

FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Gabriella Paterson-Griggs

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MINUTES of a meeting of **FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL** held on Monday 4th April 2022 in the Village Hall, High Street, Fletching (7 - 8.30pm).

PRESENT: Councillors C Rothery (Chairman), R Borton, N Collum, D Greenish, R Hannay, and A Shaw.

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

Members of the Public in Attendance: 2

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from Councillors W Constantinou, D Kerwood and K Minch

22/76. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Minute 22/87vi - Councillor Collum as owner of the land adjoining the application site, Stroods, Mill Lane.

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

22/77. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 7th March 2022 were a correct record and were duly signed by the Chair.

22/78. MATTERS ARISING

There were none

22/79. REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Councillor Galley gave an update on the following items:

Local Plan – there was no change as the Council was still waiting for the Government to make an announcement in respect of a revised housing target. It was noted that this had been reported at the Cluster Group meeting held that morning that the Chair had attended.

EV Rollout – Wealden District Council was working on the roll-out plan for EV car charging points and it was reported that Fletching Car Park may be one chosen to have one installed.

Parking in Fletching – the next steps were discussed and Cllr Galley suggested that he request a senior officer from ESCC visit the village at a time when the parking was at its worst. Councillors welcomed the suggestion and stated that the best time for them to visit would be a Friday night or the weekend. It was reported that at the parking working group there had been support for double yellow lines as it was recognised that they would be the best solution. It was confirmed that in the knowledge of those that had been on the Parish Council previously that double yellow lines had never been approved by ESCC.

SHELAA – in response to a query, Cllr Galley explained that the SHELAA sites would be consulted on as part of the whole Local Plan consultation not in isolation.

Broadband in Piltdown – Cllr Galley was not able to confirm whether the date for the rollout had been brought forward given that Open Reach had completed the necessary infrastructure. However, it was confirmed that the next stage was for BT to connect the houses to that infrastructure.

Note: Councillor A Shaw arrived at the meeting at 7.08pm during the discussion of the above item.

22/80. WORKING GROUPS AND COMMITTEES

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SLR: It was noted that the Clerk was still awaiting confirmation of a meeting date from ESCC. Cllr Galley stated that he had not been contacted as yet with a date by ESCC. The Clerk to follow up.

Ukrainian Refugee Crisis – Cllr Rothery gave an update on a meeting of a support group that he had set up. The Group's members were Cllr Minch (Parish Council), Rev David Knight, Cllr Peter Roundell (PRA) and Gemma White (Fletching School). At the meeting it had been agreed that those in the parish who offered to take in families were put in touch with Cllr Toby Illingworth (WDC Cllr for Buxted) who had set up a project in Buxted and would be travelling to Poland to help match up families with refugees wanting to come to the UK.

22/81. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- i. *Ashdown Forest Parish Liaison Meetings* – a request had been received from the Ashdown Forest Conservators for a representative from the Parish Council to be on the Ashdown Forest Parish Liaison Group. It was noted that Cllr Minch had expressed an interest in being the Parish's representative.
- ii. It was RESOLVED that Cllr Kate Minch be the Parish Council representative on the Ashdown Forest Parish Liaison Group
- iii. *Speed Data Monitoring* – the request sent to all parish councils in East Sussex by Firle Parish Council in respect of jointly purchasing a TrafficRadar speed monitoring unit was discussed. It was agreed in principle, particularly as it had already been agreed to undertake a speed survey later in the year outside the school. The Clerk to reply to Firle to ascertain the number of parish councils that had expressed an interest as it was felt that, to be cost effective, four parishes as a minimum would need to be involved.
- iv. NALC – the letter from NALC requesting any items pertinent to a small parish council for its meeting was considered. It was agreed that the items to be raised were parking issues in village high streets and neighbourhood plans in small council areas. The Clerk to respond to NALC accordingly.

