

FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Gabriella Paterson-Griggs

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MINUTES of the Ordinary Meeting of **FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL** held on Monday 6th June 2022 in the Village Hall, High Street, Fletching (7 - 8.40pm).

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

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

Members of the Public in Attendance: 1

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Kerwood and W Constantinou.

22/124. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Councillors C Rothery and D Greenish signed the declarations of acceptance of office as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively.

22/125. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Minute 22/XX – Councillors Greenish and Shaw as members of the Piltdown Golf Club.

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

22/126. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 9th May 2022 were a correct record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

22/127. MATTERS ARISING

- i. *Firle Parish Council – Speed Data Monitoring Unit:* The Clerk updated the meeting following feedback received from the Clerk to Firle Parish Council. Firle PC is to meet on 14th June where a final decision would be made as to whether to purchase a unit or appoint a survey from ESCC. Councillors agreed that should Firle PC decide not to purchase a unit that the Clerk contact those parishes that originally expressed an interest to ascertain whether they would be interested in joining with Fletching in purchasing a unit.
- ii. *Insurance Quotes:* The Clerk reported that the insurance quote had been received for the forthcoming year and the premium was considerably higher than the previous year. Accordingly further quotes were requested from different suppliers. After consideration of the quotes received it was RESOLVED that the quote from Zurich Municipal be accepted for a period of three years.
- iii. *High Weald AONB Consultation:* The Clerk informed the meeting that Councillor Collum had looked at the consultation document but was not able to complete it as the Parish Council does not use the management plan. It was agreed that no further action be taken.

22/128. REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Councillor Galley gave an update on the refuse collection strike that was still ongoing and likely to continue until 25th June 2022. He explained that for the majority of the north of the Wealden District household waste was still being collected as the staff in the Bellbrook depot in Uckfield were mostly not on strike unlike those staff based in the Amberstone depot in Hailsham.

He confirmed with the Clerk that the date of 22nd June 2022 had been agreed with ESCC for the SLR meeting.

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In respect of the planning application at Flitteridge Farm Councillor Galley reported that the application would be going to the next Planning Committee North on 23rd June 2022. It was agreed that the Parish Council should be represented at that meeting – the Clerk to register the Parish Council with Wealden once the agenda is published.

22/129. FINANCE AND HR

- i. The invoices and payments for June 2022 were AUTHORISED and the Council's current financial position and bank reconciliation were noted.
- ii. *Grant Applications:* Councillor Shaw and the Clerk gave an update following the decision at the last meeting in respect of funding for the grant applications. It was noted that the further funding had been applied for by both organisations and it was therefore AGREED that the Parish Council would approve the grants up to the amount requested as set out below. The underspend on the budget allocation for the Pump House to be used to fund the grants.

FRGC Defibrillator – up to £650

Fletching CE Primary School – Smart Board – up to £1000

- iii. *Clerks Performance Review:* Councillors Shaw and Hannay reported to the Committee the outcome of the Clerk's appraisal and it was AGREED that an increase of one SCP be awarded back dated to 1st April 2022.

Note: The Clerk withdrew from the meeting prior to discussion of the above item and returned once it had been completed.

22/130. WORKING GROUPS AND COMMITTEES

The Parish Council considered the following grant applications:

- i. *SLR Meeting* – to be held on Wednesday 22nd June 2022. Councillor Constantinou and the Clerk to attend.
- ii. *Parking Working Group* – a letter sent to Councillor Galley by Nick Skelton of ESCC in response to concerns raised regarding parking in Fletching village was received. Councillors expressed their disappointment with the response given. It was AGREED that the Parish Council would formally write to Councillor Galley questioning the comments made. It was also AGREED to contact ESCC to ascertain whether there would be any Community Match Funding available for a parking scheme.

22/131. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- i. *Fletching Village Hall Committee:* the Clerk reported that she had been contacted by the Secretary of the Village Hall Committee requesting that the Parish Council appoint a representative for the Committee. It was AGREED that Councillor Kerwood be asked whether he was happy to continue in this role.
- ii. *Wealden District Council Parish Conference:* the date of the Parish Conference was noted. Those councillors present at the meeting were not able to make that date.
- iii. *AiRS – Re-thinking Our Local Places and Communities Survey:* it was AGREED that Councillor Collum be asked to complete the survey on behalf of the Parish Council.

22/132. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR)

- i. The internal audit report from Peter J Frost was noted.
- ii. The AGAR Section 1 Annual Governance Statement was APPROVED and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

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- iii. The AGAR Section 2 Accounting Statements was APPROVED and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

Note: Councillor Shaw left the meeting at 7.55pm at the end of this item.

22/133. BURIAL GROUND

- i. The request for an interment in an existing grave was APPROVED.
- ii. Councillor Hannay reported that a gravestone had fallen over but the family had been informed and a quote for the works to re-erect it had been sent to them.

22/134. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL)

The briefing note prepared by the Clerk was noted. It was AGREED to wait until the outcome of other planning applications that may attract CIL payments before any projects were identified.

22/135. PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

- i. *Flitteridge Farm*: No further update had been received. The Clerk to contact Wealden DC for an update for the next meeting.

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

- ii. *Enforcement Notice Appeal Decision*: The following Inspector's decision was NOTED:

Land at Sale Lodge (Moons Farm), Sharpsbride Lane, Piltdown

Without planning permission, the erection of a building for use as a dwelling. To remove the building from the land. (Appeal Dismissed and Enforcement Notice Upheld – partial costs awarded to Wealden DC)

22/136. PLANNING APPLICATIONS - RECEIVED

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

- i. **WD/2022/0706/F The Piltdown Golf Club, Golf Club Lane, Piltdown TN22 3XB**

Change of existing 4 no. grassed overflow car parking spaces to a geogrid reinforced grass finish over rootzone and a low fines drainage layer to provide an all-weather permeable grassed surface.

