

FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: **Gabriella Paterson-Griggs**

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MINUTES of the Annual Meeting of **FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL** held on Monday 9th May 2022 in the Village Hall, High Street, Fletching (7 - 8.30pm).

PRESENT: Councillors D Greenish (Vice-Chairman), N Collum, R Hannay, K Minch and A Shaw.

Also in attendance: Gabriella Paterson-Griggs (Clerk and RFO).

Members of the Public in Attendance: 4

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Borton, W Constantinou, D Kerwood, C Rothery and R Galley (ESCC/WDC)

22/97. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor Greenish proposed and Councillor Minch seconded that Councillor Rothery be elected as Chairman of the Parish Council for the forthcoming year.

It was RESOLVED that Councillor Chris Rothery be elected Chairman of the Parish Council for the forthcoming year.

The Declaration of Office Form to be signed at the next meeting of the Parish Council as Councillor Rothery was not in attendance at the meeting.

22/98. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Councillor Collum proposed and Councillor Hannay seconded that Councillor Greenish be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Council for the forthcoming year.

It was RESOLVED that Councillor Damian Greenish be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council for the forthcoming year.

22/99. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Minute 22/100 – Councillor Greenish as the Parish Council representative on the FRGC and Councillor Hannay as a Governor of Fletching CE School.

In accordance with the FPC Code of Conduct, the councillors participated in the discussion but did not vote on the matter.

Minute 22/113iii - 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 matter.

22/100. GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Parish Council considered the following grant applications:

- i. Fletching Primary School – Smart Touchscreen Board £1500* – Gemma White, the Headteacher of the school explained that the application had been made as the school was creating a new classroom for the year 3 / 4 class and that the current board no longer worked. She gave examples of how the board could help the children's education and learning. She also thanked the Parish Council for its previous grants and confirmed that the school makes grants requests to a number of other external bodies not just the parish council.
- ii. Fletching Recreation Ground Charity – Defibrillator £650* – John Shaw, the treasurer of the FRGC explained that the football club had tried unsuccessfully to obtain a defibrillator for the pavilion at the recreation ground. He stated that the device would be mounted on the wall of the pavilion so that it would be able to be used by anyone. There would be an electrical connection

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required and the maintenance requirements were replacing the battery at the appropriate time along with the pads.

The Councillors discussed both applications and agreed that they would like to support both applications but had reservations about spending the entire grant allocation so early in the financial year. It was agreed that the grant funding should not be more than one third of the budget at this time.

It was AGREED that Councillor Shaw would investigate the balance of the £10k grant previously allocated to the school and what funding could be made available for the FRGC given the Section 137 underspend on the recreation ground in the last financial year.

22/101. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 4th April 2022 were a correct record and were duly signed by the Chair.

22/102. MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk updated on the Speed Data Monitoring in respect of jointly purchasing a TrafficRadar speed monitoring unit with Firle Parish Council. It was noted that Firle was still to make a decision and would be discussing the issue further at its next meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Firle to ensure that if the unit was purchased that Fletching would be able to use it for the previously agreed speed monitoring survey to be carried out in Church Street by the school.

22/103. REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Councillor Galley was not able to attend the meeting so no report was given.

22/104. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The draft agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting was noted. It was reported that Councillor Rothery would be putting together the presentation and that updates would be given at the meeting on parking and the school.

Cllr Minch fed back from a recent meeting she had attended that the CEO of Ashdown Forest would be available to attend a future meeting of the Parish Council to explain about the car parking charges to be implemented on the Forest.

22/105. COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE, WORKING GROUPS AND COMMITTEES

- i. The Councillor attendance record of Parish Council meetings 2021-22 was noted.
- ii. The proposed appointments of members to the various groups and individual councillor responsibilities were APPROVED as set out below:

Area of Responsibility	Councillor
Community Safety	Cllr Kate Minch Cllr Richard Hannay
Finance	Cllr Andrew Shaw
Green Spaces (incl. Burial Ground)	Cllr Richard Hannay
Health and Community Services	Cllr Ross Borton Cllr Dan Kerwood Cllr Kate Minch
Highways	Cllr Wes Constantinou
Land Registration	Cllr Damian Greenish
Parish in Bloom	Cllr Kate Minch
Planning	Cllr Noel Collum

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	Cllr Damian Greenish Cllr Chris Rothery Cllr Wes Constantinou
Staffing	Cllr Andrew Shaw Cllr Richard Hannay
Working Groups	
Parking Working Group	Cllr Ross Borton Cllr Wes Constantinou
External Bodies	
Ashdown Forest Conservators Parish Liaison Group	Cllr Kate Minch
Community Safety Action Group (Uckfield Cluster)	Cllr Kate Minch
Fletching Recreation Ground Committee	Cllr Damian Greenish Cllr Dan Kerwood Cllr Chris Rothery
Fletching School Liaison	Cllr Richard Hannay
Fletching Ukranian Support Group	Cllr Kate Minch
Fletching Village Hall	Cllr Dan Kerwood
Leches and Smith Charity	Cllr Andrew Shaw
Wealden District Association of Local Councils (WDALC)	Cllr Chris Rothery
Wealden Parish Cluster Group (Central West)	Cllr Chris Rothery

22/106. STANDING ORDERS, REGULATIONS AND POLICIES

It was RESOLVED to adopt the following:

- i. Standing Orders 2022
- ii. Financial Regulations 2022
- iii. Code of Conduct 2022
- iv. Freedom of Information Policy 2022
- v. Freedom of Information Scheme
- vi. Data Retention Policy

22/107. GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCY

The Clerk confirmed the eligibility of the Council with regards to meeting the criteria for the exercise of the General Power of Competence.

22/108. INSURANCE COVER

The Clerk reported that the renewal had not yet been received for the insurance policies but was expected imminently and the details would be reported to the next meeting which was due to be held before the policy renewal date.

22/109. FINANCE AND ASSETS

- i. The Asset Register for Fletching Parish Council was AGREED subject to any amendments/additions identified by Councillor Greenish and the Clerk following confirmation in respect of ownership of the replaced fingerposts and the phone box at Splaynes Green.
- ii. The Risk Assessment and Management Document for Fletching Parish Council was AGREED.

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- iii. The subscriptions and direct debits made to other bodies were AGREED.
- iv. The banking arrangements were confirmed for the forthcoming year. It was AGREED that Councillors Collum and Rothery continue as the authorised signatories for the bank accounts.
- v. The budget and precept for 2022/23 were noted. The additional income in respect of CIL monies was noted and it was agreed that this would be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.
- vi. Councillors confirmed whether they elected to receive all, part or waive all or part of their allowances for 2022/23.
- vii. The invoices and payments for May 2022 were AUTHORISED and the Council's current financial position and bank reconciliation were noted.

22/110. BURIAL GROUND

- i. The Burial Ground fees for 2022/23, as previously agreed, were noted.
- ii. The Burial Ground Regulations 2022 were APPROVED.
- iii. The Burial Ground Risk Assessment was APPROVED.
- iv. The request for a memorial stone for J Weller was APPROVED. The interment of cremated ashes into a pre-purchased plot was noted.
- v. It was queried when the yew hedge in the burial ground would be cut back. Councillor Hannay agreed to request a quote for the works and report back to the Council.

22/111. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

The Clerk reported that a High Weald AONB consultation had been received related to how the management plan 2019-24 was used by the Council. It was agreed that Councillor Collum would complete the questionnaire on behalf of the Parish Council.

22/112. PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

Flitteridge Farm: The Clerk gave an update received from WDC Planning Enforcement. It was noted that Wealden was waiting for the agents to update them on investigations they were undertaking.

In respect of the pollution issue it was noted that a meeting was due to be held with Councillor Constantinou, the Environment Agency and Wealden DC.

22/113. PLANNING APPLICATIONS - RECEIVED

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

i. **WD/2022/0347/F and WD/2022/0348/LB The Old Lodge, Mill Lane, Fletching TN22 3SR**

Conservation and upgrading of outbuilding (carpenters' workshop and storage shed), demolition of piggery with construction of swimming pool, garage with new access and associated works.

This is an application for work to outbuildings which do not hold great significance and are not of great age but they are in the curtilage of a grade 2 listed building which is of considerable historic interest and the property is within the Conservation Area. The outbuildings are at present unsafe, so the benefit of the proposed work outweighs any loss of original fabric. However, the surrounding grounds of the listed building may contain artifacts of historic interest so care should be taken to preserve these.

The proposed work to the carpenter's shop would ensure that it could be safe and its usefulness would enhance the practicality of the main house.