22/82. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting being held on Tuesday 17th May 2022 in the Village Hall start at 7pm and the items to be reported on as follows:

- Policing – Matt Jarvis, PCSO
- School Update – Cllr Hannay
- Chair's Parish Council Annual Report – Cllr Rothery
- Parking Update – Cllr Borton
- SHELAA, Local Plan, EV etc – Cllr Galley

22/83. FINANCE AND HR

- i. The invoices and payments for APRIL 2022 were AUTHORISED and the Council's current financial position and bank reconciliation were noted.
- ii. The provisional outturn for 2021/22 was noted.
- iii. The Clerk explained that there were five bank accounts set up for the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Festival current account be closed and the balance be transferred to the main parish council account. The Clerk to explore further the history behind the setting up of the Maryon-Wilson and War Memorial accounts.

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- iv. It was RESOLVED that the Festival Account be closed and the remaining funds transferred to the Parish Council current account.
- v. It was agreed that the Clerks performance review would take place at the close of the 9 May 2022 meeting.

22/84. POLICIES

It was RESOLVED to approve the following Policies:

- i. Complaints Policy
- ii. Grievance Policy
- iii. Sickness and Absence Policy

22/85. BURIAL GROUND

It was noted that there had been no applications received since the last meeting.

Moles – it was reported that there had been approximately 9 moles removed from the Burial Ground.

22/86. PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

Flitteridge Farm: The Clerk gave an update received from WDC Planning Enforcement. It was noted that there were still outstanding planning issues that WDC had requested the owner to address and if applications were not forthcoming then formal enforcement action may be pursued.

In respect of the pollution issue it was noted that the Clerk was awaiting an update from Environmental Health.

22/87. PLANNING APPLICATIONS - RECEIVED

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

- i. **WD/2021/1959/F Millstones & Millstones Cottage, Batts Bridge Road, Piltdown TN22 3XR**
Millstones: Change of use of land to residential. Demolition of the front dining room. Single storey rear extension. Conversion of existing garage into habitable room. Addition of new car port with home office above. Re-landscaping to create safer access and driveway. New gated entrance. New acoustic boundary fence and provision of new swimming pool. Millstones Cottage: proposed brick wall, re-landscaping and boundary fence.
The four-car port garage with a home office over is considered overdevelopment on a greenfield site and therefore, the Parish Council OBJECTS to the associated change of use of an agricultural field to residential land. The proposed extension to the house is also out of keeping with the surrounding area and the Parish Council OBJECTS to that part of the application. There is no objection to the proposed swimming pool.
- ii. **WD/2021/3026/F The Oaks, Batts Bridge Road, Piltdown**
Demolition of existing garage and side extension. Ground and first floor side extension. Rear facing balcony. Internal alterations. New oak framed garage and secure store. Improvements to on site parking.
The extension is about 1/3 of the size of the existing building but does not overbear the existing building. The improvements to the exterior would improve the look of the house. The 3 bay garage is located close to the house. A tree survey highlights a number of significant trees that need protecting while the works are underway. The Parish Council SUPPORTS the application.
- iii. **WD/2022/0114/F Meadow Croft, Barkham Lane, Piltdown TN22 3XE**

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Alterations and construction of timber framed garage, store and log store.

It is noted that the new garage/log store building is near a pond where greater crested newts may reside. However, Natural England has not objected to the new building but provided advice on how the habitat needs to be protected while the works are undertaken. The Parish Council SUPPORTS this application.

iv. **WD/2022/0157/F Denniker Cottage, Ruston Bridge Road, Fletching TN22 3SH**

Extensions and alterations to upper floor of garage building (previously approved under planning permissions WD/2009/0748 & WD/2016/1549).

