

FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Gabriella Paterson-Griggs

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MINUTES of a meeting of **FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL** held on Monday 7th February 2022 in the Village Hall, High Street, Fletching (7 - 8.50pm).

PRESENT: Councillors C Rothery (Chairman), R Borton, N Collum, W Constantinou, R Hannay, D Kerwood, K Minch and A Shaw.

Also in attendance: Gabriella Paterson-Griggs (Clerk and RFO) and Cllr R Galley (ESCC/WDC)

Members of the Public in Attendance: 0

APOLOGIES: An apology for absence was received from Councillor D Greenish.

22/25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of Interest RECEIVED in respect of items on the agenda, as required by the Members' Code of Conduct:

Minute 22/38 i - Councillor Collum as owner of the land adjoining the application site, 1 Corner Cottages.

In accordance with the FPC Code of Conduct, the councillor did not participate in any discussion or vote on the matters.

22/26. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 10th January 2022 were a correct record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

22/27. WDC SHELAA SITES - EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

The format that the Extraordinary Meeting should take was discussed. It was agreed that Cllr Galley be invited to attend the meeting to give the Wealden District Council update on the current position on the Local Plan and the SHELAA sites. The plan of the SHELAA sites to be updated to include the SHELAA sites adjoining the parish in order that it can be displayed at the meeting. It was also agreed that the meeting be advertised on the Parish Council notice board, website, Facebook and Cllr Collum's notice boards.

It was RESOLVED that Cllr Galley be invited to attend the meeting and that the meeting be widely advertised on notice boards and social media sites.

Note: Councillor A Shaw arrived at the meeting at 7.05pm following the discussion of the above item.

22/28. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Councillors discussed the date on which to hold the Annual Parish Meeting. It was confirmed that the preferred dates were Tuesday 17th or Thursday 19th May 2022 dependent on the availability of the Village Hall or Church. The possibility of a speaker was discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk contact the Wealden Neighbourhood Policing Team to see if they would be available to attend following their request in December.

It was RESOLVED that the Annual Parish Meeting be held on Tuesday 17 or Thursday 19 May 2022 and that a speaker be invited to the event.

22/29. WORKING GROUPS AND COMMITTEES

Parking Working Group: It was agreed that ESCC would be asked at the SLR meeting what data was required to be collected in respect of the parking issues in the village. Following an issue raised Councillors discussed whether any contact should be made to the businesses on the High Street in respect of their items blocking the pavement/road. It was agreed that there should be no action taken at this time.

It was RESOLVED that the issue of data collection be raised at the SLR meeting

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Note: Councillor Galley arrived at the meeting at 7.20pm during discussion of the above item.

22/30. MATTERS ARISING

SLR Meetings: It was noted that any items to be raised at the SLR meeting had to be sent to ESCC 2 weeks prior to the meeting in order that officers can look into the issues before the meeting.

22/31. REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Councillor Galley gave the following update at the meeting:

Council Tax – ESCC would be meeting the following day and the recommendation was to increase Council Tax by 4.5% (2% basic tax and 2.5% the adult care precept); Wealden DC rate would increase by £5 for a Band D property; Sussex Police precept was £10 (the maximum possible) and the Fire Authority increase would be 1.99%.

Local Plan – the latest position is that the Council is waiting for further guidance from Government following the meeting with Michael Gove MP. With regards to the SHELAAs it was noted that there had been a delay in publishing the data due to waiting for the further guidance which it was hoped would lead to a reduced housing allocation for the District and therefore, reduce the number of SHELAA sites required. It was agreed that, despite this update, the Extraordinary meeting still go ahead.

Broadband Improvements – It was queried as to the current status regarding the broadband improvements. Cllr Galley would check the latest information and let councillors know – he believed there had been a delay in the contract.

Road Improvements – ESCC has included a one-off spend of £5.8m with £3.1m for the next few years in its budget for roads. Cllr Galley stated that he had identified a number of local roads that were in desperate need of refurbishment and would be looking at these with Highways officers very soon.

22/32. FLAGPOLE

Cllr Kerwood reported that he had contacted a supplier in respect of a flagpole and that there were two options – a carbon fibre pole with internal strings that was set on a base plate and was removable or an aluminium pole with external strings that was concreted into the ground. It was agreed that the carbon fibre pole was the preferred option. The siting of the flagpole would be on ESCC Highways land on the corner of Cherry Tree Cottages. Cllr Kerwood to produce a costings report in order that a decision could be made at the next meeting.

It was RESOLVED that Cllr Kerwood produce a costings report for a flagpole for the next meeting.