The Parish Council SUPPORTED this application.

- ii. **WD/2022/0545/F Fletching Lodge, High Street, Fletching TN22 3SS**

To construct a garden pergola above existing path/walkway.

The Parish Council SUPPORTED this application

- iii. **WD/2022/0078/F Land adj. 4 Stone Croft Cottages, Goldbridge Road, Piltdown TN22 3XN – Amended Plans**

New build 4 bedroom detached dwelling incorporating use of existing 2 bay detached garage on site and the enlargement of existing driveway to add further parking spaces for 4 Stonecroft Cottages.

The Parish Council accepts that the amended plans address its objection to the mass and height of the proposed dwelling and the visibility splay goes towards the impact on highway safety. However, it still stands by its original objection to the application in that the proposal would create over development in a rural location. The Parish Council OBJECTS to the amended plans.

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Note: This application was discussed after the report from the District and County Councillor and prior to the Finance and HR items.

iv. **WD/2021/1959/F Millstones and Millstones Cottage, Batts Bridge Road, Piltdown TN22 3XR – Amended Plans**

Alterations and extensions to the existing dwelling. Conversion of existing garage into ancillary habitable room. Creation of a pedestrian access. Alterations to the existing gated access. Addition of an outside swimming pool. Hard and soft landscaping.

The Parish Council notes that the car port and associated change of use of the adjoining field has now been removed from the application. However, the Parish Council still stands by its original objection to the proposed extension to the house as it is out of keeping with the surrounding area. The Parish Council **OBJECTS** to the amended plans in respect of the proposed extension. There is no objection to the proposed swimming pool.

The comments submitted to Wealden District Council under delegated authority for the following application were noted:

v. **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 and roof and external staircase, and a cycle and refuse store and associated parking.

The addition of a fifth flat on this site is considered to be over development of a small site. There is also concern that any additional car parking at the site would create further potential traffic issues on a dangerous main road (there have been a number of crashes on that part of the A272 over the years). The Parish Council, therefore, **OBJECTS** to the planning application. However, if the District Council was so minded to approve the application the Parish Council would like to see a landscaping condition that relates to planting (a hedge or trees) to screen the site from the road.

22/137. PLANNING APPLICATIONS - DECISIONS

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

Applications Approved

i. **WD/2021/2814/F & WD/2021/2815/LB 1 Corner Cottages, High Street, Fletching TN22 3SS**

Proposed single storey rear extension to replace existing conservatory, alterations to the ground floor of the existing 2 storey rear extension to include new casement windows and part glazed door, and alterations to the existing brick outbuilding to the rear garden. (APPROVED – 20 May 2022).

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

Proposed detached bungalow and garage. (APPROVED 25 May 2022)

22/138. THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

i. *Plaques for QGC trees* – the Clerk reported that she had not yet obtained the quotes for the plaques.

ii. *Beacon Lighting, Fireworks and Street Party* – the Chairman reported that he had received very positive feedback from those who had attended the various parish events over the Jubilee bank holiday. It was **AGREED** that a thank you letter from the Parish Council be sent to those who either helped with or participated in the events.

It was also **AGREED** that a standard operating procedure (SOP) be drawn up in order that it could be followed for future events.

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In respect of the Beacon it was noted that the post would need to be replaced before it was used again. It was AGREED that Councillor Rothery would obtain an estimate.

Note: Councillor Galley left the meeting at 8.15pm before discussion of the following item.

22/139. LAND REGISTRATION

The Clerk reported that a response had been received from the solicitor who was still waiting for a letter from the Bishop of Chichester in respect of the Burial Ground. With regards to Splaynes Green it was noted that unless the Parish Council had hard evidence that documented ownership it was not going to be possible to register the title. However, a caution against first registration could be registered that would ensure the Parish Council was notified if anyone were to try and register the land. The Parish Council would still be able to maintain the land under the Commons Act 2006 s45.

It was AGREED that Councillor Greenish would contact the solicitor to discuss the issues further.

Note: Councillor Collum arrived at the meeting at 8.20pm prior to discussion of the following item.

22/140. FLAGPOLE

It was AGREED that the Clerk contact ESCC in respect of obtaining a licence to place a flagpole on the land outside 1 and 2 Cherry Cottages.

22/141. FINGERPOSTS

The Clerk reported that she had been informed by Councillor Constantinou that JAKKs was working on the Shortbridge Road/Buckham Hill fingerpost which was the last one on the original list to be replaced. It was noted that Framfield Parish Council had obtained a licence for the ground that each of its fingerposts were on in order that it could insure them. It was AGREED that the Clerk explore this option with ESCC.

It was noted that the fingerpost at the junction with Mill Lane and the High Street was replaced in 2017.

22/142. SPLAYNES GREEN

- i. *Bollard replacement* – it was noted that JAKK had been instructed to proceed with the bollard replacement programme.
- ii. *Phone Box* – it was noted that the Clerk had been contacted by a company that provided spares for phone boxes including doors. An inspection to be made of the condition of the phone box before the door is ordered.

22/143. 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 – thank you to all those involved and a piece about the event written from a parishioners perspective.

22/144. 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.

22/145. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is due to be held on:

Monday 4th July 2022 at 7pm in the Village Hall.