

# FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Gabriella Paterson-Griggs

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**MINUTES** of the Meeting of **FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL** held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 in the Village Hall, High Street, Fletching (7 – 7.47pm).

**PRESENT:** Councillors R Hannay (Chair), R Borton, N Collum and L Snelgrove

Also in attendance: Gabriella Paterson-Griggs (Clerk and RFO) and Councillor Roy Galley (ESCC).

Members of the Public in Attendance: 5

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Abraham, W Constantinou, D Greenish and K Minch and Councillor Christina Coleman (District Cllr)

## **23/161. RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR**

Councillor Hannay reported that Councillor Dan Kerwood had resigned from the Parish Council, for personal reasons, with immediate effect. It was noted that the Clerk had started the casual vacancy process and contacted the elections office at Wealden District Council.

## **23/162. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **23/163. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the last meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were a correct record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

## **23/164. MATTERS ARISING**

*Splaynes Green Phone Box:* this was deferred to the next meeting.

## **23/165. PLANNING APPLICATIONS – RECEIVED**

The following Planning Application was discussed. See Minute 23/175 below for details.

WD/2023/2216/F – 29 Cherry Cottages, Fletching TN22 3SY

## **23/166. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR CHRISTINA COLEMAN**

Councillor Coleman was unable to attend the meeting. She had supplied a written briefing to the councillors that had been circulated with the agenda and was noted.

## **23/167. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR GALLEY**

Councillor Galley reported that ESCC was due to be holding its Full Council meeting the following week where there would be a discussion on the budget process and consultation. The consultation on the Gatwick Airport expansion was also on the agenda where the county council would be deciding what issues it wanted to raise and questions to be asked.

Councillor Galley also informed the Parish Council that he was holding a village meeting in Buxted where he would be discussing the airport expansion proposal and the new parliamentary boundaries. It was noted that he was planning to roll these out to the other areas in his ward.

## **23/168. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Councillor Hannay reported that the Steering Group had produced a first draft of the questionnaire which had been shared with Wealden District Council officers who had given the Group useful feedback. The Group was due to meet again later that week to finalise the questionnaire which would be circulated with the Parish Magazine in November. Unfortunately, the historical exhibition was not able to be held in October as originally planned where the questionnaire was going to be launched but this would not stop the consultation proceeding.

It was noted that Councillor Hannay had spoken to potential consultants as one would be commissioned following the consultation.

## **23/169. WORKING GROUPS / EXTERNAL GROUPS**

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- i. *Fletching Recreation Ground Committee (FRGC)*: The Clerk updated that the Committee had met and the minutes were circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that a building regulations application had been made for the refurbishment work to the pavilion and quotes were awaited from the builder. She also reported that consideration was being given to installing solar panels on the roof of the building and quotes had been received.

- ii. *Parking Working Group*

Feasibility Study: It was agreed that parking was not such an issue in the village as it had been when the feasibility study had been called for. However, there was concern in the village about speeding which had been raised at the local forum held by Councillor Coleman. It was noted that, previously, it had been agreed to share the cost of a speed survey outside the school with the school. The best location for a survey to be undertaken was discussed and it was considered that the cars were going faster in the High Street than in Church Street outside the school. Any data collected in the High Street would still have relevance to the school.

It was **RESOLVED** that ESCC be requested to undertake a speed survey in the High Street, Fletching.

20pmh Speed Limit: It was agreed that before any further requests were made for a 20mph zone the results of the speed survey would be needed as evidence. Councillor Galley explained that there had been some changes in the Community Match Scheme which may be helpful to the Parish Council.

- iii. *Ashdown Forest Parish Liaison Group*: deferred to the next meeting.

## 23/170. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

There had been no correspondence received since the last meeting.

## 23/171. FINANCE AND ASSETS

- i. The invoices and payments for October 2023 were **AUTHORISED** and the Council's current financial position and bank reconciliation were noted.
- ii. The budget monitoring report for Q2 was **NOTED**.

