

FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL

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The minutes of the meeting of Fletching Parish Council to be held at Fletching Parish Church on Monday 2nd October 2017 at 7pm.

Item	Description	Responsible
128.	<p>Members present: Cllr P. Roundell (Chairman), Cllr B. Dickens, Cllr M. McGowan, Cllr D. Kerwood, Cllr C. Rothery, Cllr S. Sainsbury, Cllr S. Bone, Cllr N. Collum, Cllr T. Elbrick.</p> <p>Also present: Liz Bennett (Clerk), Pat Buesnel (Ashdown Conservators), one member of the public.</p>	
129.	<p>Apologies for absence. All members were present. County Councillor Roy Galley sent his apologies.</p>	
130.	<p>Public Session. Cllr B. Dickens apologised for the mix up between him and the Clerk which meant that the agenda was not displayed on the notice until Sunday morning. The agenda did appear on the website at the correct time.</p> <p>Pat Buesnel from the Ashdown Conservators provided some back-ground information regarding the request to the Parish Council for a financial contribution of £300 per annum for the next two years. Papers providing full details were circulated to all members in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>The Board of Conservators are responsible for the management of the Ashdown Forest which is regulated by Acts of Parliament. They must balance providing a public amenity with the protection and conservation of the forest.</p> <p>A governance review has led to a proposal to establish a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee. This will allow them to improve their income stream by raising charitable funds, reclaiming VAT and establishing a trading arm. It is estimated that the new arrangement will not be implemented for another two years and until that time they have a funding gap. It is hoped that local councils can provide some support for that two-year period.</p> <p>Four Fletching residents have common rights at the Forest and there are some residents of Fletching who volunteer at the Forest.</p> <p>Councillors asked several questions: Has the financial management improved? Yes, new financial systems have been implemented and improvements have been made.</p> <p>Is the new budget realistic?</p>	

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	<p>Yes. The last budget was forced downward because it was rejected by ESCC who own the Forest and make a financial contribution. It is felt that the figures outlined in the circulated documents are realistic.</p> <p>How has the sum requested been calculated? The precepts, population sizes and location of councils were taken into consideration to try to make it as fair as possible. The three town councils are all being asked to make the same larger contribution of £3000 per annum. If a Parish Council did not want to contribute then alternative funding sources would be investigated.</p> <p>Is there a risk that implementing the new governance arrangement could take longer than 2 years? The solicitors have advised that two years is a realistic time frame for implementation, but there is a risk that it could take longer.</p> <p>Aren't the Ashdown Conservators encouraging visitors to the Forest and so adding to the damage caused to the Forest? There are other bodies that try to attract visitors to the Forest, but the Conservators remit is to ensure that the visitors that do come have the best possible experience. They do not actively encourage more visitors. A recent study by Wealden District Council show that there is an average of 4500 visitors each day, of which only 1% are holiday makers. Most visitors came from within 10km of where they were interviewed in the Forest.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Pat for her time.</p>	
131.	<p>Declarations of interest. Cllr Kerwood declared a personal interest in the Ashdown Forest because he has common rights.</p>	
132.	<p>Request from Ashdown Conservators for funding in the next financial year. It was resolved to commit £300 per annum to the Ashdown Conservators for the next two financial years. The Clerk will ensure that the terms of the Parish Council's grant policy are met.</p>	Clerk
133.	<p>Report from County and District Councillors. In the absence of Roy Galley, the ESCC Councillor, Cllr Roundell who is also a member of Wealden District Council (WDC) provided a report, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ESCC is investigating why it has a very high level of truancy. - The WDC Local Plan has been delayed whilst they carry out traffic impact assessments on the Forest from two additional areas. - A contractor has been appointed for the creation of the crematorium at Horam. It is expected to open in November 2018. This is one of the initiatives that WDC have established to create an income stream in anticipation of further cuts in Government funding. - The other initiative that will provide an income stream for WDC is the provision of low cost housing. Planning permission has been given for the first site of 31 houses in Crowborough. This will be on land already owned by WDC. <p>Councillors had several questions: Has the carbon data been released yet? No, but it will be made available when it is complete.</p> <p>Do the developers have land for housing which has not been allocated?</p>	

