

# FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Lorna Thwaites

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## ORDINARY MEETING OF FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL - Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020

No members of the public were in attendance. No questions were received.

Council Members in Attendance: Cllrs Rothery, Minch, Greenish, Collum, Hannay, Constantinou, Shaw, and Borton.  
District and County Cllr Galley and L. Thwaites, Clerk and RFO

## MINUTES

### 19. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence as reported at the meeting - Cllr Kerwood.

### 20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Declarations of Interest in respect of items on the Agenda, as required by the Members Code of Conduct: **RECEIVED** from Cllr Greenish with regards to agenda item 11 (Planning Applications) two of the applicants are known to Cllr Greenish.

### 21. MINUTES

The Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of Fletching Parish Council held on 04 May 2020, as circulated on the Agenda, were a correct record, and were signed by the Chair.

### 22. REPORTS

A report from the District and County Councillor Roy Galley was **RECEIVED**: there is a County Cabinet meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> June; pandemic deaths recorded show there have been more deaths in Wealden than Hastings; the Fire Service are currently consulting on proposals for changes.  
Cllr Constantinou raised the matter of drainage from Flitteridge Farm and Cllr Galley agreed to discuss further with ESH.

### 23. HIGHWAYS

Concerns over the speed limit on the A275 Sheffield Park, have been raised with Cllr Galley by a parishioner and were discussed by the Council: the Clerk circulated costs provided by East Sussex Highways for obtaining speed data and commissioning a feasibility survey required to explore the possibility of a reduced speed limit or moving the current 40mph sign. The Council agreed these costs were a substantial investment and that past work in this area has proven costly but not effective and had not led to a positive outcome on reducing traffic speeds. The Council **AGREED** they could not currently invest funds in these surveys, but the Council remains sympathetic to the issue of speeding in the Parish.

### 24. BROADBAND SPEED IN THE PARISH

Broadband speed within the Lower Piltdown /Shortbridge area was discussed: Cllr Borton highlighted poor internet connection in parts of the parish specifically Lower Piltdown, Fairhazel and Shortbridge. Fairhazel has no access to fibre at all. Lower Piltdown and Shortbridge whilst technically have access, are too far from the exchange box. Cllr Galley advised that plans for Fairhazel are scheduled for completion in 18 months' time. Cllr Galley has been advised that the project is due to start soon and he has been assured that fibre to properties will be installed in Lower Piltdown and Fairhazel, although not imminently. The contract is due to be completed at end of 2021 (in phases). The Council **AGREED** to write a letter to James Harris, Asst. Director for the Economy.

### 25. MATTERS ARISING

- i. An update on the installation of the bench at Cherry Tree cottages was **RECEIVED**: The bench has now been installed. The company that makes the protective leg collars are not yet in operation due to COVID-19.
- ii. An update on the discussion between Cllr Rothery and Cllr Autie of Little Horsted Parish Council with respect to the Proposed Uckfield Solar Electric Forecourt was **RECEIVED**: Cllr Rothery was contacted by the Chair of Little Horsted Parish Council. They are concerned by the possible plans for the solar farm and believe that the development is not in accordance with their local plan.
- iii. The London Bridge Protocol Policy was **APPROVED**.

### 26. FINANCE

- i. Payments for June were **AUTHORISED** and the bank reconciliation **RECEIVED**.

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- ii. The Asset Register of Fletching Parish Council for 2020/2021 was **APPROVED**.
- iii. The upgrade hosting package from StartUp (£9pcm) with 10GB of webspace to Growbig (£15pcm) with 20GB of webspace was **AUTHORISED**.

## 27. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR)

- i. The report from the internal auditor, Peter J Frost was **RECEIVED**.
- ii. The AGAR section 1 Annual Governance Statement was **APPROVED** and signed by the Chair.
- iii. The AGAR section 2 Accounting Statements was **APPROVED** and signed by the Chair.

## 28. BURIAL GROUND

- i. A report from the Clerk and Cllr Hannay was **RECEIVED**: A burial plot has been purchased by a parishioner.
- ii. The Council **RESOLVED** to enter the Cemetery of the Year competition.

## 29. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1. No comments were agreed by Cllrs with delegated planning responsibility prior to the meeting.
2. Comments for the following applications were **AGREED**:

**WD/2020/0570/FR & 0571/LBR** SHEFFIELD PARK FARM, SHEFFIELD PARK, UCKFIELD TN22 3QR -8<sup>th</sup> June  
RETROSPECTIVE APPLICATION FOR INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ALTERATIONS TO BUILDING WITH PREVIOUSLY APPROVED USE AS ANCILLARY ACCOMMODATION AND PROPOSED CHANGE OF USE TO HOLIDAY LET.  
Comments: This is a retrospective application for a listed building, of historic interest. Due to the current pandemic restrictions, the works cannot be viewed but the photographs indicate the work has been well done. FPC would like to see a condition imposed that the accommodation should remain attached to the farmhouse. The Council **RESOLVED** to **SUPPORT**.

**WD/2020/0938/F** CHURCH COTTAGE, HIGH STREET, FLETCHING, TN22 3SS - Comments: 18 June  
PROPOSED FIRST FLOOR EXTENSION TO SIDE OF PROPERTY.

Comments: The Council **AGREED** to delegate comments to cllrs with planning responsibility so the plans could be further considered.

