

# FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Lorna Thwaites

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The minutes of the meeting of Fletching Parish Council held at **Fletching Village Hall** on **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020 at 7.30pm**. *The clerk reported the meeting would be recorded*

## PUBLIC SESSION - Questions and comments received from the public:

A member of the PRA informed the Council of their plans to operate a Keep Britain Tidy campaign in Piltdown and Fletching. The national campaign runs between 13<sup>th</sup> March and 8<sup>th</sup> April and the PRA are organising litter picks on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2020. Anyone interested in volunteering to be part of the litter pick should contact the PRA.

Item	Description	Responsible
173.	<p><b>Members Present:</b> Cllr Rothery (Chairman), Cllr Collum, Cllr Minch, Cllr Hannay, Cllr Borton, Cllr Shaw, Cllr Kerwood, Cllr Greenish.</p> <p><b>Also present:</b> District Cllr Galley, Lorna Thwaites (Clerk and RFO) and 5 members of the public.</p> <p><b>Apologies for absence:</b> None Received.</p>	Chairman
174.	<p><b>To RECEIVE declarations of interest in respect of matters to be discussed</b></p> <p>None RECEIVED.</p>	Chairman
175.	<p><b>To CONFIRM and SIGN the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 03 January 2020</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> as an accurate record and the Chairman duly signed the minutes.</p>	Chairman
176.	<p><b>Reports RECEIVED from the District Councillor:</b></p> <p><i>East Sussex County Council (ESCC):</i> ESCC are expected to confirm their council tax next week with an increase of 3.9%. Plans are for an extra 2% to be spent on social care; Wealden District Council is likely to agree a 2.5% increase; Fire Services 1.9% and Police and Crime a £10 increase.</p> <p><b>1.A update on the Climate Emergency declared by Wealden District Council (WDC) was RECEIVED:</b> WDC have agreed a long-term plan and an update is to be put to Cabinet in Dec 2020. WDC are about to appoint a new Climate Change Officer. The plan considers what can WDC do, what WDC can encourage the community do and what can the Government be lobbied to do. WDC will look at the whole estate and look at energy efficiency and how to reduce CO2 emissions. Council houses have had some have had conversion work to make them more energy efficient - WDC plan to assess costs and benefits; advice is to move from gas to electricity and Government plan to de-carbonise the grid. Transport is a big issue for consideration - WDC are looking at options to encourage cycling, walking, the provision of electric charging points (there are approx. 8 currently), and ways of making it easy for homes to install them. There is a base line for emissions - WDC will monitor their position against the base line. WDC were making progress in reducing pollution across Ashdown Forest. Planting tree opportunities are considered important as part of the Climate Emergency plans. Any affordable homes built by WDC are being done with high energy efficiency levels and there is likely to be a modest council housing building programme.</p> <p>ii.<b>5G in the Parish:</b> Update <b>RECEIVED:</b> This is an emerging issue and there are currently no plans to install 5G across Sussex. Advice from Public Health England is that there is no major threat to health from 5G technology. Cllr Galley predicted 5G is not likely for 3 - 5 years.</p>	Cllr Galley
177.	<p><b>Matters arising since the last meeting:</b></p> <p><b>1. Casual Vacancy in the Officer of Councillor:</b></p> <p>i. The outcome of the Notice of Vacancy was <b>RECEIVED:</b> No election has been called; the Council can proceed to co-op to fill the vacancy.</p>	Clerk