## 23/172. GRANT AWARDS

Wealden Citizens Advice Bureau

The grant request from Wealden Citizen Advice Bureau for £300 towards office IT equipment was discussed and it was **RESOLVED** that the grant be awarded in full.

## 23/173. BURIAL GROUND

- i. There were no applications for permits since the last meeting.
- ii. *Burial Ground Regulations* – the revised Regulations were circulated prior to the meeting. A one-page summary had also been prepared by Councillor Minch, that covered the salient points, that could be given to those arranging a burial.
- iii. It was **RESOLVED** that the Burial Ground Regulations and Summary document be adopted.

## 23/174. ENFORCEMENT – PLANNING AND DRAINAGE

- i. *Flitteridge Farm*: It was noted that a meeting was being held with the occupant of the last remaining caravan and the WDC Housing Options team. A further update was awaited from the Wealden planning enforcement team.

## 23/175. PLANNING APPLICATIONS - RECEIVED

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

- i. **WD/2023/0470/LB Moons Oast, Sharpsbridge Lane, Piltdown TN22 3XG**  
Replacement roof tiles and rainwater goods.

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*The Parish Council has NO COMMENTS to make on this application.*

ii. **WD/2023/2055/LB Black Ven Farm, Down Street, Nutley TN22 3EH**

Work to repair and re-roof farmhouse.

*The Parish Council has NO COMMENTS to make on this application. However, some concern was raised as to the use of felt in the re-roofing of a listed building.*

iii. **WD/2023/2151/F + 2152/LB North Park Lodge, Sheffield Park TN22 3RA**

A link between the dwelling and the ancillary accommodation in the garage along with a modest attached sitting room (a garden room) with a solid roof.

*The Parish Council objected to the previous application that was withdrawn. This application is for a smaller gazebo that is more in keeping with the existing garage and will be well screened by a hedge and wall. Onsite the applicant explained that they had sought pre-application advice from Wealden and had amended the original application accordingly. They also confirmed that the hedge screening would be increased to mirror that at South Park Lodge.*

The Parish Council, therefore, SUPPORTS the application.

iv. **WD/2023/2216/F 29 Cherry Gardens, Fletching TN22 3SY**

New front porch and single-storey side extension.

*The site is outside the conservation area and is well screened. The proposed additions have been designed to complement the existing property. The Parish Council SUPPORTS the application.*

## 23/176. PLANNING APPLICATIONS - DECISIONS

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

*Applications Approved* – None since the last meeting

*Applications Refused*

i. **WD/2022/0663/LB Sheffield Park House, Sheffield Green TN22 3QZ**

Installation of a new fire alarm system with replacement of some glass and entrance/cupboard doors internally to fire rated glass and doors and associated works. (REFUSED 6 September 2023)

ii. **WD/2023/1865/F The Griffin, High Street, Fletching TN22 3SS**

Erection of a pergola and associated works over the existing BBQ area. (REFUSED 12 September 2023)

*Applications Withdrawn* – None since the last meeting

## 23/177. PARISH IN BLOOM

The Clerk reported that the judging had taken place and the results announced on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023. She announced that the Parish had been awarded Gold, up from last year's silver gilt, in the Parishes in Bloom section. The Councillors were very pleased with the news and thanked Councillor Minch and the Clerk for all the work they had done for the award.

## 23/178. ITEMS FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE

It was agreed that the following items be included for the next edition of the Parish Magazine:

- Parish in Bloom result
- New date for exhibition (if agreed by the deadline)

## 23/179. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Agenda items to include:

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- Gatwick Airport expansion – whether to join CAGNE
- Weald to Waves – whether to participate
- Splaynes Green Phone Box

It was requested that Councillors contact the Clerk with any other items they wish to be considered at the next meeting.

## **23/180. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7pm in the Village Hall