

# FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Liz Bennett

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The minutes of the meeting of Fletching Parish Council to be held at Fletching Village Hall on **Monday 6th November 2017 at 7pm.**

Item	Description	Responsible
1.	<b>Members present:</b> Cllr P. Roundell (Chairman), Cllr B. Dickens, Cllr S. Sainsbury, Cllr C. Rothery, Cllr N. Collum, Cllr S. Bone, Cllr T. Elbrick, Cllr M. McGowan <b>Also present:</b> Liz Bennett (Clerk), County Councillor Roy Galley, Nicola Bennett and Peter Suter from Uckfield FM and 6 members of the public.	
2.	<b>Apologies for absence.</b> Apologies were accepted from Cllr D. Kerwood.	
3.	<b>Declarations of interest.</b> Cllr B. Dickens declared a personal interest in agenda item 17 because his grandson occasionally works for one of the contractors. Cllr N. Collum declared a prejudicial interest in planning application WD/2017/1485/F because she is the owner of the house. The decision on this application had been delegated to two other Councillors and Cllr Collum took no part in the decision.	
4.	<b>Questions from the public.</b> <b>Uckfield FM.</b> Nicola Bennett and Peter Suter provided information about Uckfield FM, which is a community radio station broadcasting to Uckfield and surrounding villages. It provides a focal point for local news and events and broadcasts 24 hours a day all year round. They are regulated by OFCOM and the terms of their license means that they can only raise 50% of their revenues from advertising. They rely on donations, grants, fundraising and events for the balance.  Councillors asked questions and the following points were clarified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The budget is £85-£90k per year and they don't normally make a profit.</li><li>- They do not know how many listeners they have but believe that they are the third most listened to station in Uckfield.</li><li>- They are asked to attend a lot of community events but are unable to attend them all. The Parish Council was disappointed that they did not attend the Fletching Festival last year.</li><li>- Grants would be used to cover general running costs and the purchase of new equipment that would facilitate outside broadcasts and make it easier for them to attend community events.</li></ul> The Parish Council explained that they do not give grants for running costs, only specific projects. The Chairman thanked them for attending.  <b>Rose and Crown.</b> Andrew Noble explained that a community group has been in contact with an operator and they have made an offer to the owners of the	

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	pub. They are waiting for the outcome of this.	
5.	<p><b>Disposal of Rose and Crown public house.</b>  Tristan Elbrick explained that he occupies the house next to the Rose and Crown but that he is a tenant and that he does not believe he has a conflict of interest. However, he took no part in the discussion.</p> <p>The Rose and Crown has been listed as an Asset of Community Value and Wealden have now received notice to dispose of the pub. Community interest groups have 6 weeks from the date of notice to express an interest. This period ends on 14<sup>th</sup> November. If an interest is expressed, then the moratorium period is extended to six months ending on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2018. It was <b>resolved</b> that the Parish Council will write to Wealden, on behalf of the community, to ask for the moratorium period to be extended. This will give the community group time to be properly constituted to make the formal offer.</p>	Clerk
6.	<p><b>Report from County and District Councillors.</b>  Roy Galley reported that East Sussex County Council are considering ways to save money because the revenue support grant from central Government continues to reduce.</p> <p>Fibre broadband is available in Fletching High Street but residents need to contact their provider to get connected to it. BT appear to be installing it in other parts of the parish.</p> <p>At Wealden District Council, the latest research confirms that the emissions damage to the Ashdown Forest is worse than had been thought. The implications for the Local Plan are being examined.</p> <p>Wealden DC are considering charging for removal of garden waste. Councillors thought that this might lead to an increase in fly tipping.</p> <p>Wealden DC are also considering how to address parking issues. The police do not enforce parking restrictions because of a lack of resources.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Minutes of the meetings held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017.</b>  It was <b>resolved</b> to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017 as a true record and they were signed by the Chairman.</p>	
8.	<p><b>Security issues in the parish.</b>  Following several burglaries and incidents in the parish, Piltdown Neighbourhood Watch are facilitating a public meeting on Thursday which will be attended by Inspector Ripley and two security firms, who will be offering advice on improving security.</p>	
9.	<p><b>Phone box at Splaynes Green.</b>  The phone box was adopted by the Community Heartbeat trust but it is now in very poor condition. The Clerk was asked to write to them to ask if they will maintain it and if they have any plans to use it.</p>	Clerk
10.	<p><b>Planning applications.</b>  <b>To note comments made to Wealden District Council, under delegated authority, in respect of the following applications:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- WD/2017/2231/F Goldstrow Farm, Goldbridge Road, Piltdown. New garage with garden machinery store and workshop. The Parish Council do not object to this application but felt that it is large compared to the house. They would also like to ensure that the new building is tied to the existing house.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- WD/2017/1485/F East Park Farm House, High Street, Fletching. Roofing of livestock gathering/feeding area to cover existing feeding yard. No objection.</li> </ul> <p><b>To consider the following planning applications and any others received prior to the meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- WD/2017/2239/LB Fermoys, High Street, Fletching. Infilling of garage side window. It was <b>resolved</b> to recommend this application for approval.</li> <li>- WD/2017/2310/F Snatts Cottage, Ruston Bridge Road, Fletching. Part single, part two storey rear extension and associated roof and internal alterations. It was <b>resolved</b> to recommend this application for approval.</li> <li>- WD/2017/2257/F Chapel Cottage, Shortbridge Road, Piltdown. Replace existing brick outbuilding with timber frame annexe. It was <b>resolved</b> to recommend this application for approval.</li> </ul>	
11.	<p><b>To note the following planning decisions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- WD/2017/1431/F Splaynes Green Farm, North Hall Lane, Fletching. Demolition of the existing farmhouse building and the erection of a replacement dwelling and garage. Demolition of existing dilapidated sheds and associated poultry farm buildings with the erection of a two storey dwelling and garage in their place. Approved.</li> </ul> <p>WD/2017/1944/FA Removal of condition 1 of T/53/10793A (Demolition of derelict cottages and erection of one cottage). Dormers, Sharpsbridge Lane, Piltdown. Approved.</p>	
12.	<p><b>To consider grant requests from:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Fletching School to assist with costs associated with opening a pre-school.</b> The Parish Council are keen to support this project because they believe that it will help to make the school more sustainable. It was <b>resolved</b> to make a £1000 grant, subject to a positive consultation outcome with East Sussex County Council.</li> <li>- <b>Uckfield FM</b> Uckfield FM will be asked to report on the outcome of their visits to other parishes and to complete a grant application form for consideration by the Parish Council.</li> </ul>	Clerk
13.	<p><b>Post box on Shortbridge Road.</b></p> <p>Cllr Sainsbury, Cllr Bone and the Clerk met with a representative from the Post Office to discuss moving the post box on Shortbridge Road to the verge by the Peacock car park. It was thought that this location might be safer for users. The Post Office confirmed that the post box could be moved at a cost of £500. However, on further consideration, it is thought that the new location could be more dangerous because people will be tempted to pull in on the verge, which is on a corner, rather than use the car park. The local postman has also suggested that the post box is not used very much. The Post Office will be asked to monitor the use of the post box for a month, because it was felt that removing the post box altogether might be the safest option.</p>	Clerk
14.	<p><b>Wealden Parish Remuneration Panel on the level of Councillor Allowances.</b></p> <p>The Parish Council is happy with the level of allowances recommended in previous years and would be content with an inflation linked rise.</p>	
15.	<p><b>Asset register.</b></p> <p>The revised asset register was circulated prior to the meeting. Several items have been added to it and some of these need to be added to the Parish</p>	Clerk