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	<p>ii. Next steps <b>AGREED</b> to fill the vacancy: The vacancy is to be advertised on the noticeboard, website and parish magazine with interested applicants to be invited to the next parish council meeting in March.</p> <p><b>2. Bench at Cherry Tree Cottages:</b></p> <p>i. An update on bench and licence costs was <b>RECEIVED</b>: An ESH license which is required to place a bench is £57.20; bench costs are estimated in the region of £500 (subject to size, materials, supplier etc). <b>AGREED</b>: The Green Spaces Working Group to look at the site and report back at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>3. VE75 Day:</b></p> <p>i. Updates from cllr discussions with local community groups and businesses were <b>RECEIVED</b>: Local businesses and community groups have been spoken to and they have expressed interest in organizing events.</p> <p>ii. Actions <b>AGREED</b>: to publish VE75day information in the parish magazine.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Green Spaces working group</p> <p>Clerk</p>
178.	<p><b>Finance/Administration:</b></p> <p><b>1. Finance</b></p> <p>i. Payments for February were <b>AUTHORISED</b> and the bank reconciliation was <b>NOTED</b>.</p> <p>ii. The proposal of the Clerk to appoint Peter Frost as the Internal Auditor was <b>RECEIVED</b> and the Council <b>RESOLVED</b> to make this appointment.</p> <p><b>2. Burial Ground</b></p> <p>i. No updates were received.</p> <p>ii. The permit for a memorial headstone was <b>APPROVED</b>.</p> <p>iii. An update on the work of Surrey Hills Solicitors regarding the registration of land at the Burial Ground, Village Hall and Recreation Ground was <b>RECEIVED</b>: Cllr Greenish visited the offices to deliver the deeds. The Clerk was asked to request a progress update on the work.</p> <p><b>3. Annual Parish Meeting</b></p> <p>i. The date for the Annual Parish Meeting was <b>AGREED</b> to be during the week of 11<sup>th</sup> May. The Clerk was asked to check hall availability.</p> <p><b>4. Members Allowances</b></p> <p>i. The Council <b>RESOLVED</b> to adopt Level 1 allowances as recommended by the Report of the Wealden Parish Independent Remuneration Panel.</p>	<p>Chairman</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Greenish</p> <p>Full Council</p> <p>Full Council</p>
179.	<p><b>Planning applications:</b></p> <p><b>Comments RECEIVED for applications reviewed by Cllrs with delegated planning responsibility:</b></p> <p><b><u>i. WD/2017/1812/MAJ</u></b></p> <p>SHEFFIELD PARK GARDEN, SHEFFIELD PARK, TN22 3QX          USE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND FOR OVERFLOW PARKING FOR UP TO 60 DAYS A YEAR</p> <p>Comments <b>AGREED</b> by Fletching Parish Council:</p> <p>Fletching Parish Council would like to reiterate its concerns regarding the proposed application for an Overflow Car Park for 60 days. As other Consultees stated in 2017; High Weald AONB, Garden Trust and WDC, the visual impact of this car park would be material from far and wide. It would like other options to be explored that are less visually impactful.</p> <p>The Council would like to make the comment that if a copse of oak trees had been planted this would in due course reduce the visual impact of the car park significantly.</p> <p><b><u>ii. WD/2018/0869/FR</u></b></p> <p>WALK WOOD COTTAGE, NORTH HALL LANE, FLETCHING TN22 3QU</p>	<p>Cllrs with delegated planning responsibility</p>

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	<p>RETROSPECTIVE APPLICATION FOR A STANDING OUTDOOR BATH AND OUTBUILDING AND THE STATIONING OF A SHEPHERDS HUT TO CREATE 1 X 1 BEDROOM HOLIDAY LET</p> <p><b>iii. <u>WD/2020/0037/OH (Expiry date for comments: 30 January 2020)</u></b></p> <p>WILMSHURST, FLETCHING, EAST SUSSEX, TN22 3YB</p> <p>TO CONVERT POLE 241782 TO TERMINAL POLE AND INSTALL 2 X STAY WIRES. TO CONVERT POLE 241755 TO TERMINAL POLE AND INSTALL 2 X STAY WIRES. TO REMOVE POLES 241752, 241753, 241754 AND ASSOCIATED HV OVERHEAD LINES.</p> <p>Comments <b>AGREED</b> by Fletching Parish Council:</p> <p>FPC visited Wilmshurst and saw the pole which is in the garden just beside the house. Obviously, it would be very beneficial to put this in the ground, and the one in the wood similarly. The Council are fully in <b>SUPPORT</b> of this application.</p> <p><b>Comments AGREED for the following applications and any others that arrive before the meeting:</b></p> <p><b>i. <u>WD/2019/2637/F (Expiry date for comments: 4 February 2020)</u></b></p> <p>COPWOOD FARMHOUSE, ROCKS ROAD, UCKFIELD, TN22 3PT</p> <p>PROPOSED SINGLE STOREY EXTENSION</p> <p>Comments <b>AGREED</b>: Members of Fletching Parish Council visited the property and made the following observations: the house is not overlooked; a structure between the house and garage has been taken down and left a gap; the proposed extension is to fill this gap.</p> <p>The Council <b>RESOLVED</b> to <b>SUPPORT</b> this application</p> <p><b>ii. <u>WD/2019/2503/F &amp; 2504/LB (Expiry date for comments: 4 February 2020)</u></b></p> <p>TRADING BOUNDARIES LTD, SHEFFIELD GREEN, UCKFIELD TN22 3RB</p> <p>CHANGE OF USE, CONVERSION AND EXTENSION OF EXISTING COURTYARD BUILDINGS FROM EXISTING RETAIL USE TO 15 NO. B&amp;B ROOMS, ONE OF WHICH TO BE USED FOR STAFF ACCOMMODATION.</p> <p>Comments <b>AGREED</b>: Members of Fletching Parish Council visited Trading Boundaries and made the following observations: the Council feels the plans support local business need and they are sympathetic to the concept of bringing in increased income; the Council considers the plans present an attractive project and they feel that there is a good demand for B&amp;B in the area; employment generated would be good for the Parish; the Council would like the barn to be also restored/developed in the same phase - the barn (which is believed to be a starred building) is currently in structural danger and the Council believes there is woodworm in the rafters of first floor.</p> <p>The Council <b>RESOLVED</b> to <b>SUPPORT</b> this application but would like to see the main barn restored as part of the project and the scheme should be completed in its entirety.</p> <p><b>iii. <u>WD/2019/2439/F (Expiry date for comments: 04 Feb 2020)</u></b></p> <p>LITTLE SHARPES, SHARPSBRIDGE LANE, PILTDOWN, TN22 3XG</p> <p>CONVERSION OF EXISTING POOL HOUSE TO FORM NEW RESIDENTIAL DWELLING, WITH ASSOCIATED EXTENSION AND ALTERATIONS.</p> <p>Comments <b>AGREED</b>: Members of Fletching Parish Council visited the property and made the following observations: They have concerns that the new residential dwelling is not part of the main building and access will be via the drive of Little Sharpes; there are concerns that access from the road will be requested at a later stage and that extra traffic will be generated on an already busy road; the proposed new canopy of the new building will extend the footprint of the</p>	<p>Full Council</p>

