

FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of Fletching Parish Council held at Fletching Village Hall on Monday 6th March 2017 at 7pm.

Item	Description	Responsible
42275	Members present: Cllr P. Roundell (Chairman), Cllr B. Dickens, Cllr S. Bone, Cllr Lady Collum, Cllr S. Sainsbury Also present: Liz Bennett (Clerk), Roy Galley County/District Councillor. Nigel Symington	
42276	Apologies for absence Apologies were accepted from Cllr T. Elbrick, Cllr D. Kerwood, Cllr C. Rothery, Cllr I. Setford.	
42277	Declarations of interest. No declarations were made.	
42278	Reports from District and County Councillors. East Sussex County Council (ESCC). Roy Galley provided his report. The National Schools Funding Formula will provide East Sussex with 2.5% more than last year. This will not be allocated evenly across the county and the rural schools are likely to miss out. The Leader of ESCC will be writing to the Department of Education., ESCC have confirmed that superfast broadband is being rolled out across the parish over 2017 and 2018, but that some of the detailed timings provided by BT and reported at the last meeting are not correct. Roy will forward details to the Clerk. ESCC have turned down the application for speed limit reduction on Shortbridge Lane following monitoring of speed over a week. The average speed on part of the Lane was shown to be below 40mph and on another stretch it was just above 40mph, but not high enough to warrant reducing the limit. ESCC will be writing to the Clerk and Piltdown Residents Association. Wealden District Council (WDC). Peter Roundell reported that the housing numbers in the Local Plan will go down due to a recent report that the damage to the Ashdown Forest is much greater than was originally thought. WDC are legally obliged to protect the forest and this will be done by reducing the new housing numbers and making compensatory measures such as increased grazing. Neighbouring districts including Lewes and Mid Sussex are also likely to be affected.	

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42279	<p>Questions from the public. None received.</p>	
	<p>Churchyard Management plan. Nigel Symington was invited to talk through the proposed management plan for the churchyard and burial ground which aims to encourage wildlife. The areas that are regularly used such as the paths and new burial areas will be kept regularly mown and looking neat and tidy. The older parts of the churchyard and burial ground will be left to grow and cut back just once a year with the clippings removed. Wildflowers will eventually seed and bees and insects will thrive. Similar schemes are in operation at Danehill and Framfield.</p> <p>Some members of the Parish Council were concerned that the gravestones will not be visible amongst the long grass and that the access area by the gate and the patch of un-consecrated ground should be kept shorter. After some discussion, it was agreed that some council members will meet with Nigel at the burial ground to discuss the plan in more detail. Council members would also like to visit the Danehill churchyard in July to see the plan in action.</p> <p>Cllr Bone queried why Fletching Parish Council look after the burial ground when no other parish councils appear to. Councillors agreed that it is more usual for closed churchyards to be maintained by the Parish Council and the active burial ground to be maintained by the Church, but there are other examples of parish councils maintaining open burial grounds. The agreement was reached over 30 years ago.</p>	<p>B. Dickens Lady Collum S Bone</p>
42280	<p>Birch trees and grass cutting at the burial ground. Cllr Dickens has approached three contractors for a quote for the removal of the two diseased birch trees. Only one quote has been received of £320 which includes the stump removal. It was resolved to accept the quote and proceed with the tree removal. It was also agreed that the grass cutting should proceed as normal until the management plan is agreed.</p>	<p>B. Dickens Clerk</p>
42281	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 6th February 2017. It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting of the 6th February 2017 and these were signed by the Chairman.</p>	<p>P. Roundell</p>
42282	<p>Planning applications received prior to the meeting.</p> <p>WD/2017/0377/LB and WD/2017/0376/F BULL COTTAGE, KETCHES LANE, SHEFFIELD PARK. SINGLE STOREY EXTENSION WITH BASEMENT TO CREATE KITCHEN, LIVING AND BEDROOM ACCOMMODATION WITH SINGLE-STOREY ENTRANCE LINK TO ORIGINAL COTTAGE. MINOR ALTERATIONS TO EXISTING COTTAGE TO REPLACE MODERN STAIRCASE AND PROVIDE A FIRST-FLOOR BATHROOM. RELOCATION OF OIL TANK. It was resolved to recommend this application for approval. It was noted that this second application was a big improvement on the original application which was also recommended for approval by the Parish Council.</p> <p>WD/2017/0297/F GROVERS FARM, PILTDOWN. NEW TRACTOR STORE. It was resolved to recommend this application for approval.</p>	
42283	<p>Planning decisions. The following decision was noted: WD/2016/2916/LB 1 ROBINS CROSS, HIGH STREET, FLETCHING. Description PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF GAS CENTRAL HEATING. Approved.</p>	