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	Council insurance. The Clerk is still waiting for clarification on a couple of items, but in the meantime, it was <b>resolved</b> to accept this as the new version of the asset register.	
16.	<b>Parish Council archives.</b> East Sussex County archives at The Keep in Brighton, maintain the archives for all East Sussex Parish Councils, including all minute books. They have no records at all for Fletching Parish Council. The Council are unable to assist and do not have any of these records. The Clerk will ensure that all minute books will be sent to The Keep in future.	Clerk
17.	<b>Burial Ground Maintenance:</b> - <b>3-year grass cutting contract from March 2018.</b> The quotes received are widely spread and there was concern that the cheapest contractor may not be able to provide a quality service at that price. The Clerk was asked to obtain some references before the next meeting.  - <b>Regeneration of the Yew hedge in the burial ground.</b> Brook Hart was appointed as the contractor for this work.  - <b>Replacement gates at the Cherry Cottages entrance to the burial ground.</b> Only two quotes have been received so far. Cllr Sainsbury agreed to provide details of another potential contractor.	
18.	<b>Attendance at training/events.</b> Cllr Bone and Cllr Dickens will attend the Wealden Parish Conference 6 <sup>th</sup> December.  Cllr Rothery and Cllr Dickens will attend the Emergency Planning Conference on 21 <sup>st</sup> November.	
19.	<b>Administration.</b> - <b>Finances.</b> The Clerk distributed the financial report showing the payments for approval, receipts in October and the bank reconciliation. It was <b>resolved</b> to approve the payments and the report was signed by the Chairman and is attached to these minutes - <b>Memorial applications.</b> The memorial application for Susan Spencer was approved.	
20.	<b>Information for noting or including on a future agenda.</b> - <b>2018 meeting dates</b>	
21.	<b>Close of meeting</b>	
22.	<b>Date of next meeting.</b> - <b>4<sup>th</sup> December at Fletching Parish Church.</b>	

DRAFT MINUTES SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION.

## Fletching Parish Council Finances 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017

### Payments for approval

Ref	Method	To	For	Amount
53	BACS	Fletching PCC	Hire of church for meeting	10.00
54	Chq06	The Poppy Appeal	Poppy wreath	50.00
55	Chq 07	Nice N Tidy	Grass cutting	650.00
56	BACS	Elizabeth Bennett	Salary	493.80
57	BACS	East Sussex Pension Fund	Clerk's pension	177.05
58	BACS	Elizabeth Bennett	Expenses	49.64
59	BACS	Simon Young	Removal of cherry tree	375.00

### Receipts in October

From	For	Amount
Mr R. Kidd	Burial Plot	200.00

### Fletching Parish Council Bank Reconciliation 31st October 2017

Balance per bank statements as at 31st October 2017		Cashbook	
FPC Current Account	16530.54	Opening balance	30267.51
FPC Festival Account	24.97	Add receipts in year	31727.36
FPC Savings Account	31557.70	Less payments in year	-14262.04
FPC War Memorial Account	421.39		
FPC Maryon-Wilson Account	498.23		
Less unpresented cheques			
Nice N Tidy	-650		
Nice N Tidy	-650		
<b>Net Balance</b>	<b>47732.83</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>47732.83</b>

Signed by Chairman of PC meeting 6/11/2017