

Berwick Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Berwick Residents held at the Berwick Village Hall, Berwick on Tuesday 29th March 2016

Present: **Parish Councillors:** Cllrs B Smith (Chairman), K Winter, V Burrough, S Carnie and C Bird.

County Councillor N Bennett, District Councillor P Ede, Helen Shaw (SECAmb), Clerk A Stevens and 5 members of the public were in attendance.

APM.01.03.16 **Welcome:** Councillor Smith, Chairman of the Parish Council, welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting of Berwick residents.

APM.02.03.16 **Apologies:** There were no apologies for absence.

APM.03.03.16 **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 23rd April 2015.** Minutes of the meeting held on 24th April 2015 had been signed as a true and accurate record at a subsequent Full Council Meeting so were duly noted for this meeting.

APM.04.03.16 **Speaker Helen Shaw, South East Coast Ambulance;** As well as being an employee of South East Coast Ambulance Helen is also a Community First Responder and she described the work of the Community First Responders (who were formerly known as Alfriston Heartstart). Community First Responders are volunteers who support the community they live in. They are despatched by the Ambulance Service and provide first aid care until the ambulance can get there. They carry oxygen, salbutamol, aspirin, minor medications and a defibrillator. Community First Responders receive no funding but are well supported by their communities. Ms Shaw also raised awareness of defibrillators and demonstrated how they work. They cost around £1750, are easy to use and can be fitted to the outside of community buildings. Councillors agreed they are a good idea and agreed to consider buying one at the next Full Council Meeting.

APM.05.03.16 **County Matters:** Councillor Nick Bennett circulated the following report prior to the meeting and invited questions and comments;

'These points have been arranged under the four overarching priorities the Council is trying to achieve for local people. The Council Plan provides details of those priorities, the action we plan to take, how we allocate resources and measure our performance. Details can be found on our website

www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/about/keydocuments/councilplan/default.htm

A bid for devolving additional powers to East Sussex, Surrey and West Sussex has been presented to Government. If successful, the 3SC (Three Southern Counties) bid will help unlock new growth and spearhead a transformation in how public services are delivered in the region, with organisations working together to help tackle the congested road and rail network, pioneer new digital technology, close the skills gap that is holding businesses back and build new affordable homes. The 3SC devolution bid has been developed in partnership with 44 organisations including 23 district and borough councils, 3 local enterprise partnerships, the South Downs National Park and East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service. The 3SC Devolution Newsletter gives regular updates on devolution developments; to subscribe please sign up at:

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKESCC/subscriber/new?topic_id=UKESCC_121

A new service has been launched as part of a Government-backed drive to provide a one-stop shop approach to business support, with the aim of boosting economic growth. We have contracted the Let's Do Business Group to launch Business East Sussex, which provides a single point of contact for people looking to start a new business or grow an existing company, providing links to organisations that can

Berwick Parish Council

provide support, access to research and development, networks and funding. Business East Sussex can be contacted by calling 0845 6018326, by emailing info@businesseastsussex.org.uk, online at www.businesseastsussex.org.uk or on Twitter @BizESussex.

Work under the Employability and Skills Strategy continued throughout 2015/16 and we are now planning ways to further increase opportunities for residents. During 2015 we encouraged contractors to create 785 hours of work experience and 100 hours of on-the-job training. The 'You're Hired' East Sussex Campaign, which seeks to support work-ready young people into apprenticeships, generated 699 work opportunities against a target of 500.

Ofsted, the national body that inspects and regulates services that care for children and young people and services providing education and skills for learners, has reported back on their inspection of the Council's arrangements for supporting school improvement. The School Improvement Service had previously been rated as 'ineffective' (June 2014). The latest inspection took place in November 2015 and the report, which no longer gives rating categories, recognises the impact of Council improvement activity and the difference this is making to the performance of schools and the outcomes for children and young people. Ofsted has not identified a need to re-inspect the service.

The Bexhill Hastings Link Road (Combe Valley Way) opened to traffic on 17th December 2015. The road will bring an estimated £1 billion of economic benefits to the area, providing new jobs, new homes and cutting congestion on the A259 and other local roads. It is expected to reduce congestion on the A259 by up to 40% and there is evidence of reduced journey times for people using the Link Road to access the Conquest Hospital. The route and design of the road were chosen to minimise the impact on the environment and new 'greenways' for walkers, cyclists and horse riders will be completed this year.

