

FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Gabriella Paterson-Griggs

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MINUTES of the Ordinary Meeting of **FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL** held on Monday 6th February 2023 in the Village Hall, High Street, Fletching (7 – 9.18pm).

PRESENT: Councillors C Rothery (Chair), D Greenish (Vice-Chair), R Borton, N Collum, R Hannay, K Minch, A Shaw and W Constantinou.

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

Members of the Public in Attendance: 70

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D Kerwood.

23/21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

23/22. PRESENTATION – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS

Prior to the formal business of the meeting the Parish Council received a presentation from David Phillips on Neighbourhood Plans. At the end of the presentation those members of the public present were asked whether they thought the Parish Council should embark on the process of developing a neighbourhood plan for Fletching parish. The majority thought it should and a number were willing to be involved.

23/23. WD/2022/3319/MAO - ASHDOWN BUSINESS PARK, MARESFIELD

The Chairman extended the public participation time, that usually took place before the meeting, to allow the Parish Council to hear from the agent for the planning application and from members of the public who wished to express a view.

The agent, Mr Barber, spoke in favour of the application.

Four members of the public spoke, on behalf of local residents, against the application.

23/24. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 9th January 2023 were a correct record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

Note: Cllr Collum left the meeting at 8.45pm before the following item of business

23/25. PLANNING APPLICATIONS - RECEIVED

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

i. **WD/2022/3319/MAO Ashdown Business Park, Michael Way, Maresfield TN22 2DU (adjoining parish consultation)**

Extension of Ashdown Business Park into land to the west, provision for up to 60,000m² of gross internal floor area for class E(g) mixed use classes plus B2 and B8 with ancillary storage and office use.

Detailed comments were agreed by the Parish Council which STRONGLY OBJECTS to the application.

ii. **WD/2022/3184/F Chapel Cottage, Shortbridge Road, Piltdown TN22 3XD**

Rear extension to existing annex.

The application is to provide an extension to provide more living space. The extension is relatively unobtrusive, is not visible from the road but will be visible from the golf course. The annex extension is a flat roof and the extension is set down below the level of the existing out building so the roof

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would be a lower height than the existing roof. The Parish Council **SUPPORTS** this application and requests that a condition be included ensuring that the extension remains attached to the main dwelling and not sold as a separate property.

iii. **WD/2023/0002/FA Piltdown Golf Club, Golf Club Lane, Piltdown TN22 3XB**

Variation of condition 3 of WD/2020/1754/F Alteration of the new irrigation water supply.

*The water tank has been moved from the boundary to the North of the practice area to an area where there is already a tank although the existing tank is somewhat smaller and less obtrusive than the new much larger tank. The large water tank is going to be coated in green to make it less obvious and will be screened by trees and additional planting. The Parish Council **SUPPORTS** this application.*

Note: Cllr Collum returned to the meeting at 8.50pm

23/26. **MATTERS ARISING**

Piltdown Speed Reduction Petition – the Clerk circulated, prior to the meeting, the minutes from the ESCC Lead Member meeting. It was noted that the reduction to the speed limit had not been agreed but that a meeting was to be held with ESCC officers on site to review the disputed number of visible properties. A feasibility study would be requested in respect of road safety options in due course.

23/27. **REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Councillor Galley confirmed that he had been sent some dates for the meeting on site with ESCC officers at Piltdown and would be arranging the site visit with the lead petitioner, Amanda Abrahams. He also reported that Council Tax would increase by approximately 5% for the coming year and that more details would be in his monthly bulletin.

23/28. **WORKING GROUPS / EXTERNAL GROUPS**

Updates were given by the Clerk/Councillors who attended the following external groups:

- i. *SLR Meeting:* The Clerk sent out the minutes of the SLR meeting to all councillors before the meeting. It was noted that some works had already been undertaken. In respect of the Fletching Parking Feasibility Study, it was confirmed that the report had now been received and would be circulated to all councillors and would be discussed at the next meeting of the FPC.
- ii. *Uckfield Cluster CSAG:* Councillor Minch had been unable to attend the meeting and was still awaiting the notes which would then be circulated to all councillors.

23/29. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

- i. *Civility and Respect – email from a parishioner:* The Clerk reported that she had received a complaint from a parishioner about the conduct of an unnamed parish councillor. The details of the complaint had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. The Clerk reminded all councillors that they had all agreed to sign up to the Civility and Respect pledge which stated that councillors would treat everyone with civility and respect.

23/30. **FINANCE AND HR**

- i. The invoices and payments for February 2023 were **AUTHORISED** and the Council's current financial position and bank reconciliation were noted.
- ii. It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Peter J Consultants as the internal auditor for the 2022 accounts.
- iii. The Council **RESOLVED** to purchase Scribe Cemetery to manage the burial ground records.

23/31. **BURIAL GROUND**

- i. The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Burial Ground Fees for 2023/24 with no increase from the current year prices.

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- ii. There had been no requests or permit applications made since the last meeting.
- iii. The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the lower quote for cutting the laurel hedge in the Burial Ground with the option to place the chippings at the base of the hedge to act as a weed suppressant.

23/32. POLICIES

The following policies were re-adopted:

- i. Filming and Recording at Meetings
- ii. Press and Media Policy
- iii. FPC Privacy Policy

23/33. ENFORCEMENT – PLANNING AND DRAINAGE

- i. *Flitteridge Farm*: It was noted that, to date, a planning application for the use of the land as a caravan site had not been submitted and that if this was not forthcoming the enforcement action would be commenced.

23/34. PLANNING APPLICATIONS - DECISIONS

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

Applications Approved

- i. **WD/2022/3111/F Mallingdown Farm, Down Street, Piltdown TN22 3XU**

Erection of a 17.76kw solar array (Approved – 26 January 2023)

Applications Refused – None since the last meeting

Applications Withdrawn – None since the last meeting

23/35. KINGS CORONATION

Following the publication by Buckingham Palace of the timetable of events for the coronation weekend it was agreed that the fireworks take place on the evening of Saturday 6th May 2023 and the street party take place on Sunday 7th May 2023 at lunchtime. The Clerk to apply for a road closure order identical to the one approved for last year's street party. It was also agreed to find out more information about the Big Help Out on Monday 8th May 2023.

The Clerk also reported that she would be applying for a grant from the Lottery Awards for All scheme for the coronation celebrations.

Note: Councillor Galley left the meeting at 9.07pm prior to the following items of business

23/36. LAND REGISTRATION

Councillor Greenish reported that all the Parish Council owned land had now been registered as confirmation had been received that the Burial Ground was now registered with the Land Registry.

23/37. FLAGPOLE

The Clerk reported that she was in the process of applying for planning permission for the flagpole and had served notice on ESCC as the landowner.

23/38. SPLAYNES GREEN PHONE BOX

Councillor Constantinou confirmed that the phone box door is to be ordered by the Clerk to be delivered to Councillor Kerwood.

23/39. ITEMS FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE

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

- Ashdown Business Park application discussed at well attended FPC meeting

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- Kings Coronation update
- Neighbourhood Plan – request for volunteers

23/40. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The following items to be included in the agenda for the next meeting:

- Neighbourhood Plan
- Feasibility Study report for Fletching Parking

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

23/41. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is due to be held on:

Monday 6th March 2023 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

The following dates were agreed for the 2023/24 meetings:

Monday 3rd April 2023

Monday 15th May 2023 - Annual meeting of the Parish Council following the election on 4th May 2023

Monday 22nd May 2023 – Annual Parish Meeting of Electors

Monday 5th June 2023

Monday 3rd July 2023

August - no meeting

Monday 4th September 2023

Monday 2nd October 2023

Monday 6th November 2023

Monday 4th December 2023

Monday 8th January 2024

Monday 5th February 2024

Monday 4th March 2024