historic Society.
- iii. Uckfield Cluster CSAG Meeting 11 May 2021: it was AGREED that Cllr Minch would attend the meeting.
- iv. Little Horsted Joint Neighbourhood Plan proposal: The Council AGREED to consider the possibility of working in consultation with neighbouring parishes.
- v. Updated fee structure for East Sussex Highways: RECEIVED
- vi. Letter to Council Leaders - remote meetings: RECEIVED - the Council will await further communication before any changes to meeting format are agreed.
- vii. Wildlife Verge Scheme Application 2021/22: the Council AGREED they had no objection to the proposal that the specified verges on Down Street to be designated as Wildlife Verges.
- viii. Large vehicles using Mill Lane: Members of the Council AGREED that certain vehicles do require access to this road and that the Parish Council have no responsibility or authority regarding the users of the road.
- ix,x,xi: Parking Situation Fletching High Street: the Parish Council AGREED to make the Griffin aware of complaints received and to include the matter for discussion at the Annual Parish Meeting.

## 224. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Comments AGREED for applications delegated to Planning Working Group:

**i. WD/2020/0751/F BATTS BRIDGE PADDOCKS, DOWN STREET, PILTDOWN, TN22 3XU** (expiry for comments: 13 April 2021)\_ADDITION OF HAY BARN AND MACHINERY STORAGE, UPGRADING OF INTERNAL ACCESS TRACK TO EXISTING BUILDINGS, EXTENSION OF EXISTING HARDSTANDING, FIELD SHELTER, AND RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION (MOBILE HOME) TO FACILITATE ONGOING CARE\_OF LIVESTOCK.

**Comments AGREED by FPC:**

DC13 (2) say that proposals for commercial stables should not be sited in prominent or isolated locations although permission was given to a certain extent in 2010.

DC13 (1) says that regard should be given to the appropriate siting scale and design in keeping with the locality. This is an open rural site very visible from many houses in Down Street.

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DC22 says that residential mobile houses will not be permitted unless temporary and essential for proper functioning of the enterprise.

The owner lives only 10 minutes away and can easily reach the site.

Creating a permanent sewage system inevitably leads to re development in due course with a permanent dwelling. This would not be acceptable.

Fletching Parish Council OBJECT to this application

**ii. WK/202014342 – Denniker Farmshop, Ruston Bridge Road, Fletching, Uckfield, TN22 2SH - new license application**

**iii. WD/2021/7002/ADP LAND AT RUSTON BROOK, FLETCHING TN22 3SH** EXTENSION TO EXISTING AGRICULTURAL TRACK

Comments AGREED by FPC - no comment.

**iv. WD/2021/0674/F RUSTON BROOK, DALEHAM LANE, FLETCHING, TN22 3XY** (Expiry date for comments: 16 April 2021) PROPOSED FRONT PORCH.

Comments AGREED by FPC:

Two roof lights over the porch were not recorded in this application and the Council questions whether they are appropriate. The entrance hall addition is small and in keeping with the property, infilling an area. The property can be seen from the road, but it is not overlooked by adjoining property. The Council AGREED to support this application.

**v. WD/2021/0410/F 14 CHERRY COTTAGES, FLETCHING, TN22 3SY** (Expiry date for comments: 16 April 2021) PROPOSED TWO STOREY SIDE EXTENSION AND NEW BAY WINDOW ON FRONT ELEVATION

Comments AGREED by FPC:

Fletching Parish Council SUPPORT this application and have the following comments:

This addition will add 60% to the original building which seems to be considerable WDC will want to be satisfied there is no Right to Light issue due to the size of the extension. Fletching Parish Council noted that there doesn't seem to have been a Wealden Planning notice pinned to the gate to give the neighbours warning.

2. To AGREE comments for application - full council:

**i. WD/2021/0766/F EAST PARK FARM, HIGH STREET, FLETCHING, TN22 3SS** (Expiry date for comments: 11 May 2021) DEMOLITION OF EXISTING BARN AND REPLACEMENT WITH NEW CATTLE BARN.

**ii. WD/2021/0604/F THE FORGE, SHORTBRIDGE ROAD, PILTDOWN, TN22 3XA** (Expiry date for comments: 3 May 2021) GARDEN ROOM

Comments AGREED by FPC:

This is in the curtilage of a listed building but not in the AONB. The garden building is quite small and cannot be seen from any neighbour or from the surrounding land. The roof is not very high so cannot be seen from over the hedge. The Council AGREED to support this application.

**iii. WD/2021/0811/F WILLOW COTTAGE, 1 CHURCH FARM BUNGALOWS, CHURCH**

**STREET, FLETCHING, TN22 3SG** (Expiry date for comments: 5 May 2021) REPLACEMENT CONSERVATORY WITH SINGLE STOREY FLAT ROOF EXTENSION TO INCLUDE LINK TO EXISTING GARAGE. ALTERATIONS TO PART OF EXISTING GARAGE TO FORM HABITABLE SPACE.

Comments AGREED by FPC:

This is a bungalow built in 1970, it is not in the conservation area or AONB. The application is to replace the conservatory with larger wooden structure allowing wheelchair access to the building. The footprint will be slightly increased to provide covered access from the garage. The Council AGREED to support the application.