Sixteen direct contacts to the Trading Standards Rapid Action Team were made between April and September 2015, all of which were responded to within the two hour target response time. Two additional visits were made to victims as a result of a relative discovering that their family member had fallen prey to rogue traders. The intervention of the Rapid Action Team saved the consumers a total of £34,850.

The new Specialist Domestic and Sexual Abuse Service, led by RISE (Refuge, Information, Support and Education) in partnership with Survivors Network and the Crime Reduction Partnership was launched in January. The service provides information, advocacy and practical and emotional support to women, men and children living with domestic or sexual abuse or violence in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove.

The rate of children with a Child Protection Plan per 10,000 children (age 0-17) has reduced to 42.3 against a target of 44.7, demonstrating sustained improvement as a result of steps introduced to safely reduce the number of children with a Plan. Examples of actions include working with Independent Reviewing Officers (whose role is to monitor how the local authority treats children) and Child Protection Advisers to reinforce mechanisms to safeguard children. Many of these children remain Children in Need and continue to be supported by social workers.

A number of Safe Place Schemes are being developed through the goodwill of businesses, organisations and the staff working within them. The schemes aim to

Berwick Parish Council

provide vulnerable people, particularly those with a learning disability and older people, with a safe place to go and get help if they are feeling scared or upset while out on their own in the community.

Working with East Sussex Young Carers, a charity that supports carers aged between five and 18 across the county, we have launched a new 'working together' policy aimed at ensuring young carers and their families get the support they need. The policy stresses the responsibility of all agencies to identify any issues or needs young carers might have when they first come into contact with them and aims for a more coordinated approach within and across the organisations to ensure young carers' needs are identified and met at the earliest opportunity.

Good progress has been made on East Sussex Better Together (ESBT), the three year programme led by two local NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups (Eastbourne, Hailsham & Seaford CCG and Hastings & Rother CCG) and East Sussex County Council to transform health and social care services. The integrated locality teams that will support older adults and those with long-term conditions will be implemented by April 2016 and reformed commissioning functions across health and social care will be implemented by July 2016. The ambition of ESBT is to develop a fully integrated health and social care system in East Sussex by 2018, ensuring every patient or service user enjoys proactive, joined up care that supports them to live as independently as possible and achieve the best possible outcomes.

Between April and November 2015, 100% (4,588) of working age adults and older people receiving our support received self-directed support. 91% of new clients who received short-term services to increase their independence made no further request for support. This means that more service users are planning how they want their social care needs met and have more control over their support.

More than 14,000 young people voted in the elections for the East Sussex Youth Cabinet. The Big Vote elections saw 14,258 votes cast for 39 candidates across 30 schools and colleges, with the 20 winners being announced at a special event in December. Areas of focus for the coming year are expected to include challenging and reducing bullying and abuse, and making local areas a safer and more enjoyable place to live for 11-18 year olds.

We are working with five community and voluntary organisations to support the development of Good Neighbour Schemes, which offer practical help and support to those in need and fight social isolation. East Sussex has one of the largest populations of people over the age of 85 in the country, with around 10% saying they feel lonely. Information about Good Neighbour Schemes, how to set one up and volunteering in the local community can be found on our website:
https://new.eastsussex.gov.uk/community/volunteering/good_neighbour_schemes/.

The Council's budget and Council Plan for 2016/17 were approved at the meeting of Full Council on 9th February. For details see
<https://new.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/finance/budget/>

The Orbis partnership between East Sussex County Council and Surrey County Council was launched in April 2015 to improve the quality and resilience of business services and provide savings to both authorities. One of the first Orbis projects is the introduction of a paperless billing service that is expected to save the councils around £180,000 annually within three years through reducing the time spent on completing and processing around 125,000 invoices annually. It is estimated that it will cut

Berwick Parish Council

invoicing costs for businesses by up to 40%, and around 1000 suppliers have enrolled to carry out transactions with us using the paperless service.

This year, projects delivered under the SPACES programme, the collaborative partnership formed of public and third sector organisations in East Sussex with the aim of reducing the cost of the public sector estate through partnership working and co-location, include the Let's Do Business group moving into St Mary's House in Eastbourne and our Bexhill traffic team co-locating with Rother District Council at Bexhill Town Hall. This year's projects reduced revenue expenditure by over £100,000 and we have worked with charities to recycle unwanted furniture and stationery items, saving them in the region of £20,000. The SPACES programme has recently been awarded a Certificate of Excellence by the Improvement and Efficiency Social Enterprise (iESE).

