

Berwick Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Berwick Parish Council held at the Berwick Village Hall, on Tuesday 29th March 2016 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs B. Smith (Chairman), K Winter and V Burrough.

Alison Stevens (Clerk) was also present. There were no members of the public.

Minutes

BP.01.03.16 Apologies: No apologies for absence were received.

BP.02.03.16 Declarations of Interest and changes to the Register of Interest: There were no declarations of interest nor were there any changes to the Register of Interest.

BP.03.03.16 County Councillor Report: There was no report from the County Councillor on this occasion.

BP.04.03.16 District Councillor Report: There was no report from the District Councillor on this occasion.

BP.05.03.16 Sussex Police: There was no report from the Police but it was noted that the role of the PCSO is changing and the numbers of PCSOs are likely to reduce from July 2016.

BP.06.03.16 Public Question Time: There were no questions from the public on this occasion.

BP.07.03.16 Minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting held on 28th January 2016 and matters arising from the minutes:

The minutes of the meeting were reviewed. The minutes were then signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting by the Chairman.

Councillor Carnie entered the meeting.

It was noted that;

- the tree outside Crossways on the C39 has still not been cut back but at this time of year it is not causing an obstruction.
- the hedging on the C39 at Coppice Corner has now been cut back. The Parish Council would like to formally thank Tim Burrough for his help with this.
- the hole in the road outside the Cricketers has been repaired.
- there has been more flooding on the C39 by Crossways Cottage. This will be reported to Highways again.
- the uneven surface and frequency of the breakdowns of the barrier at the railway crossing have been reported to Network Rail who say the crossing is safe as long as drivers stick to the speed limit.

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BP.08.03.16 Planning Applications: There were no planning applications to consider but it was noted that the new timber staircase at Berwick Signal Box has not been replaced on a like for like basis because the new stair case does not have a verandah. The Clerk will take this up with Wealden.

BP.09.03.16 Reports:

Berwick Playing Field: Councillor Winter has walked the ground and found it is generally in a good condition but it needs to be levelled.

Following a request from Arlington Football Club, Councillors considered the following;

i: erecting nets at the opposite end of the ground to the Village Hall – the Clerk asked the Club where the existing nets are and the Club said they are in situ. The Clerk will find out where the larger nets are.

ii: repairing the nets – Councillors **resolved** to buy new nets at approximately £100 each.

iii: installing a notice board to advertise football club matches – Councillors still had concerns about installing a noticeboard but decided to look at the possibility of installing a smaller wooden sign in the grounds of the village hall by the main road instead. The Clerk will ask the Village Hall for permission.

iv: to consider making a contribution towards the water supply and sewage used at caravan rallies and agreed to pay £1 per caravan per night.

Highways and Transport Matters (including flooding) – It was reported that the road still floods outside Crossways Cottage, Station Road by the 30mph sign on the C39 north of the Common Lane junction. The Clerk will report this to Highways.

Councillor Carnie has checked the footpaths and reported that they are clear and that the signs have been renewed.

BP.10.03.16 Reports by Councillors from Outside Bodies:

Wealden District Association of Local Councils (WDALC) – There has not been a WDALC Meeting since the last Full Council Meeting.

Village Hall Committee – It was noted that the Village Hall's new Bookings Secretary is Thea Eastman and not Lin Hayward as previously reported and Sue Whitehead is Treasurer.

Berwick Solar Farm Community Fund Meeting – Councillors have now received the engrossed Indemnity Agreement CC/MC078 which the Chairman and Vice Chairman signed and the Clerk will now take to Wealden for sealing. Wealden District Council should then be able to release the funding for the heating. The Clerk will let the Chairman of the Village Hall Mr Jennings know.

BP.11.03.16 Finance: Members approved the following payments made since the last meeting;

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Cheque 100953	HMRC	£ 325.80
Cheque 100954	A Stevens – Salary – December	£ 870.30

Approval of Accounts to date:

Members approved the accounts to 29th January 2016.

BP.12.03.16 Berwick Recreation Ground: - This was covered under 'Reports'

BP.13.03.16 Boundary Change Review: - Councillors considered the Boundary Change proposals in which they will form a ward with Alfriston, Alciston, Selmeston and Chalvington with Ripe. They **resolved** they have no objections.

BP.14.03.16 Internal and External Audit 2015-2016: - Councillors **resolved** to approve Peter Frost as the Internal Auditor for 2015-2016 as he is on the SALC list of approved auditors and he has no links to the Parish Council.

It was also noted the Parish Council has been selected as part of the 5% sample for Intermediate Level Procedures for this year's External Audit.

BP.15.03.16 Staff Contract and Pension: - Councillors **resolved** that Alison Stevens is the permanent Clerk to Berwick Parish Council. The Clerk will draft a contract for signing at the next meeting. Councillors also discussed auto-enrolment and agreed to put in a work place pension. Councillors **resolved** to opt for the East Sussex Local Government Pension Scheme.

BP.16.03.16 Questions from Members: There were no questions from members on this occasion.

BP.17.03.16 Close of Meeting; The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7.35pm.

The next Full Council Meeting will be the Annual General Meeting and will be on Thursday 26th May at 7.30pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Signed: _____

Dated: **30th March 2016**