

FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Liz Bennett

E-mail: clerk@fletching-pc.org

Website www.fletching-pc.org



The minutes of the meeting of Fletching Parish Council held at Fletching Parish Church on **Monday 4th December 2017 at 7pm.**

Item	Description	Responsible
169.	Members present: Cllr P. Roundell (Chairman), Cllr B. Dickens, Cllr M. McGowan, Cllr C. Rothery, Cllr S. Sainsbury, Cllr S. Bone, Cllr N. Collum Also present: Liz Bennett (Clerk), County Councillor Roy Galley, 3 members of the public.	
170.	Apologies for absence. Apologies were accepted from Cllr D. Kenwood and Cllr T. Elbrick.	
171.	Declarations of interest. No declarations were received.	
172.	Questions from the public. The Council was asked whether it is considering the future of the Fletching Village Hall and Fletching Recreation Ground. The Chairman replied that the recreation ground and the village hall are separate charities. The Parish Council has just begun working with representatives from Fletching Recreation Ground which will be discussed later at this meeting.	
173.	Report from County and District Councillors. Roy Galley reported that 10000 parents in the County have signed a petition to object to the campaign by ESCC to improve school attendance. These parents consider that the campaign is too heavy handed. School attendance in East Sussex is below the national average. The new National School Funding Formula reduces the fixed block grant given to each school and increases the amount given per pupil. Whilst more money is being given overall, it is likely that smaller village schools will be disadvantaged. The exact implications for Fletching School are not yet known. Wealden District Council will be charging for garden waste collection from 2019. Katy Bourne, the Police Commissioner, is asking Sussex residents whether they are prepared to pay more for policing. A new prevention team is to be set up that will be locally based, but it is in the early stages and it is currently unclear how it will work. The Chairman asked that Roy Galley lend his support to the creation of a pre-	P. Roundell R. Galley

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	school at Fletching School. This will help with their funding situation.	
174.	Minutes of the meetings held on 6th November 2017. It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 6 th November 2017 as a true record and they were signed by the Chairman.	
175.	Chestnut Tree outside the village hall. Cllr Dickens reported that the Chestnut tree outside the village hall is too big and that when the leaves drop it is hazardous to pedestrians. Complaints have been received from residents. After some discussion it was agreed that rather than remove the tree, a tree surgeon will be asked to raise the canopy.	Clerk
176.	Planning applications. It was agreed to change the order of the agenda because a member of the public was present for this item. WD/2017/2368/F Taylors Barn, Shortbrige Road, Piltdown. Extension to dwelling, conversion of stable building to ancillary residential accommodation and relocation of driveway. The Council thought the drawings and application were unclear and asked the applicant, who was present, for clarification on several points. After some discussion, it was resolved to recommend the application for approval, but the Council wish to point out to Wealden DC that the curtilage is being extended appreciably. WD/2017/2478/FA Piltdown Poultry, Fairhazel, Piltdown. Removal of condition 3 (agricultural occupancy) of WD/1998/2222/F (Farmhouse to replace mobile home). Cllr McGowan commented that it would be helpful to understand the principles under which applications for removal of agricultural ties should be considered. It was resolved to recommend this application for approval. The following application was considered under delegated authority and the comment has been passed to Wealden DC. WD/2017/2429 Land adjacent to Lawrences, Northall Lane, Fletching. Demolition of existing building and erection of new detached dwelling with associated new access and parking and turning area. Recommended for approval. Noted.	
177.	Planning decisions by Wealden D.C. The following planning decisions were noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WD/2017/2310/F Part single, part two storey rear extension and associated roof and internal alterations. Snatts Cottage, Ruston Bridge Road, Fletching. Approved. - WD/2017/1485/F Roofing of livestock feeding area to cover existing feeding yard. East Park Farm House, High Street, Fletching. Approved. - WD/2017/2231/F New garage with garden machinery store and workshop. Goldstrow Farm, Goldbridge Road, Piltdown. Approved. - WD/2017/2239/LB Infilling of garage side window. Fermoys, High Street, Fletching. Approved. 	
178.	Draft report on Fletching Recreation Ground. Cllr McGowan produced a report that was written after discussions with representatives from the Fletching Recreation Ground management committee. There is a need to consider how to manage the Recreation Ground in the short term and how it might be redeveloped in the medium to long term	

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	<p>to provide a viable facility. Consultation with residents will be important to establish the potential uses of the recreation ground, and demonstrating local support will help with funding applications. Cllr McGowan stressed that the Recreation Ground operates independently of the Parish Council and so will need to make its own decision, but the Parish Council can help work out the options.</p> <p>Wealden D.C. have in the past stated that the restrictions on development arising from the Ashdown Forest issues would mean that a new pavilion could not be built, unless travel credits can be secured by other means e.g. the closure of other amenities. The Chairman explained that Wealden D.C. have moved on from this position and that there may be some flexibility regarding the provision of new community facilities. The original conversation with them should not prevent the options from being considered now.</p> <p>The Chairman was asked whether the Village Hall committee will be involved in the plans. The Chairman responded that at the moment only the Recreation Ground is being looked at, but that it might be appropriate to involve the Village Hall further into the project.</p> <p>Cllr McGowan recommended that a subscription is taken out to the Village Halls and Community Buildings Service of Action in Rural Sussex (AiRS). They have extensive experience in this area and can assist with public engagement and shaping the options. Their involvement will also help ensure that potential conflicts of interest are respected. The annual subscription is £144. Their consultant can be made available at a daily rate.</p> <p>It was resolved to subscribe to the specialist service of AiRS</p>	Clerk
179.	<p>Phone box at Splaynes Green.</p> <p>The phone box at Splaynes Green was given by BT to the Community Heartbeat Trust, who are willing to pass it on to the Parish Council. It needs repainting and some glass needs replacing. Other communities have turned their phone boxes into libraries and art galleries. Cllr Sainsbury and Cllr Dickens will visit the phone box to consider the options and the Clerk will research the process for obtaining the box from the Community Heartbeat Trust. The options will be considered further at the next meeting.</p>	<p>S. Sainsbury</p> <p>B. Dickens</p> <p>Clerk</p>
180.	<p>Rose and Crown public house, update.</p> <p>The Parish Council understands that the owner has granted a one-year lease and that the pub should be open before Christmas.</p>	
181.	<p>Draft budget for 2018/2019.</p> <p>The draft budget was discussed and agreed in principle. The budget and precept will be confirmed at the Parish Council meeting in January. The Clerk was asked to contact Fletching Village Hall and R and R taxis regarding any outstanding payments.</p>	
182.	<p>Relocation of the post box on Shortbridge Road.</p> <p>Cllr Sainsbury reported that residents living near the post box confirmed that they are regular users of the box and that the current location is safer than the location next to The Peacock car park. It was agreed that the post box should be left where it is.</p>	S. Sainsbury
183.	<p>Security issues in the parish.</p> <p>The recent public meeting on security, organised by Piltdown Residents</p>	

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	Association (PRA), was well attended. Cllr Sainsbury reported that some youths have been firing stones and ball bearings at windows. It was agreed that residents should be encouraged to report all criminal offences, no matter how minor, to the Police. The Clerk will put a piece on the website and in the next parish magazine and ask that any reports to Police are also copied to her so that the Parish Council can keep a record for possible future reference. Cllr Sainsbury will send the Clerk a link from the Sussex Police website that could also go in the magazine. Neither PRA nor the Parish Council can take responsibility for security in the parish, but compiling evidence might be useful for future discussions with the police.	S Sainsbury Clerk
184.	Speeding issues in Fletching. The Chairman received a complaint that cars speed along the stretch between Fletching High Street and Splaynes Green. This was discussed at the meeting this morning with ESCC Highways. Highways have investigated this before and consider that the speed limit on that stretch is appropriate for the area. It was also noted that there were no volunteers for the proposed Speed Watch, but that it could be run on that stretch if people were willing to volunteer. The Clerk was asked to respond to the complaint.	Clerk
185.	Burial Ground Maintenance: -New contractor for the 3-year grass cutting contract from March 2018. It was resolved to award the 3-year grass cutting contract to Tim Jordan, subject to annual review. - Replacement gates at the Cherry Cottages entrance to the burial ground. It was resolved to award the contract to P.Veal. It was also agreed that a sign should be placed at the gates to state, "This is not a public footpath" to prevent people walking that way across the burial ground.	Clerk
186.	Reports from meetings and training attended. Cllr Rothery and Cllr Dickens reported from the Sussex Community Resilience event they attended. The Red Cross are creating a list of emergency response volunteers. The Clerk was asked to put this in the Fletching magazine.	
187.	Administration. - Payments, receipts and bank reconciliation. The Clerk distributed the financial report showing the payments for approval, the receipts and bank reconciliation. It was resolved to approve the payments and the report was signed by the Chairman and is attached to these minutes. - Appointment of new auditor. PKF Littlejohn have been appointed again as the auditor. It was confirmed that Councillors do not have a conflict of interest with this firm. - Memorial applications. The memorial application for Mr Bignell was approved.	
188.	Information for noting or including on a future agenda. The Clerk was asked to add the following items to the next agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> village gateways at Piltdown. Street cleaning. 	
189.	Close of meeting	
190.	Date of next meeting - 8th January at 7pm at Fletching Parish Church.	

Fletching Parish Council Finances 4th December 2017

Payments for approval

Ref	Method	To	For	Amount
60	BACS	Mr B. Dickens	Expenses	25.20
61	BACS	ALCC	Clerk membership (shared)	12.00
62	BACS	SLCC	Clerk membership (shared)	67.30
63	Chq 08	Nice N Tidy	Grass cutting	650.00
64	BACS	Elizabeth Bennett	Salary	494.00
65	BACS	HMRC	Tax, quarterly payment	370.40
66	BACS	East Sussex Pension Fund	Clerk's pension	177.05
67	BACS	Elizabeth Bennett	Expenses	16.20
68	BACS	ICO	Renewal of data protection registration	35.00

Receipts in October

From	For	Amount
Masters and Son	Memorial for Susan Spencer	65.00

Fletching Parish Council Bank Reconciliation 30th November 2017

Fletching Parish Council Bank Reconciliation 30th November 2017					
Balance per bank statements as at 31st October 2017			Cashbook		
FPC Current Account	14140.05		Opening balance		30267.51
FPC Festival Account	24.97		Add receipts in year		31792.36
FPC Savings Account	31557.70		Less payments in year		-16067.53
FPC War Memorial Account	421.39				
FPC Maryon-Wilson Account	498.23				
Less unpresented cheques					
Nice N Tidy Chq 07	-650				
Net Balance	45992.34		Balance		45992.34

Signed by Chairman of PC meeting 4/12/2017