At present the house does not have adequate off-street parking so the new entrance and garage are necessary, however it is recommended that Highways is consulted on the proposed access

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off of Mill Lane to the new garage. The Parish Council notes that the building of the garage would entail the removal of a large tree, it would request that a replacement deciduous tree is planted elsewhere on the site to compensate.

The swimming pool cannot be overlooked. The Parish Council SUPPORTS this application.

Note: Councillor Rothery declared a personal interest in this application when visiting the site and in accordance with the FPC Code of Conduct participated in the prior discussion within the Working Group but did not vote.

ii. **WD/2022/0360/F - Little Moses, Batts Bridge Road, Piltdown TN22 3XL**

Proposed detached bungalow and garage.

This application is to replace a mobile with a permanent bungalow. Permission was granted for this in 2018 (WD/2018/0325/F) but it has lapsed. Therefore, the Parish Council SUPPORTS the application. However, it was noticed that the business of selling vehicles is run from the property with access straight onto the A272. The Parish Council is concerned about the traffic on a stretch of road where cars speeding is an issue and this may be a concern for Highways.

iii. **WD/2022/0555/LB Clinton Lodge, High Street, Fletching, TN22 3ST**

Removal and replacement of an area of lathe and plaster to the west wall of a new first floor bathroom.

The Parish Council had no comments on this application as it related to the internal structure of a listed building.

iv. **WD/2022/0707/F Neva House, Goldbridge Road, Piltdown TN22 3XL**

Extension and alterations to existing building to create a 1-bed residential unit, to include alterations to roof and external staircase, and a cycle and refuse store and associated parking.

It was noted that the comments on this application would be dealt with by delegation to the Planning Group for submission to Wealden by 30th May 2022.

22/114. PLANNING APPLICATIONS - DECISIONS

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

Applications Approved

i. **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 (APPROVED – 26 April 2022)

ii. **WD/2022/0114/F Meadow Croft, Barkham Lane, Piltdown TN22 3XE**

Alterations and construction of timber framed garage, store and log store. (APPROVED – 13 April 2022)

iii. **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). (APPROVED – 12 April 2022)

22/115. THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

- i. *Road Closure* – the Clerk reported that Wealden DC had responded to the application and requested the Council reconsider the length of road to be closed so that it ran from Atheralls Farm to the end of the High Street rather than including Church Street as well which would allow

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access for vehicles to Mill Lane. The Council agreed the suggestion put forward by Wealden DC and asked the Clerk to notify Wealden accordingly.

- ii. *Street Party and Fireworks* – it was noted that new bunting had been ordered for the High Street and that a request would be made to have the Village Hall accessible during the Street Party. Councillor Hannay confirmed that the fireworks had been moved to 10pm on Thursday 2nd June to tie in with the Beacon Lighting ceremony. The Parish Council thanked Councillor Collum for her generosity in offering to cover the cost of the firework display.
- iii. *Plaques for QGC trees* – the Clerk reported that she had not yet obtained the quotes for the plaques.

22/116. LAND REGISTRATION

The Clerk reported that the solicitor had not responded to a request for an update. This would be chased up and an update given at the next meeting.

22/117. FLAGPOLE

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

22/118. PUMP HOUSE

Councillors noted that work had been completed and were very pleased with it. It was agreed that a plaque should be purchased along with a small wooden bench and a small information board placed inside that detailed the history and restoration of the pump. It was also requested that Councillor Hannay contact the contractors to ensure the hedge and grass around the pump house was being cut.

The Parish Council thanked Councillor Minch for all her hard work in getting the renovation works completed.

22/119. SPLAYNES GREEN PHONE BOX

It was noted that nothing further had been received in respect of the phone box door. Concern was raised about the condition of the phone box and whether consideration should be given to having it moved elsewhere within the parish.

22/120. PARISH IN BLOOM

It was noted that the judging would take place on 16th June 2022. It was agreed that Councillor Hannay would liaise with Councillor Minch in respect of those gardens that were part of the garden trail that could be available for the judge to visit.

22/121. 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:

- Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations – Street Party and Fireworks
- Parish in Bloom
- Pump House renovation completed

22/122. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed that feedback would be given by those councillors who had attended external meetings on behalf of the Parish Council.

22/123. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is due to be held on:

Monday 6th June 2022 at 7pm in the Village Hall.