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	<p>WDC contacted developers, as part of the Local Plan process. There is enough land to build 40 000 houses in the District, but currently only 11000 new houses are planned, with permission already granted for 7000.</p> <p>Can low cost houses be built in Fletching, to help young people stay in the village? Development is currently not allowed in Fletching because it is close to the Ashdown Forest.</p> <p>Will the new low-cost houses that WDC are planning have some sort of covenant or restriction to prevent them from being extended to ensure that they remain low cost? Cllr Roundell agreed that this is a good suggestion that he will put to WDC.</p> <p>Should we be concerned that WDC are moving into property development? WDC have been extremely careful and the first development will be on land already owned by WDC. The intention is to only build within the District. Other Councils have built outside of their areas.</p>	P. Roundell
134.	<p>Minutes of the meetings held on 4th September 2017. It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 4th September 2017 as a true record and they were signed by the Chairman.</p>	P. Roundell
135.	<p>Security issues in the parish. Piltdown Residents Association (PRA) is concerned at the recent spate of burglaries and other incidents in the area. They have called a public meeting open to all residents of the parish, on November 9th in Fletching Village Hall. Two security companies will be giving presentations and a police officer will be attending.</p> <p>Piltdown residents have set up a WhatsApp group with around 50 members so that they notify each other if they see anything suspicious.</p> <p>The police have confirmed that as of 3rd November, foot patrols will continue in the villages.</p>	
136.	<p>Update on provision of fibre broadband in the parish. An update has not been received and so this item will be carried forward to the next meeting.</p>	
137.	<p>Update on the Community Governance Review. The Clerk has provided the addresses of 7 properties on Down St and one at the junction of A275 and Tanyard Lane, where the residents have expressed an interest in being part of Fletching Parish.</p> <p>WDC will need to carry out a consultation, which is likely to take several months before they can make a recommendation.</p>	
138.	<p>Potholes along Cherry Cottages and the barrier along Daleham Lane. There are several large potholes along Cherry Cottages that keep reappearing despite patching. The Armco barrier on Daleham Lane is rotting and would crumble if it were to be hit by a vehicle. Both these issues present a significant safety hazard. They have been raised several times at the SLR meetings with ESCC Highways, but the repairs have been inadequate and do not last. The Clerk was asked to write to ESCC to request that they dedicate sufficient resources to deal with these matters properly.</p>	Clerk

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139.	Relocation of post box on Shortbridge Road. The post box on Shortbridge Road is not easily accessible because it is by the side of the road where there is no layby and only a small verge. The Clerk was asked to write to the Post Office to request that it is relocated to the verge by the Peacock car park. The land lord has agreed to this.	Clerk
140.	Planning applications. - WD/2017/1944/FA Dormers, Sharpsbridge Lane, Piltdown. Removal of condition 1 of T/53/10793A (Demolition of derelict cottages and erection of one cottage). This application relates to some long standing administrative matters and so it was noted by the Council.	
141.	Planning decisions. The following decisions were noted: - WD/2017/1613/LB Construction of front porch and infilling of garage side window. Fermoys, High Street, Fletching. Refused. - WD/2017/1892/LDE Stationing of residentially occupied mobile home. Malling Farm, Down Street, Piltdown. Lawful development certificate issued.	
142.	Wealden District Council consultation re the Public Spaces Protection Order. The Clerk was asked to write to WDC to express growing concerns about the lack of enforcement regarding dog fouling.	Clerk
143.	Reports from meetings and training attended. None received. Agree attendance at training/events. Cllr Sainsbury is unable to attend the ESALC conference on Friday due to unforeseen personal circumstances. No one else is available to take her place and so the Clerk has cancelled the booking and it is hoped that the Parish Council will not be invoiced. It was agreed that the Clerk can book some training on the changes to the Data Protection regulations. The cost will be shared with her other Council.	Clerk Clerk
144.	Administration. - Finances. The Clerk distributed the financial report showing the payments for approval, receipts in September and the bank reconciliation. It was resolved to approve the payments and the report was signed by the Chairman and is attached to these minutes. - Spend against budget 1/4/2017 to 30/09/2017. The report was circulated prior to the meeting and was noted. - Applications at the burial ground The following applications were approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Mary Kidd plot reserved o Joan Doris Wattam 	
145.	Information for noting or including on a future agenda. - The telephone box adjacent to the former Post Office is now a Grade II listed building. The Clerk was asked to put this on the agenda for the next meeting, along with the phone box at Splaynes Green. - It was noted that the signs at Sheffield Park that were knocked down by a vehicle have now been replaced.	Clerk

Item	Description	Responsible
146.	Close of meeting	
147.	Date of next meeting. Monday 6 th November 2017.	

DRAFT MINUTES SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION.

Fletching Parish Council Finances 2nd October 2017

Payments for approval

Ref	Method	To	For	Amount
44	BACS	Fletching Recreation Ground	Grant towards replacement windows	370.00
45	BACS	PKF Littlejohn LLP	Audit fees	240.00
46	BACS	Wealden District Council	Dog bin emptying	216.00
47	Chq 04	Wealden District ALC	Subs	20.00
48	BACS	Brook Hart	Weed killing	130.00
49	Chq 05	Nice N Tidy	Grass cutting	650.00
50	BACS	Elizabeth Bennett	Salary	494.00
51	BACS	East Sussex Pension Fund	Clerk's pension	177.05
52	BACS	Elizabeth Bennett	Expenses	66.60

Receipts in September

From	For	Amount
Wealden District Council	Precept and grant	14499.50
RA Brooks and Son	Grave space and interment (Joan Wittam)	780.00

Fletching Parish Council Bank Reconciliation 30th September 2017

Balance per bank statements as at 30 th September 2017		Cashbook	
FPC Current Account	18106.80	Opening balance	30267.51
FPC Festival Account	24.97	Add receipts in year	31527.36
FPC Savings Account	31557.70	Less payments in year	-11898.39
FPC War Memorial Account	421.39		
FPC Maryon-Wilson Account	498.23		
Less unpresented cheques			
Nice N Tidy	-650		
Mrs S. Bone	-62.61		
Net Balance	49896.48	Balance	49896.48

Signed by Chairman of PC meeting 2/10/2017