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	<p>current building; the Council found it hard to understand what the purpose is for the new dwelling - whether it is an annexe to the main house or a separate dwelling. The Council <b>RESOLVED</b> to <b>REJECT</b> the application.</p> <p><b><u>iv. WD/2019/2394/LB (Expiry date for comments: 7 February 2020)</u></b> APARTMENT 2, SHEFFIELD PARK HOUSE, SHEFFIELD PARK, UCKFIELD, TN22 3QZ INSTALLATION OF LOG BURNING STOVE IN DRAWING ROOM. REMOVAL OF SECONDARY GLAZING TO THE SOUTH FACING ELEVATION WINDOWS ONLY. SECONDARY GLAZING TO BE RETAINED TO NORTH FACING ELEVATION WINDOWS. INSTALLATION OF NEW BOILER. AMENDED DRAINAGE/SERVICE RUNS IN NEWLY FORMED KITCHEN AND REFITTED BATHROOM AND ENSUITE. REPLACEMENT 4NO. ROOFLIGHTS WITH ROOF LANTERNS. GENERAL REFURBISHMENT WORKS TO SHUTTERS AND CEILINGS AND REMOVAL OF ARCHWAY. THE HOT WATER CYLINDER WILL ALSO BE RETAINED.</p> <p>Comments <b>AGREED</b>: this is one of the major apartments in Sheffield Park Gardens and as such the Council feel it is very important that the original building is not compromised. The Council <b>RESOLVED</b> to <b>SUPPORT</b> this application.</p> <p><b><u>v. WD/2020/0003/F (Expiry date for comments: 10 February 2020)</u></b> STAR HOUSE, DOWN STREET, PILTDOWN, TN22 3XU SINGLE / TWO STOREY SIDE EXTENSION, SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION, NEW DETACHED GARAGE BUILDING WITH HOME OFFICE OVER.</p> <p>Comments <b>AGREED</b>: Members of Fletching Parish Council visited the property and made the following observations: the plans for the house were sympathetic and well done; the Council has two concerns - the plans for the new detached garage propose that the garage is to be put at the front of the house and the Council feel this would detract from the main house; there is a large garage complex to the side of the house and the Council ask if the garaging for the cars be incorporated into that building; the Council's second concern is that the land where the new garage is proposed to be built might be common land. The Council <b>RESOLVED</b> to <b>SUPPORT</b> the plans for the house but raised concerns over the location of the garage.</p>	
180.	<p><b>Planning decisions RECEIVED from Wealden District Council:</b></p> <p><b><u>i. WD/2019/2244/F FERMOYS, HIGH STREET, FLETCHING, TN22 3TE</u></b> NEW GARAGE WDC decided to <b>REFUSE</b> the above application on 20 January 2020.</p> <p><b><u>ii. WD/2019/2245/LB - FERMOYS, HIGH STREET, FLETCHING, TN22 3TE</u></b> CONVERSION OF EXISTING DOUBLE GARAGE TO FORM HABITABLE ACCOMMODATION, INCLUDING FORMATION OF NEW DOORWAY AND NEW WINDOW TO REAR ELEVATION WDC decided to <b>APPROVE</b> the above application on 17 January 2020.</p> <p><b><u>iii. WD/2019/2495/FA-LAND ADJ. TO LAWRENCES, NORTH HALL LANE, FLETCHING TN22 3TJ</u></b> MINOR MATERIAL AMENDMENT TO APPLICATION WD/2017/2429/F (DEMOLITION OF EXISTING BUILDING AND ERECTION OF NEW DETACHED DWELLING WITH ASSOCIATED NEW ACCESS AND PARKING AND TURNING AREA) INVOLVING A VARIATION OF CONDITION 17 IN ORDER TO ENLARGE THE DWELLING AND ALTER THE DESIGN WDC decided to <b>APPROVE</b> the above application on 27 January 2020.</p>	WDC
181.	<b>Highways Matters:</b>	