**WD/2019/2439/F** LITTLE SHARPES, SHARPSBRIDGE LANE, PILTDOWN, TN22 3XG - Comments 11<sup>th</sup> June  
CONVERSION OF EXISTING POOL HOUSE TO FORM NEW RESIDENTIAL DWELLING, WITH ASSOCIATED EXTENSION AND ALTERATIONS. Amended plans received 19 March confirming that the building will be separate dwelling and to show the addition of a parking area.

Comments: The Council's concerns over the amount of traffic on Sharpsbridge Lane created from an additional residential dwelling remain. There are also concerns that the area is a flood plain. The Council **AGREED** to delegate comments to cllrs with delegated planning responsibility so plans could be considered further.

**WD/2020/0941/F** FERMOYS, HIGH STREET, FLETCHING, TN22 3TE - 11<sup>th</sup> June  
PROPOSED NEW GARAGE

Comments: This is a Listed Building and very visible from the street and any changes need to be in keeping with the character of the building. The garage door should be timber and not metal but this was not clear from the plans. The Council **AGREED** to delegate comments to cllrs with delegated planning responsibility so plans could be considered further.

## 30. PLANNING DECISIONS

Planning decisions from Wealden District Council **RECEIVED**

**WD/2020/0034/LB MAYS HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FLETCHING, TN22 3ST**

REPLACEMENT OF THREE MODERN CASEMENT WINDOWS ON THE REAR ELEVATION WITH SINGLE GLAZED, VERTICAL SLIDING SASH UNITS - **APPROVED**

**WD/2020/0060/LDE BLACK VEN FARM, DOWN STREET, NUTLEY, TN22 3EH**

CONFIRMATION THAT WORKS APPROVED UNDER WD/2016/1616/F (DEMOLITION OF REDUNDANT PIG REARING BARN. ERECTION OF REPLACEMENT 2 BED DWELLING AND SOLAR PV ARRAY) HAVE COMMENCED AND THAT THE PERMISSION IS THEREFORE EXTANT - **ISSUED**

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**WD/2020/0175/FR LAND ADJACENT TO BARN COTTAGES, FAIRHAZEL, PILTDOWN, TN22 3YE**

RETROSPECTIVE PLANNING APPLICATION FOR THE ERECTION OF THE LAKE HOUSE SITUATED ON THE LAND ADJACENT TO BARN COTTAGES TO BE USED IN ANCILLARY TO THE ADJACENT DWELLING - **REFUSED**

## 31. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

i. An update on the grass cutting works by Countrymans was **RECEIVED**: the work undertaken to date has been of a good standard. The Clerk reported good communication with the contractor. The Council **RESOLVED** to have grass cuttings from the volunteer grass cut at the Burial Ground removed by Countrymans at a cost of £94+ VAT.

ii. The ground's maintenance specification for a 3-year contract between 01 Jan 2021 and 31 Dec 2023 was **AGREED** and the Clerk was asked to progress obtaining quotes.

*Cllr Galley left the meeting*

## 32. PROJECTS

### 1. FLETCHING RECREATION GROUND

i. The Council **RESOLVED** to appoint a committee of Fletching Parish Council to run the recreation ground. Cllr Rothery updated the council that the current Fletching Recreation Ground Committee approved the transfer of the trusteeship of Fletching Parish Council from custodian trustee to sole trustee at their recent AGM.

ii. The Council **AGREED** to appoint 3 parish councillors and 4 volunteers to the committee.

iii. The Council **AGREED** to confirm which parish councillors will be appointed to the committee at the next meeting of Fletching Parish Council. It was **AGREED** that volunteers should be appointed from the main user groups of the recreation ground.

### 2. LAND REGISTRATION

i. There were no further updates from Cllr Greenish on the progress of the land registration work at this present time.

ii. No actions for the land registration are currently required.

### 3. PARISHES IN BLOOM

An update from Cllr Minch was **RECEIVED**: Cllr Minch will be taking some photos around the parish.

### 4. FINGERPOSTS

i. The following updates on the Splaynes Green Fingerpost were **RECEIVED**:

a) Match Funding from ESH has been **AGREED**.

b) Cllr Constantinou updated the council on the progress of the Fingerpost and brickwork repairs: he is hoping to discuss how the fingerpost should be removed from the brickwork with JAKK but no work has yet started.

ii. The Council **AGREED** that Cllr Constantinou would provide recommendations at the next meeting regarding which Fingerpost should be refurbished next.

### 5. PARISH WALKS

i. An update from Cllr Minch was **RECEIVED**: There are concerns that some of the walks published on the parish council website lead to busy roads and perhaps these should not be promoted. It was suggested that a link to the Wealden site for public footpaths was added to the parish council website and also a link to ESH for reporting broken signs and styles. Cllr Minch suggested some of the walks on the website might be put into a printed leaflet created by a volunteer and will speak to a parishioner who might be interested.

33. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**: none received.

34. **ITEMS FOR THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MAGAZINE AGREED**:

Installation of the new bench; Recreation Ground trusteeship transferal.

35. **ITEMS PROPOSED FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL**:

To receive an update on Fletching Primary School and numbers for Sept 2020.

To consider the current parish council online presence.

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**36. THE TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL was RECEIVED:**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020. The meeting will be held remotely at 7pm or 7.30pm if a meeting in the village hall is permissible (subject to government guidance).

**37. THE MEETING WAS CLOSED at 21.00hrs**