22/33. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- i. Litter on Goldbridge Road – it was noted that there were still no litter bins on Goldbridge road. The Clerk to contact the Waste Manager at Wealden District Council to ask for an update on the situation.
- ii. OFCOM Postal Regulation Consultation – Councillors noted the NALC Policy Consultation document but felt no further action was needed.
- iii. Drainage Works Outside Church Farm, Fletching – the notification from ESCC Highways was noted.
- iv. Fletching Village Hall Garage Repairs – the email correspondence copied into the Chairman regarding the state of the garages was noted.
- v. South East Water: Have Your Say – the questionnaire was noted and councillors invited to complete it if they wished to.

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- vi. Ordnance Survey consultation – it was agreed that the Clerk would complete this on behalf of the Parish Council.

22/34. FINANCE

- i. The invoices and payments for February 2022 were AUTHORISED and the Council's current financial position and bank reconciliation were noted.
- ii. It was RESOLVED that Peter J Consultants be appointed as the Internal Auditor for the 2021/22 audit.
- iii. It was RESOLVED that Knill James be appointed as the new payroll provider from 1 April 2022.
- iv. The Council RESOLVED to purchase Scribe Accounts as a finance system for the Parish Council.
- v. The removal of moles in the Burial Ground was discussed and one quote considered. It was agreed that Cllr Hannay, with the assistance of Cllr Collum, seek a further quote.

22/35. POLICIES

It was RESOLVED that the following policies be re-adopted:

- i. Filming and Recording at Meetings
- ii. Press and Media Policy
- iii. FPC Privacy Notice

22/36. BURIAL GROUND

It was noted that there had been no applications for purchasing plots.

An interment had taken place on 1st February 2022.

22/37. PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

Flitteridge Farm: Concern was raised in respect of the number of static caravans in the field opposite Flitteridge Farm in Daleham Lane. It was also reported that there was raw sewage running down a gully by the side of the road. It was AGREED that the Clerk contact Planning Enforcement at Wealden District Council and the Rother/Wealden Environmental Health department to report the concerns.

22/38. PLANNING APPLICATIONS - RECEIVED

It was RESOLVED to make the comments as set out after each application in respect of the following:

- i. **WD/2021/2814/F and WD/2021/2815/LB 1 Corner Cottages, High Street, Fletching TN22 3SS**
Proposed single storey rear extension to replace the existing conservatory, alterations to the ground floor of the existing 2 storey rear extension to include new casement windows and part glazed door and alterations to the existing brick outbuilding to the rear garden.

The property is listed Grade 2 and lies within the village Conservation Area. The description in the listing (No 1 is part of a group listing) is:

"FLETCHING HIGH STREET 1. 5208 (west side) Corner Cottages TQ 4223 41/743 (Nos 1, 2, 3 and 4) II GV 2. Circa 1900. Two storeys and attic. Six windows. Ground floor ashlar, above timbered with plaster infilling. Wide eaves with large gable at south end containing 2 attic windows. Two gabled dormers of 2 windows each. Tiled roof. Casement window. Two curved bays on ground floor. Included for group value."

There is a two-storey extension at the rear of the property, thought to date from the 1960s. To the rear of that is a modern conservatory of particularly unattractive design. The alterations being

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proposed relate to this rear extension and do not directly affect the original main house. The ground floor of the rear extension as is, is not sympathetic to the original design; the alterations proposed have been designed so that the extension will be more in keeping and remain subservient to the main side elevation. A single storey masonry rear extension with a pitched roof will replace the modern conservatory. Minor amendments to an outbuilding are also proposed.

In our view, the works being proposed are a significant improvement on what is there now and much more in keeping with the original design. The only slight reservation is the three panel glass door at the rear of the new extension; a reduction in the glassed area would be an improvement. However, overall, we would be happy to SUPPORT these applications.

ii. **WD/2021/2994/F and WD/2021/2995/LB Pound Farm, Sheffield Green, Sheffield Park TN22 3RB**

Proposed new first floor, pitched roofs, windows, external doors, and cladding to replace existing flat roof out building.

The property is in the curtilage of a grade 2 listed detached residential property. There are several existing outbuildings. This application relates to a recently constructed building for domestic purposes which currently has a flat roof. The application is for a replacement pitched roof with clay tiles to tie in with the existing pitched roofs. In accordance with DC 19 (3) it will not visually dominate the existing buildings and as it is using clay tiles will match the original roofs in order to maintain visual integrity. It will be lower than the main house but a similar height to another outbuilding. Therefore, we would recommend APPROVAL.

iii. **WD/2022/0110/OH Bull Cottage, Ketches Lane, Sheffield Park TN22 3RY**

(1) Install stay wire on pole 260937. (2) Install 2 x stays on pole 240555. (3) remove poles 240556, 240557, associated stays and overhead lines.

