

Berwick Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting of Berwick Parish Council held at the Berwick Village Hall, on Thursday 26th May 2016.

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

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

Minutes

BP.01.05.16 Appointment of Chairman: Councillor Burrough proposed and Councillor Winter seconded Councillor Smith for the role of Chairman to Berwick Parish Council. Councillor Smith duly accepted the role.

BP.02.05.16 Appointment of Vice Chairman: Councillor Smith proposed and Councillor Burrough seconded Councillor Winter for the role of Vice Chairman to Berwick Parish Council. Councillor Winter duly accepted the role.

BP.03.05.16 Apologies: Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Bennett.

BP.04.05.16 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.

The meeting was then suspended.

BP.05.05.16 Public Question Time: There were no questions from the public on this occasion.

BP.06.05.16 County Councillor Report: There was no report from the County Councillor on this occasion.

BP.07.05.16 District Councillor Report: There was no report from the District Councillor on this occasion.

BP.08.05.16 Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 29th March 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.

It was noted that;

- the tree outside Crossways on the C39 has not been cut back and is now causing an obstruction. The Clerk will report it to ESCC Highways.
- 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. Councillor Smith disagreed and said one resident had a nasty fall there recently.
- Councillor Smith asked Councillors to consider providing defibrillators

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in the Parish. It was suggested Sustrans could be contacted for funding as it is understood to have a £5000 legacy bequested from Gordon Tuffnell which it is hoped can be used to fund both this and improvements to Berwick Way. The Clerk will ask.

BP.09.05.16 To appoint Councillors to serve as representatives of the Parish Council on the following bodies;

East Sussex ALC Ltd	Vacant
Wealden District Association of Local Councils	Councillor Smith
Village Hall Committee	Councillors Burrough and Carnie
Tree Warden	Vacant

BP.10.05.16 To consider the payment of the following;

Wealden District Association of Local Councils
Society of Local Councils
Sussex Association of Local Councils
Zurich Insurance

BP.11.05.16 Meetings: Councillors agreed the following meeting dates for 2016-2017;

May 2016	26th
July	28th
September	22nd
November	24th
January 2017	26th
March	23 rd
May	25th
July	27 th

BP.12.05.16 Signatories – Councillor agreed the signatories for 2016-2017 will be Councillors Burrough, Winter and Smith.

BP.13.05.16 Code of Conduct – Councillors resolved to accept the Code of Conduct introduced by Wealden District Council under the Localism Act 2012.

BP.14.05.16 Standing Orders and Financial Regulations – Councillors resolved to adopt the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations as distributed to Councillors.

BP.15.05.16 General Power of Competence – Berwick Parish Council resolved that it meets the prescribed conditions for the General Power of Competence.

BP.16.05.16 Planning Applications: It had been previously 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 has asked

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Wealden District Council to check whether the new work complies with the planning application.

The following planning applications were considered;

WD2016/0133FR – Berwick Service Station – Retrospective application for the replacement of an existing building – **Berwick Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.**

WD2016/1139PO – Land to the West of Station Road, Berwick – Modification of Section 106 Agreement dated 8 October 2014 related to WD2014/0981/MAO and deed of variation pursuant to Section 106 agreement dated 17 November 2015 related to planning permission WD2015/1443MRM - - Berwick Parish Council – **Berwick Parish Council had no objections on any planning grounds to this application and requested a site visit to see the work so far.**

SDNP/16/02025/FUL – Drusillas Zoo – Renewal of planning permission reference SDNP/13/02521/FUL for a temporary visitor services office – **Berwick Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.**

BP.17.05.16 Reports:

Berwick Playing Field: Councillor Winter has walked the ground and said it is in very good condition.

Highways and Transport Matters: Councillor Winter attended the A27 East of Lewes Options Input Workshop in April where consultants presented three plans to alleviate the problems on the A27. Their suggestions included having an additional lane onto the Drusillas roundabout and an additional lane when turning left at Polegate. Parishes are also being asked to submit ideas.

BP.18.05.16 Finance: Members approved the following payments;

100955	Zurich Insurance	1342.91
100956	Littlejohn External Auditors	120.00
100957	ESALC Subscriptions	77.58
100958	A Stevens Salary - April	326.55
100959	Simon Goacher Payroll	107.65
100960	A Stevens Salary - May	326.15
100961	G Long Grounds Maintenance	75.60
109662	Berwick Village Hall Hall Hire	32.00
109663	Firle Estates Rent	50.00
100964	Berwick Village Hall Water	68.50

Approval of Accounts to date:

Members resolved to accept the Receipts and Payments Account, Bank Reconciliation, Asset Schedule, Annual Return, Annual Governance Statement, Risk Management Document and Internal Control Arrangements for 31st March 2016.

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BP.19.05.16 Berwick Recreation Ground: - This was deferred to allow the Football Club more time to respond to the questions asked at the previous meeting.

BP.20.05.16 Staff Contract and Pension: - The Clerk distributed a draft contract for discussion at the next meeting to allow councillors time to consider it.

BP.21.05.16 Questions from Members: Councillors asked the Clerk to;

- add 'Fingerpost Signs' to the next agenda. Councillor Winter will assess the condition on the Parishes fingerposts in the meantime.
- ask ESCC to repair the cycle sign at the bottom of Common Lane.
- see if the new black building at 7 Downsway can be blended in more with its surroundings.
- ask ESCC to cut back the bridleway by Posturite at the Mill in Berwick.

Councillors also commented on how sorry they are to see the village shop is Closing and agreed it will be a sad loss to the village.

BP.22.05.16 Close of Meeting; The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.50pm.

The next Full Council Meeting will be on Thursday 28th July at 7.30pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Signed: _____

Dated: **31st May 2016**

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