## 225. PLANNING DECISIONS

Planning decisions from Wealden District Council were RECEIVED:

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**i. WD/2020/1902/F BEECHES FARM, BEECHES FARM ROAD, BUCKHAM HILL, ISFIELD,**

**TN22 5QD - REFUSED** by WDC on 15 March 2021 CONVERSION OF EXISTING BARN AND ERECTION OF NEW BARN WITH LINK TO CREATE A SINGLE RESIDENTIAL DWELLING. CONVERSION OF EXISTING OUTBUILDING TO ANCILLARY

USE, WITH ASSOCIATED ACCESS AND LANDSCAPING PROVISION.

**ii. WD/2020/2537/F MILL FARM, MILL LANE, FLETCHING, TN22 3PX - APPROVED** by WDC on 18 March 21 PROPOSED NEW SWIMMING POOL

**iii. WD/2020/1244/MAJ LAND SOUTH OF COPWOOD FARM AND TO THE WEST OF THE A22 UCKFIELD**

**BYPASS, UCKFIELD TN22 3PT - APPROVED** by WDC on 16 March 21

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A SOLAR ELECTRIC FORECOURT®, COMPRISING 24 CORE ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS, A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FARM OF UP TO 5.5MW AND ENERGY STORAGE. THE HUB BUILDING WILL CONTAIN A MIX OF ANCILLARY DWELL FACILITIES INCLUDING WCS, COFFEE SHOP, RETAIL, SEATING AREA, MEETING ROOMS/ WORKSPACE AND A DISPLAY AREA. PROVISION OF CAR PARKING, HARD AND SOFT LANDSCAPING AND ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS OFF THE COPWOOD ROUNDABOUT. DIVERSION OF PUBLIC FOOTPATH.

**226. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING**

The possibility of a Neighbourhood Plan for Fletching: Cllr Rothery has been in contact with other Parish Councils; the Clerk was asked to contact the Clerks at Wivelsfield Parish Council and Herstmonceux Parish Council.

**227. BURIAL GROUND**

i. No updates or requests for burial plots or interments were received.

ii. Two applications for memorials were RECEIVED and APPROVED; an application for an exhumation of cremated remains was APPROVED.

iii. The Council RESOLVED to hold the title of a grave in Perpetuity for the replacement deed when an alternative plot was offered; the Council NOTED that grave spaces can now only be purchased for 50 or 75 years.

iv. Quotes for the badger deterrent fence work were RECEIVED; the Council RESOLVED to appoint JHD Ecological as the contractor; Cllr Hannay had declared an interest in one of the contractors and did not participate in the debate or vote.

**228. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE**

i. The grass cutting schedule and dates from East Sussex Highways (02 July and 24 Sept 2021) was RECEIVED.

ii. The weed spraying programme from East Sussex Highways (08 August 2021) was RECEIVED.

iii. An update on the ground maintenance work by Countrymans was RECEIVED: the Council are pleased with the work undertaken to-date.

**229. FLETCHING RECREATION GROUND**

i. An update was RECEIVED from Cllr Rothery: a summary of expenses has been received from the Treasurer; the end of year position is positive, supported by grants received; bookings are looking promising for the year ahead; a date needs to be agreed for the FRGC AGM and future meetings; the Cricket Club are keen to raise funds to enhance the Pavilion for the benefit the whole of the community.

**230. PROJECTS**

**1. LAND REGISTRATION**

i. An update on the registration of land at the Village Hall was RECEIVED: Surrey Hills Solicitors have requested confirmation that the Council is in actual possession of a strip of land to be included in the Council's title; the Council confirmed that this land provides access to the Village Hall and to a residential dwelling, the Clockhouse; Cllr Collum declared an interest as the strip of land runs along a property under her ownership.

**2. FINGERPOSTS**

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- i. No update on the Fingerpost at Splaynes Green was received.
- ii. The spend of £75 for a post protector for the post at Golf Course Triangle was AGREED.
- iii. An update on the restoration of the fallen Fingerpost by a local resident was RECEIVED: the resident has been in touch directly with JAKK and have kindly offered to pay for the refurbishment of the post.
- iv. Cllr Rothery AGREED to follow up with Cllr Constantinou regarding the assessment of Fingerposts requiring renovation and the proposal of the next post to work on.

### 3. PUMP HOUSE

- i. An update on additional building companies contacted to quote for the agreed renovation work was RECEIVED: Cllr Minch has received two quotes to-date, a third is pending; one contractor has suggested undertaking a more significant project and seeking grant funding; Cllr Minch AGREED to contact the contractors for more details prior to the resolution of the Council to appoint a contractor; Cllrs Shaw and Minch AGREED to investigate grant funding.

### 4. FOOTPATHS

- i. Actions AGREED regarding the walks featured on the FPC website: feedback has been received on several occasions advising the walks are no longer as described on the website; Cllr Minch has undertaken some of the walks and considers certain walks border busy roads and are not safe to promote; a local resident would like to write a booklet about footpaths but independent of the Parish Council; the Council AGREED to remove existing walks from the website; there is already a link to rights of way on the website of East Sussex County Council; Cllr Minch AGREED to revise the walks on the website so that only those that are accurate and safe are featured.

### 231. TO PROPOSE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL:

The Clerk advised the next meeting is the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council; Cllr Borton notified the Council of his absence for this meeting.

### 232. THE TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL WAS RECEIVED: 7pm 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021

### 233. THE MEETING CLOSED at 21.00