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	<p>i. An update on the Splaynes Green Flood test was <b>RECEIVED</b>: Despite chasing ESH Customer Services no update has been received by the Clerk.</p> <p>ii. An update on the Splaynes Green grit bin installation was <b>RECEIVED</b>: The bin hasn't been anchored and has not been sited in the position requested by FPC. ESH are visiting the site.</p> <p>iii. Overhanging trees on Down Street were <b>DISCUSSED</b>: The Parish Council have received complaints about trees grown over the road narrowing the width of the road and the Council felt trees need to be cut back significantly. The Council <b>AGREED</b> that this should be discussed further at the SLR meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> February.</p> <p>iv. The Council <b>RESOLVED</b> to <b>AGREE</b> the SLR terms of reference.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Highways Working group</p> <p>Full Council</p>
182.	<p><b>Actions AGREED for the following correspondence RECEIVED:</b></p> <p>i. New legislation on sewage: <b>NOTED</b> and thanks were expressed for the correspondence bringing this matter to the attention of the Council.</p> <p>ii. Planning Application DM/19/4321 - Tremains Farm, Horsted Keynes: The Council <b>AGREED</b> not to comment on this application which was outside of the Parish.</p> <p>iii. A22 Maresfield Bypass: The Council expressed their concerns over the safety of the bypass and <b>AGREED</b> to seek opinions of parishioners through the Parish Magazine.</p> <p>iv. WDC live stream: The Council <b>RESOLVED</b> to exclude the public from this discussion to consider the comments made by a councillor at a meeting of Wealden Planning Committee North. <i>Members of the public left the meeting 21.05.</i> The Council <b>AGREED</b> that comments made by the Councillor were inappropriate and <b>RESOLVED</b> to ask him for a public apology. <i>Remaining members of the public returned.</i></p> <p>v. Tree Warden services: The Council <b>NOTED</b> that the volunteer could no longer offer tree warden services.</p> <p>vi. The use of Shortbridge Road as a cut-through: The Council <b>AGREED</b> to discuss this as part of the agenda for the SLR meeting on 18 February.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Full Council</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Full Council</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Highways Working grp</p>
183.	<p><b>Projects:</b></p> <p><b>1. RECREATION GROUND:</b></p> <p>i. The decision delegated to recreation ground working group members on the appointment of AiRS consultancy service or Surrey Hills Solicitors regarding trustee changes was <b>RECEIVED</b> and the Council <b>RESOLVED</b> to appoint AIRS consultancy service.</p> <p><b>2. PILTDOWN VILLAGE GATEWAYS:</b></p> <p>i. An update from the PRA was <b>RECEIVED</b>: application forms have been sent to ESCC however the preferred contractor of the PRA is unwell and they may have to seek a different contractor.</p> <p><b>3. PARISH WALKS:</b></p> <p>i. An update on the parish walks undertaken was <b>RECEIVED</b>: there is only one remaining walk to be checked and a more detailed update will be given at a subsequent meeting.</p> <p><b>4. FINGERPOSTS</b></p> <p>i. The Council <b>AGREED</b> the next Fingerpost for restoration is to be Splaynes Green. There are problems with the brickwork and Cllr Kerwood <b>AGREED</b> to seek quotes for the repairs to the brickwork and to report back at the next meeting. The Council discussed the possibility of sponsorship options.</p> <p>ii. The Council <b>AGREED</b> to appoint JAKK as the contractor to work on the Splaynes Green fingerpost, subject to the brickwork investigations.</p>	<p>CllrsRothery/ Greenish/ Kerwood</p> <p>Cllr Borton</p> <p>Cllr Minch</p> <p>Highways working group</p>

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Item	Description	Responsible
	<b>5.PUMP HOUSE</b> i. An update on the restoration project was <b>RECEIVED</b> : The Council discussed having the Pump House as an item on the agenda of the Annual Parish Meeting. ii. Next steps <b>AGREED</b> : Cllr Minch is to request a quote from DGC Historic Building Conservation for the preparation of a specification for the restoration works required, in order to tender for quotes.	Cllr Minch
<b>184.</b>	<b>Items AGREED for the Parish Council Magazine:</b> Councillor Co-option, VE75 day, Maresfield Bypass and Annual Parish Meeting.	Clerk
<b>185.</b>	<b>Items AGREED for the next parish council meeting:</b> Several cllrs submitted their apologies for the next meeting and the Council <b>AGREED</b> to change the date to Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Full Council
<b>186.</b>	<b>Close of meeting: 21.47</b>	
<b>187.</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 3rd March - 7.30pm, Fletching Parish Church.</b>	Full Council