**FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL**

**Clerk: Liz Bennett**

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**Minutes of the meeting of Fletching Parish Council held at Fletching Parish Church at 7pm on Monday 7th November 2016.**

| **Item** | **Description** | **Responsible** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **42172** | **Members Present:** Councillors P. Roundell (Chairman), B. Dickens (Vice Chairman), S. Bone, T. Elbrick, Lady Collum, C. Rothery, D. Kerwood.  **Also Present:** Liz Bennett (Clerk), R. Galley (County and District Councillor), 6 members of the public. |  |
| **42173** | **Apologies for absence.** Apologies were accepted from Councillors S. Sainsbury and I. Setford. |  |
| **42174** | **Declarations of interest.** None received. |  |
| **42175** | **Questions from the public.** Rose and Crown. The Rose and Crown pub has received interest from developers but not enough interest from people wanting to run it as a pub. One member of the public asked if there might be interest in investing in the pub as a community asset. He was advised to talk to potential investors and the item will be added to the agenda of the next Parish Council meeting for further consideration.   Path at recreation ground. A request was made for the creation of a non-slip path at the recreation ground because the current one is very dangerous. The Chairman and Vice Chairman agreed to raise this at the Recreation Ground AGM on 8th November.  Monkey Puzzle trees. The trees at Monkey Puzzle corner came down in the Great Storm and several more were planted. Only one remains and this is potentially threatened by a new development site where the access will be very close to the tree and possibly encroaches on the common land. The Chairman asked for further details so that he can look into it. | Clerk  P. Roundell B. Dickens  P. Roundell |
| **42176** | **Reports of District and County Councillors.** Mr Galleyprovided a report on several issues including:   * Budget cuts are putting pressure on services at ESCC including Adult Social Care. A more integrated approach between the NHS and Social Care is being developed to help with cost savings. * The community match application form has changed and it will be necessary to re-submit the application for a 40mph limit at Sharpsbridge Road and Golf Club Lane. The Clerk was asked to put this item on the agenda of the next meeting and to request a copy of the new form. * Wealden are continuing with plans to create a housing company that will provide housing to meet the needs not met by commercial developers e.g. smaller units for sale or rental to the elderly and young people. * A planning application will be submitted shortly for a new crematorium south of Horam. * The Local Plan has been delayed because more work is needed on the evidence base relating to damage at the Ashdown Forest. * Mr Galley was asked if Highways have reduced their match funding to £100k. Mr Galley replied that it has always been £100k across all the parishes. Highways need to prioritise applications to ensure fair distribution of the money. * Mr Galley was asked about the court case for the development at Steel Cross. The application for up to 200 houses in the AONB was rejected by Wealden but the developer won on appeal. This was disputed and a court decision is expected soon. | R. Galley  P. Roundell  Clerk |
| **42177** | **The minutes of the meetings held on Monday 3rd October 2016 and Monday 24th October 2016.** It was **resolved** to accept the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meetings. The minutes were signed by the Chairman. |  |
| **42178** | **To consider the following planning applications and any others received prior to the meeting:**   1. WD/2016/2171/F for Star Cottage, Down Street, Piltdown. Erection of single storey side extension comprising new kitchen and living room with master bedroom and ensuite in roof space over. Includes demolition of redundant outbuildings/ stores and the replacement timber garage of two substandard garage buildings. It was **resolved** to recommend this application for approval with a recommendation that the hedge should be maintained so that only the original cottage is visible from the front. 2. WD/2016/1616/F for Black Ven Farm, Down Street, Nutley, TN22 3EH. Demolition of redundant pig rearing barn. Erection of replacement 2 bed dwelling and solar PV array. It was **resolved** to recommend this application for approval with a recommendation that new building is tied to the farm and that the existing stone wall is used in the building of the new dwelling. 3. WD/2016/2406/F Moses Farm Cottage, Goldbridge Road, Piltdown. Construction of a new double garage/outbuilding with office within the roof space. Sited adjacent to but separate from the existing dwelling along with new entrance wall and gates. It was **resolved** to recommend this application for approval with a recommendation that the new building should be tied to the existing cottage and must not be used for residential purposes. There was also concern that the footpath has become too narrow due to the construction of the wall. The applicant, who was present at the meeting, noted the concerns and confirmed that the footpath would be properly maintained. |  |
| **42179** | **Planning decisions.** The following decisions were noted:   1. WD/2016/1663/F Outdoor swimming pool and pump in existing garden. Pound Farm, Sheffield Green, Sheffield Park. Approved. 2. WD/2016/2003/F Farm machinery, feed and garden furniture store. Pound Farm, Sheffield Green, Sheffield Park. Approved. |  |
