

Berwick Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Berwick Parish Council held at the Berwick Village Hall, on Thursday 24th November 2016 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs B. Smith (Chairman), K Winter, V Burrough and C Bird.
County Councillor N Bennett, Alison Stevens (Clerk) and 12 members of the public were also present.

Minutes

BP.01.11.16 Apologies: Apologies for absence were received from Cllr S Carnie and were accepted by those present. District Councillor P Ede also sent his apologies.

BP.02.11.16 Declarations of Interest and changes to the Register of Interest: No declarations of interest were declared nor were there any changes to the Register of Interests.

The meeting was then suspended.

BP.03.11.16 Public Question Time: Lord Lloyd said;

- he has submitted an Application for a Judicial Review of the Planning Process for the Station Farm application ((WD2016/1659MAJ).
- Mr Rob Clapson and Mr John Cooper will be acting as the claimants but will not be liable for any of the costs.
- he served a Letter Before Action to Wealden District Council on the 28th October which Wealden replied to on the 15th November.
- the documentation for the Application for Leave to Apply is to be submitted on the 25th November.
- the firm of solicitors representing him is very well known and the QC is one of the leading QCs in his field.
- the Appeal is expected to take place in February/March 2017.
- the Judicial Review will halt the development.

Residents complained that the hedge in Station Road has still not been cut but the matter is now with Highways Enforcement.

BP.04.11.16 County Councillor Report: County Councillor Bennett sent a report about the activities of ESCC to Councillors before the meeting. He told those present the County Council is currently in the middle of budget setting and an update is expected on Christmas Eve.

BP.05.11.16 District Councillor Report: There was nothing to report on this occasion.

County Councillor Bennett left the meeting.

BP.06.11.16 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3rd November 2016:

The minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd November 2016 were read, approved and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting by the Chairman.

All matters' arising from these and the minutes of the September Meeting were

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covered elsewhere on the agenda.

BP.07.11.16 Planning Application: WD/2015/1635MEA - Land at Wick Street, Berwick – Construction of a solar farm to include installation of solar panels to generate up to 4MW of electricity with associated buildings, deer fencing and cameras, landscaping and other associated works. Together with measures to promote biodiversity and grazing of sheep. Additional landscape visual impact assessment information submitted for consideration. – Berwick Parish Council has considered the visual impact statement and now has no objections to this planning application.

BP.08.11.16 Reports:

- a) **Berwick Playing Field** – Councillor Winter said the small gate at the Recreation Ground is rotten in part and needs repairing. The Clerk will ask a contractor to price the work.
- b) **Highways and Transport Matters** – Councillor Smith said the road still floods outside Crossways Cottage. Firlie Estates have taken steps to rectify the situation but it looks like the pipe under the road is blocked and needs clearing. The Clerk will contact Highways and Councillor Bird will send photographs for the Clerk to use as evidence.

At the September meeting Councillors asked the Clerk to contact Highways and ask them to put 'Keep Clear' signs outside Posturite. The Clerk subsequently contacted Highways and Network Rail (as permission is needed from them too) and they both say that although vehicles are stationary over the access to 'Posturite' when the gates are down for the level crossing, the flow of traffic in and out of the property is not enough to warrant such a marking.

Councillors also noted;

- that the railway signal box is currently being used for storage
- agreed recent works to level the crossing have not improved its surface.
- the Lower Wick Street sign has still not been repaired by Highways. The Clerk said she will get onto them again.

c) Lord Lloyd's Judicial Review

This was covered in the Public Question Time.

BP.09.11.16 Reports from Outside Bodies:

- a) **Village Hall Committee** – Councillor Burrough said the Village Hall now has three quotes to replace the heating in the hall. Councillors agreed to release the Solar Farm money (£8500) to them on receipt of the final invoice. Councillors also recommend that Trustees check how much Public Liability Insurance their Insurance Company requires their chosen contractor to have.
- b) **Cuckmere Community Bus** – Cuckmere Community Buses continues to serve the community well and is going strong. The Charity celebrated its 40th anniversary in October with an afternoon tea at the Cavendish Hotel.

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BP.10.11.16 Finance:

- a) **Approval of payments and receipts** – Members approved the following cheques for payment totaling £659.18;

Cheque 100976	A Stevens – Salary – August	£ 329.59
Cheque 100977	A Stevens – Salary – September	£ 329.19

- b) **Approval of accounts to date** – Members approved the accounts to 31st October 2016 and Councillor Smith checked the bank statement agreed with the bank reconciliation which it did.

- c) **Precept 2017-2018** - Councillors **resolved** to award the following grants for 2017-2018;

Parish News	£100.00
Cuckmere Community Bus	£200.00
Cuckmere Flood Forum	£ 70.00
Sussex Air Ambulance	£150.00
Victim Support Sussex	£ 50.00
Wealden Citizen's Advice	£150.00

	£720.00

After careful consideration of the figures distributed by the Clerk, Berwick Parish Council **resolved** that, subject to any late government legislation, the precept for 2017-2018 will be £13800 to help make up the shortfall because the football club will no longer be using the recreation ground.

- d) **LGPS Employer Discretions Policy** – Members read and approved the LGPS Employer Discretion Policy dated 24th November 2016.

BP.11.11.16 Berwick Recreation Ground:

- i: **to consider installing a notice board to advertise the recreation ground and entrance to the Village Hall.**

Councillors agreed there should be an ownership sign in the recreation ground to tell users where to report a risk or hazard, as recommended in the latest ROSPA Report. Residents objected to a free standing sign so Councillors agreed to consider changing the sign on the gate instead.

Councillors previously agreed to site a wooden sign at the entrance to the Village Hall to show users where the hall and recreation ground are. Councillors **resolved** to accept the price from Jakk for an oak footpath waymaker sign with white text and no directional arrows.

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ii: to provide an update on the hedge cutting at the entrance to the Village Hall.

ESCC wrote to the owners on the 3rd November and have allowed them another two to three weeks to get the hedge full cut back.

BP.12.11.16 Berwick Way – update:

The Clerk contacted ESCC who confirmed the grass under the benches has now been cut.

Councillors considered prices to putting signs at both entrances to the Berwick Way so people know it is the Berwick Way. They **resolved** to accept the price from Jakk for oak signs.

BP.13.11.16 Fingerpost Review – update:

The Clerk has applied for funding to repair the fingerpost signs. The fingerpost on the A27 may be owned by Highways England and not ESCC Highways so funding may not be possible. If this proves to be the case, Councillors agreed to repair the fingerpost on the C39 opposite the Pound instead.

BP.14.11.16 Website – to consider a new website to meet the requirements of the Transparency Code.

Councillors **resolved** to replace the existing website with a more modern looking website which will be maintained by the website designers using money available from from the NALC Transparency Fund. The new website will cost £400 and maintenance for a Parish the size of Berwick is £35 per hour. The time taken is usually half an hour a month and charged as such.

BP.15.11.16 Questions from Members: Councillors raised the Alfriston Dickensian Park issues that affected Common Lane the weekend before. The Clerk said that District Councillor Ede has spoken to the event organisers and Alfriston Parish Council, and the organisers are going to call complainants and apologise for the disruption. It seems likely the event will be scaled down next year.

BP.16.11.16 Close of Meeting; The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.50pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Signed: _____

Dated: **26th January 2017**