A new seven-year contract for the provision of highway services in the county will start on 1st May. The contract with the civil engineering and construction company Costain CH2M will replace the existing arrangement which sees three separate contractors responsible for highways, street lighting and traffic signals. The new deal gives us greater certainty over the cost of highway services for the next seven years and includes a number of incentives and penalties to ensure the best possible service is provided to the public. Highways Stewards, who are responsible for inspecting the county's roads, will be given more powers to fix minor road defects, allowing the work to be carried out more quickly and efficiently.

Diverting waste from landfill during annual maintenance works at the Newhaven Energy Recovery Facility saved around £23,000 and reduced the impact on the environment. Waste that would otherwise have been sent to landfill during the planned shutdown was diverted to other energy recovery facilities in the south east. Around 3,500 tonnes of waste, which would otherwise have been destined for landfill, was diverted to facilities in Kent and south east London. This not only saves money but means rubbish is turned into electricity to power homes and businesses via the National Grid, which makes it a greener, more cost-effective way of dealing with the annual maintenance shutdown.'

In answer to residents' questions, County Councillor Bennett confirmed he has not had any updates about what is happening to ease congestion on the A27 but it's a Highways Agency issue rather than an ESCC one.

APM.06.03.16

District Matters: District Councillor Ede said he will submit a written report for the website but in the meantime he reported;

- the Boundary Review is out for consultation again. This was covered in the Full Council Meeting earlier in the evening.
- the Wealden Local Plan is still progressing, the results of the consultation are being taken into consideration, the Plan will go out for consultation a second time and it will then be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate where it could be rejected. He warned parishes to be careful when submitting sites for consideration and suggested they just put one forward because there is a shortage of available land and if they submit more than one it could result in extra development in their Parish.

In answer to residents questions he agreed the amount of litter and flytipping in some areas is shameful and said that if residents report problem areas to him he will get them cleared. Flytipping can also be reported on the Wealden District Council website. It was also noted that the WI has cleaned areas under the 'Clean for the

Berwick Parish Council

Queen' initiative.

APM.07.03.16 **Police Matters – Sussex Police:** There was no report from the Police on this occasion.

APM.08.03.16 **Parish Matters:** Councillor Smith pointed out that this time last year the Parish Council was facing an election and the Clerk had resigned. Cllr Smith was the only person who came forward so a temporary Council was appointed and it had a week to encourage more residents to stand. The Locum Clerk (Alison Stevens) produced a leaflet which was distributed by volunteers and Chris Bird, Keith Winter, Sally Jane Carnie and Victoria Burrough came forward. The Locum Clerk stood in, meeting frequency changed to bi-monthly as the new Parish Council found its feet.

Councillor Smith also thanked County Councillor N Bennett and District Councillor Philip Ede for all their hard work.

APM.09.03.16 **Financial Report:** The Clerk circulated the figures to date and reported;

- 1: Income so far this year is £13320.55 compared to that of £12724.09 but we received a grant from NALC of £770 to help meet the requirements of the Transparency Code.
- 2: Expenditure is lower at £10173.27 compared to £20441.40 but £8620.00 was paid out from a historical Clerk's Gratuity arrangement that year. £307.79 was spent on elections and £1702.31 on outside maintenance.
- 3: Our reserves include £2914.70 for elections, £6000 general, £1060 for Matthew's Legacy, £1500 for a Neighbourhood Plan and £300 for repairs to our fingerposts.
- 4: We can expect to see an overall increase of £3000.00 in general funds at year end which should help to take on some of the requirements of the Pension and Localism requirements

APM.10.03.16 **Open Forum:** Residents asked;

- Why the Parish Council's part of the precept has increased by 12%. The Clerk explained the increase is needed because, with the cuts, County and District Councils are passing more services down to Parish level.
- If there is a limit to the number of lorries allowed through the village. There is not. More traffic is driving through the village but it was agreed to be mainly a sign of the times. Speeding is also an issue but the Speedwatch Team was disbanded and the Police need evidence before they will consider putting road safety cameras anywhere.
- What happened to the money promised from the Solar Farm. The Parish Council has signed the appropriate indemnities and the money should be in its bank account soon.

Close of Meeting: Councillor Smith thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The meeting concluded at 20:55pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Signed: _____

Dated: _____