| **42180** | **Enforcement of WD/2016/1200/FR, Ruston Brook, Piltdown.** A condition of the permission granted was that the field gate should have been repositioned within one month. This has not happened. The Clerk has raised this with Planning Enforcement who are now in correspondence with the applicant. The applicant has asked for more time to complete the work. |  |
| **42181** | **Street cleaning and plastic notices.** The date for street cleaning has moved from 10th November to Tuesday 6th December. The Clerk has produced some laminated signs asking residents to move their cars on that date. The date on the signs can be amended by sticking over a new date with sellotape. |  |
| **42182** | **Work to reduce height of Yew trees in the burial ground.** It is proposed that the height of the yew trees in the burial ground is reduced to hedge height. The original plan had been to have the work done in stages, but the tree surgeon has advised it will be more efficient to have all the work done in one go. His quote of £2850 is more than was allowed for in the budget but this is because more work will be done. It was **resolved** to ask the tree surgeon to proceed with the work. |  |
| **42183** | **Creation of a planning committee.** It was **resolved** that a planning committee will not be created but that current practice will continue i.e. planning applications will continue to be considered by the full council. Additional meetings will be called if necessary in between the main Parish Council meetings to meet the Wealden District Council deadlines. Councillors Dickens, Rothery and Lady Collum will continue to make site visits and make recommendations to the Parish Council. |  |
| **42184** | **Fingerpost refurbishment and replacement.** The rotten fingerpost in the village has been removed and the Clerk is waiting for information from Highways about a replacement and the arrangements for refurbishing other fingerposts in the parish. Mr Galley advised that ESSC generally do not pay for fingerposts and so an allowance will need to be made in the precept. | Clerk |
| **42185** | **Options for upgrading the website.** The website needs upgrading and the Clerk is investigating the options. A report will be made at the next meeting. | Clerk |
| **42186** | **Possible adoption of BT Phone box outside Fletching Post Office.** It was thought that the Village Stores have adopted the phone box, although BT say that is not the case. The Clerk will investigate further. | Clerk |
| **42187** | **Reports from meetings and training attended.** Councillor Bone attended a meeting where there was a presentation from the Ambulance Service. Ambulance call out times have been affected by delays in the turnaround time at hospitals. In some areas, a team of First Responders have been established who are trained in life-saving first aid. They are notified as soon as an ambulance is called and can often be the first on the scene to help in an emergency. Councillor Bone was asked to report back to the next meeting with information on setting up a First Responders group.  Councillor Bone also attended a very good planning training session at Maresfield Parish Council and a Highways presentation along with Councillor Sainsbury. | S. Bone |
| **42188** | **Request for ongoing financial assistance at Fletching Recreation Ground.**  The Fletching Recreation Ground AGM is being held on 8th November. This item will be carried forward to the next Parish Council agenda. |  |
| **42189** | **Request for donation towards maintenance work at Fletching Parish Church.** It was agreed that in principle a small one off donation could be made, but more information is required and an allowance will need to be made in the budget. | Clerk |
| **42190** | **Comments to Independent Remuneration Panel regarding Town/Parish Council allowances for 2017/18.** The Parish Council are happy with the proposed 1% increase. | Clerk |
| **42191** | **Administration, to authorise payments and note bank reconciliation.** It was **resolved** to authorise the following payments.   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Maresfield Parish Council | Planning training – Sandy Bone | BACS | **22.00** | | Fletching Parish Church | Hire of church | BACS | **10.00** | | Elizabeth Bennett | Salary | BACS | **473.49** | | East Sussex Pension Fund | Pension | BACS | **166.55** | | Elizabeth Bennett | Expenses from 19/9/2016 | BACS | **97.20** | | ICO | Data protection registration renewal | Direct Debit | **35.00** | | S young | Tree removal | BACS | **265.00** | | Poppy Appeal | Wreath | Cheque 11 | **50.00** | |  |  |  |  | |  |
| **42192** | **Information for noting or including on a future agenda.** The Clerk was contacted by Age UK asking for support in reinstating the bus stop at Monkey Puzzle Corner. The Chairman thought that the bus can stop anywhere if requested and it is safe to do so. The Clerk will reply to Age UK.  The Clerk asked for views on a possible part time “wandering post mistress” setting up in the shop in the Fletching. It was felt that this would be a good idea. An article is also going in the next edition of the Fletching Parish magazine. | Clerk |
| **42193** | **Close of meeting** | P. Roundell |
| **42194** | **Date of next meeting**  The next Parish Council is 5th December 2016 at 7pm at Fletching Parish Church. A meeting to discuss urgent planning applications will also be held if necessary on 1st December 2016. |  |

DRAFT MINUTES SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION