

# Berwick Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Berwick Parish Council held at the Berwick Village Hall, on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at 7.30pm

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

County Councillor Nick Bennett and Alison Stevens (Clerk) were also present. There were six members of the public.

## Minutes

**BP.01.07.16 Apologies:** Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr S Carnie and District Councillor P Ede.

**BP.02.07.16 Declarations of Interest and changes to the Register of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest declared nor were there any changes to the Register of Interests.

**BP.03.07.16 County Councillor Report:** County Councillor Bennett read from the following report;

'This report sets out the Council's year-end position against its priorities.

The East Sussex Better Together (ESBT) Programme Board agreed the use of the Better Care Fund (BCF) contingency to help fund the impact of growth in demand for adult social care. The allocation from the BCF acknowledges pressure across the whole system and the need for social care to reduce pressure on health care by increasing diversion from hospital care, supporting more complex cases in the community and enabling higher levels of discharge from hospital.

In addition, there is a reduction in income for the Council's share of the East Sussex Business Rates Pool, Business Rate Retention and Educational Services Grant of £0.5m.

The capital programme forecast spending for the year is projected at £132.4m. There are risks to the building programmes for schools, integrated transport and building improvement. The risks are around funding pressures, delays in implementation of building plans and uncertain future material costs.

Since the Bexhill Hastings Link Road (Combe Valley Way) opened to traffic on 17 December 2015 there have been a number of benefits; such as reduced journey times to the Conquest Hospital; and the whole of Glovers House, the first building on the new Bexhill Enterprise Park, being let. The contractor has begun additional work to complete the Greenways and it is anticipated these will be open to pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians in spring 2016.

We have made good progress in areas contributing to the East Sussex Growth Strategy during 2015/16. Over 66,000 premises have access to improved broadband speeds, with 82% able to receive speeds of 24 mbps or above. The Business East Sussex (BES) service and website has been fully implemented, with over 250 businesses receiving support since it was launched, over £1m of extra funding has been provisionally secured to continue and expand the Growth Hub. 57 Apprentices were recruited over the year, 26 in the Council and 31 in schools

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The rate of young people participating in education, training or employment with training has improved for academic age 16 (year 12) and academic age 17 (year 13) for Looked After Children (LAC).

On adoption, the average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family for the three year period 2012 – 15 was 520 days. This is below the national average of 593 days and East Sussex is ranked 5th against Statistical Neighbours.

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 (CRI) was launched in January 2016 and a range of promotional materials are being developed.

Figures for January to December 2015 (pending DfT validation) show that there were 348 people Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) on East Sussex roads, with 22 being fatalities. The KSI rate is a decrease of 10.3% compared to 2014, and 8% less when compared to the 2005-2009 average. Fatalities were significantly less than the 2005-2009 average of 33 per year but an increase on 2014 when there were 16.

The Inter-Authority Agreement, which provides the legal basis for the Orbis partnership and will form the contract between ESCC and Surrey County Council, has now been signed. We are also working with Brighton and Hove City Council to integrate them into the Orbis partnership as the due diligence process continues.

There has been a 5.7% reduction in our carbon emissions in 2015/16, due to improved energy efficiency. Projects undertaken include the new boilers installed at County Hall, three solar PV schemes and various improvements to the efficiency of buildings.

During 2015/16, 46% (£187m) of procurement spend was with local suppliers (against our target of 45%). We engaged with local businesses through the Build East Sussex network and supporting event in February, creating a large amount of interest through social media. We are continuing to promote and support the development of the South East Shared Services E-Procurement Portal, a collaboration between public sector authorities in the South East region to provide a simple, secure and efficient way for managing sourcing and quotation activities, reducing time and cost for buyers and suppliers.

**BP.04.07.16 District Councillor Report:** There was no report from the District Councillor on this occasion.

**BP.05.07.16 Public Question Time:** Mr Clapson asked when the picnic bench and seat are being fitted as per the April 2015 minutes. The Clerk apologised, on behalf of the Parish Council and explained that there has been a new Clerk and Council since then so she will check the minutes and action appropriately.

Mr Clapson, a former Parish Councillor, also asked when the 15 trees, which he said Firlle Estates has agreed to donate £200 towards the cost of, are being planted on the Berwick Way. The Chairman said she knew nothing of this. She understood the Parish Council was not allowed trees between the stream and Leylands Barn and asked him for the appropriate minute reference.

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Mr Tinsley announced the Berwick Inn has opened a shop within the pub and asked the Parish Council to find out how residents would like it to be stocked. The Chairman confirmed the shop has been open since the beginning of July. The Clerk said adverts can be placed on the website and in the village magazine.

Mr Cooper said the Parish Council website needs updating so that it includes the Berwick Plan and the new email address. The Clerk agreed and said that upgrading the website is to be a future agenda item because it also needs to be updated to meet the requirements of the Transparency Code.

He also asked the Parish Council to hold a meeting for the planning application in BP.07.07.16. A meeting has been arranged for the 30<sup>th</sup> August.

## **BP.06.07.16 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2016 and the Annual General Meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> May 2016:**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2016 were read, approved and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting by the Chairman.

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> May 2016 were also read, approved and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting by the Chairman.

It was noted that;

- the verge on the C39 at Coppice Corner has not been cut back far enough. The Clerk will get back in touch with Highways.
- ESCC have repaired the cycle sign at the bottom of Common Lane.
- 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. This is now with Enforcement.
- It has also been previously reported that the bridleway by Posturite needs cutting back. This is now with ESCC Rights of Way.

**BP.07.07.16 Planning Applications:** Firlie Estates hosted a meeting at Berwick Village Hall on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June, to display new plans for the site between Berwick Service Station and Downsway to enable residents to see them before they are submitted to Wealden. This is a much bigger plan than the previous one that was turned down, having 33 houses, 3 shops and 2 offices. Berwick Parish Council is also proposing to hold a meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm in Berwick Village Hall so residents can talk to the applicants if the application is received in time.

## **BP.08.07.16 Reports:**

Berwick Playing Field: There was no report about the playing field on this occasion.

Highways and Transport Issues: It was noted that the grass needs strimming around the benches at the Berwick Way. This was covered later in the meeting.

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## **BP.09.07.16 Reports by Councillors from Outside Bodies:**

Wealden District Association of Local Councils (WDALC) – The Annual General Meeting was held on the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2016. Minutes are available from the Clerk upon request.

Village Hall Committee – There was no report from the Village Hall Committee Meeting on this occasion.

Berwick Solar Farm Community Fund Meeting – The funds have now been received by the Parish Council. Councillors agreed this item can be removed from future agendas and replaced with ‘Cuckmere Community Bus’.

Cuckmere Community Bus (CCB) – CCB has two bought two new buses and now owns ten. CCB is forty years old this year and will be holding a 40<sup>th</sup> birthday tea to celebrate. It is the oldest community bus in the country and the only one to be manned totally by volunteers.

## **BP.10.07.16 Finance:** Members approved the following payments;

Cheque 100965	Peter Frost – Internal Auditor	£ 225.38
Cheque 100966	Wicksteed – Playground Inspection	£ 54.00
Cheque 100967	A Stevens – June Salary	£ 336.07
Cheque 100968	HMRC – PAYE	£ 658.80
Cheque 100969	A Stevens – July Salary	£ 329.59
Cheque 100970	Berwick Village Hall	£ 32.00

### **Approval of Accounts to date:**

Members approved the accounts to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

### **Staff Contract:**

Berwick Parish Council **resolved** to approve and adopt the Staff Contract which was then signed by the Chairman and the Clerk. It was noted the pension is for Alison Stevens and not for the role of Clerk.

## **BP.11.07.16 Berwick Recreation Ground: -**

- i: The Clerk reported that the Village Hall Committee has agreed to the Parish Council's request to allow them permission to erect a sign at the entrance to the hall to show the hall and recreation ground users where it is. The Clerk will design a sign for the September Meeting.
- ii: Councillors read the Annual Risk Assessment and agreed to monitor the risks noted, none of which were high risk. Councillors agreed to consider having an ownership sign in the Ground as recommended in the Risk Assessment. The Clerk will design one for the September Meeting. Councillor Bird will see if there is a recognised pictorial design.

**BP.12.07.16 Defibrillator:** - SUSTRANS were contacted for funding because it was understood they have a £5000 legacy bequested from Gordon Tuffnell but they said the money is to maintain the Berwick Way. It could only be used for other purposes if it was agreed by all parties.

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Councillors agreed the Berwick Way needs cutting back by about 18" and asked the Clerk to ask a contractor to price the work and see if anything can be done about the ruts.

Councillors also noted that the entrance barrier to the Berwick Way from Common Lane is broken and asked the Clerk to ask ESCC to repair it.

Councillors also agreed they would like to provide a defibrillator for residents to use and asked the Clerk to contact the British Heart Foundation for more details. They also suggested it would ideally be placed at the Village Hall and asked the Clerk to write to the trustees for permission.

**BP.13.07.16 Fingerpost Review:** - Councillor Winter has carried out a site visit to all three fingerposts and they all need repairing. ESCC has agreed to fund 50% of the cost of up to two fingerpost repairs a year (they are ESCC fingerposts).

Councillors asked the Clerk to get a price from Jakk to repair the fingerposts and report back to the September Meeting.

**BP.14.03.16 Questions from Members:** There were no questions from members on this occasion.

**BP.15.03.16 Close of Meeting;** The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.20pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: **16<sup>th</sup> August 2016**