There are alterations to the roof space converting a playroom to a bedroom and putting a bathroom in the roof. There is some concern that the side facing towards Newick appears to use quite a bit of glass at the first-floor level. The side with the glass faces towards the South and the glass may reflect as the sun goes round. The only other caveat as this building is converted from a garage/ annexe to separate living accommodation is that this remains tied to Denniker Cottage and cannot be sold as a separate property. The Parish Council SUPPORTS this application.

v. **WD/2022/0335/F Flitteridge Farm, Daleham Lane, Fletching TN22 3TQ**

Extension of existing commercial building together with the associated provision of vehicular parking and landscaping.

This is an increase of 50% of the current commercial area that were previously farm buildings, a very significant increase. The statement implies the increase is to meet the needs of current businesses and will not lead to an increase in traffic. There is no guarantee the current business will be there indefinitely and if other businesses do move in in time, there could be a significant increase in traffic journeys. There is a plan for 22 parking places. The access to Flitteridge Farm primarily comes from Splaynes Green; this is an extremely dangerous junction. The access from Down Street is narrow and very difficult to pass on and any increased traffic flow should not be encouraged. The applicant implied the application would lead to a significant clean-up of the area around the existing area, this would be a major benefit but we have been waiting for this for a while. It was noted that the dirty lagoon has now been filled in. The Parish Council OBJECTS to this planning application.

vi. **WD/2022/0369/F Stroods, Mill Lane, Fletching TN22 3SR**

Internal and external works including two-storey extension, single storey extension and pool.

Stroods is the conservation area of the village. The extension is not excessive and is largely in keeping with the existing house which is not a listed building. Stroods is not overlooked by other properties and is well protected from Mill Lane. The Parish Council SUPPORTS the application.

22/88. PLANNING APPLICATIONS - DECISIONS

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

Applications Approved

WD/2021/2994/F & 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 of outbuildings. (APPROVED – 8 March 2022)

Applications Refused

WD/2022/0019/F Upper Field Little Barkham Farm, Goldbridge Road, Piltdown TN22 3XL

Construction of two detached four-bedroom and two semi-detached three-bedroom dwellings with associated works. (REFUSED – 29 March 2022)

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22/89. THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

- i. *Commemorative Plaques for the Trees* – it was agreed that the Queen's Green Canopy template be used for the plaques and the Clerk to obtain quotes for different options for the Council to consider. It was noted that the trees had been plotted on the Queen's Green Canopy website.
- ii. *Street Party and Fireworks* – it was noted that the street closure application had been made to Wealden District Council for the hours 10am to 10pm and that the assumption had been made that parking would be available at Atheralls Farm and Church Farm as had previously been the case when the road was closed. The Clerk further reported that she had met with the owner of The Griffin who would investigate whether a jazz trio (or similar) could be found to perform at the time of the Street Party.

Cllr Hannay confirmed that the fireworks had been booked for the Sunday evening and would be taking place in Atheralls Farm with access via Cherry Gardens. The optimum time for the fireworks was noted to be 10.10pm. It was agreed that a quote be obtained for the fireworks to be set to music. The Clerk to notify the Council's insurance company that the event is taking place.

22/90. LAND REGISTRATION

Burial Ground – The Clerk reported that the solicitor was still waiting for a signed letter from the Bishop which was due to be received in the next three weeks. The applications would then be made.

Splaynes Green – information was still awaited from the solicitor.

22/91. FLAGPOLE

In the absence of Cllr Kerwood this item was deferred to the next meeting.

No further updates had been received.

22/92. PUMP HOUSE

Councillors noted that work had commenced on the pump house restoration and another meeting was taking place with the contractor to discuss the best way to support the floor.

22/93. SPLAYNES GREEN PHONE BOX

It was noted that one quote had been received for a replacement door but that a second quote was still awaited. The Clerk to chase JAKKs.

22/94. 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:

- Annual Parish Meeting
- Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations – Street Party and Fireworks

22/95. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

It was noted that Cllr Rothery and Cllr Borton would not be able to attend the next meeting.

22/96. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is due to be held on:

Monday 9th May 2022 at 7pm in the Village Hall.