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42284	<p>Updates on ongoing projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Resilience plan. Cllr Dickens reported that the request for volunteers did not appear in the Fletching magazine as hoped but that it should be in the next edition. - Speed limit reductions on Shortbridge Lane and Golf Club Lane. As reported by Roy Galley earlier in the meeting, the application for match funding has not been successful. - Fingerpost replacement The Clerk reported that she has received conflicting advice from ESCC Highways on how and when to obtain funding. This will be raised at the next SLR meeting if it is still unresolved. Cllr Bone reported that she is aware of some businesses who are willing to sponsor fingerposts and the Clerk is also checking whether there are any restrictions on this. - New website The Clerk reported that the new website is now live. She will add the page of useful local links. - First Responders. Cllr Bone reported that she attended the Uckfield meeting and will continue to attend the Uckfield group. It was agreed that this could form part of the resilience plan. 	<p>C. Rothery B. Dickens</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>S. Bone</p>
42285	<p>Management and future management of the recreation ground. There is nothing to report at this stage and so the item will be carried forward to the next meeting.</p>	
42286	<p>Community Speed Watch. Cllr Sainsbury reported that she needs at least 2 more volunteers to form a viable group. Once the volunteers have been found then she can work on getting the proposed sites agreed and training. The Clerk was asked to put a notice in the Fletching parish magazine to ask for volunteers.</p>	<p>Clerk S. Sainsbury</p>
42287	<p>Application to erect a monument at the burial ground and applications for grave space. The application to purchase a grave space (1035) by James Spencer was approved.</p> <p>The application to erect a replacement memorial at space 988B for Alfred George Baker and Kathleen Violet Baker was approved.</p>	
42288	<p>Reports from meetings and training attended. None received.</p> <p>Attendance at training/events. The AiRS Funding Workshop will be attended by Cllrs Sainsbury, Bone and Dickens. The ESALC Spring Conference will be attended by Cllrs Sainsbury and Bone.</p>	
42289	<p>Administration, payments and bank reconciliation. The bank reconciliation as at 28th February was noted. It was resolved to make the following payments:</p>	

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	Mid Sussex websites	Updates	BACS	25.00	Clerk
	SSALC Ltd	Spring Conference Sam and Sandy	BACS	96.00	
	Elizabeth Bennett	Salary	BACS	473.49	
	East Sussex Pension Fund	Clerk's pension	BACS	166.55	
	Mr B. Dickens	Allowance	Chq 20	61.39	
	HMRC	Tax Jan-March	BACS	378.60	
	Elizabeth Bennett	Expenses includes £100.08 for domain name email forwarding (annual charge)	BACS	124.38	
	Wealden District Council	Dog Bin emptying	BACS	216.00	
	Ansty and Staplefield PC	Share of landline	BACS	62.18	
	Cllr Sainsbury queried the payment due to her as a councillor allowance. The Clerk agreed to investigate.				
42290	Dates and arrangements for the Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (AGM). It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting should be held on either the 28 th or 25 th April in the church because the village hall is not available. The Clerk was asked to invite Nus Ghani to attend. Cllr Sainsbury and Cllr Dickens will see if they can find someone to speak on funding and grants. The Annual Parish Council Meeting (AGM) will be held on 8 th May 2017 at 7pm in Fletching Village Hall.				Clerk S. Sainsbury B. Dickens
42291	Information for noting or including on a future agenda. The Clerk was asked to add the gates to the burial ground to the next agenda. The existing gates need replacing and the Council will need to agree what sort of gates should be used.				Clerk
42292	Close of meeting				P. Roundell
42293	Date of next meetings. Thursday 23 rd March at 8pm in Fletching Village Hall. This meeting will be held only if required to consider planning applications. Monday 3 rd April 2017 at 7pm in Fletching Village Hall.				

Draft minutes subject to confirmation.