The proposal is to put cables from two poles on Ketches Lane underground to enhance the skyline. There are two poles further from Bull Cottage which will be strengthened. The new poles will be much less visible so we would recommend APPROVAL.

22/39. PLANNING APPLICATIONS - DECISIONS

Planning decisions RECEIVED from Wealden District Council since the last meeting:

Applications Approved

i. **WD/2021/2892/LB Clinton Lodge, High Street, Fletching TN22 3ST**

The removal of a modern timber stud and plasterboard wall linings to first floor landing and replacement by lime plaster. Removal of redundant skylight above landing. (APPROVED 17/01/22)

ii. **WD/2021/2433/F and WD/2021/2577/LB Black Ven Farm, Down Street, Nutley TN22 3EH**

Proposed repair/reinstatement, existing defective boundary wall to listed farmhouse. (APPROVED 01/02/22)

iii. **WD/2021/2964/F Mill House, Mill Lane, Fletching TN22 3PX**

Additional residential use within the approved ancillary accommodation. (APPROVED 02/02/22)

Applications Withdrawn

i. **WD/2021/2586/F Unit 4, No 1 Vigoes Cottage, Sheffield Green, Sheffield Park TN22 3RB**

Change of use of one existing holiday accommodation unit to caretaker/office/cleaner live-in accommodation (unrestricted). (WITHDRAWN 19/01/22)

22/40. PLANNING APPLICATIONS – APPEALS

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Planning Appeals made to the Planning Inspectorate since the last meeting:

WD/2020/1902/F - Beeches Farm, Beeches Farm Road, Buckham Hill, Isfield, TN22 5QD (APP/C1435/W/21/3282920) 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.

The Parish Council had no comment to make on the above appeal as the application was outside of the Parish.

22/41. PLANNING PROTOCOL

The Clerk reported that the Planning Protocol had been updated to include reference to pre-application requests and clarification on planning applications made by members of the Parish Council. Councillors agreed that the changes clarified the Council's position on those issues.

It was RESOLVED that the amended Planning Protocol be adopted.

22/42. QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

Updates on the current position of the events planned for the Jubilee was noted as follows:

- Beacon Lighting - Thursday 2 June at 9.45pm as part of national event – Cllr Hannay has arranged for a bugler, pipers and the Chromatics Choir to attend the event as suggested in the Guide to Taking Part in the Platinum Jubilee Beacons.
- Music and Fireworks - Sunday 5 June 2022 evening – at present it had not been possible to book any music.
- Commemorative Tree – it was noted that a resident had purchased a tree that could be planted at Splaynes Green. It was agreed that further information in respect of the tree was required which the Chairman would circulate. It was further agreed that the Chairman would contact the residents at Splaynes Green to ask for any comments prior to any tree being planted. The Clerk to investigate obtaining a plaque like the one next to the Jubilee tree on the Recreation Ground.

Note: Councillor Galley left the meeting at 8.30pm during the discussion of the above item.

22/43. LAND REGISTRATION

No further updates had been received.

22/44. FINGERPOSTS

The Clerk confirmed that she had contacted ESCC and it was possible to make one further match-funding application in this financial year – in total two applications per financial year were allowed.

It was AGREED that the Clerk contact JAKK to ascertain the likely dates for the installation of the remaining fingerposts in order that the match-funding applications can be made.

22/45. PUMP HOUSE

It was noted that the grant application to the National Lottery had not been successful and that Cllr Minch had not been able to obtain any funding from other sources. Councillors agreed that the project should go-ahead and be funded from the allocated reserves. The Clerk to contact the appointed company to agree a date for the works to start.

It was RESOLVED that the works on the Pump House go ahead and be funded from the allocated reserves.

22/46. SPLAYNES GREEN PHONE BOX

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There was no further information in respect of the parishioner who had offered to help fund the replacement door so it was agreed that Cllr Constantinou request a quote from JAKK for a replacement door in order that a decision could be made at the next meeting.

It was RESOLVED that a quote be requested from JAKK for a new door in time for the next meeting.

22/47. ITEMS FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE

It was AGREED that the following articles be submitted by the Clerk for the next edition of the Parish Magazine:

- Pump House repairs
- Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations – Beacon lighting

22/48. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

It was requested that if any Councillor has an item for the next meeting to let the Clerk know.

22/49. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meetings are due to be held on:

Wednesday 23 February 2022 at 7pm in Fletching Parish Church – Extraordinary Meeting

Monday 7th March 2022 at 7pm in the Village Hall.