

Berwick Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Berwick Parish Council held at the Berwick Village Hall, on Thursday 12th January 2017 at 7.30pm

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

Alison Stevens (Clerk) and 9 members of the public were also present. The members of the public included Lord and Lady Lloyd, the applicants for Planning Application WD2016/2946F and Mr Metlock from Berwick Stores.

Minutes

BP.01.01.17 Apologies: Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs S Carnie and C Bird, and were accepted by those present. County Councillor N Bennett and District Councillor P Ede also sent their apologies.

BP.02.01.17 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.03.01.17 Public Question Time:

Mr Cooper said the £10m set aside to improve the roundabout on the A27 allows funds for complementary projects and he offered to look into whether some of the money could be used to extend the Berwick Way. Councillors agreed. Mr Cooper said he will keep them updated via the Clerk.

Mr Clapson asked for an update on the hedge that needs cutting in Station Road and said ESCC has confirmed they can write to the landowner. The Clerk said she has written to the farmer but will ask ESCC to write to the landowner. She will also contact the landowner.

Mr Cooper asked for an update on the sign telling recreation ground users there is a defibrillator at Berwick Station. The Clerk said she will be carrying out a site visit to see what size sign can be fitted because it also needs to include the Parish Council's contact details. The defibrillator was reported to be on the south side of the railway station.

Mr Clapson asked what is happening about the broken bench on the Berwick Way. This was covered later in the meeting under 'Highways and Transport Matters.

Lloyd Lord updated everyone on his Application for a Judicial Review of the Planning Process for the Station Farm application ((WD2016/1659MAJ). He said;

- his Solicitors produced very powerful grounds of Appeal which Wealden were initially going to fight and then decided not to.
- Wealden has admitted that the advice given by their officers to the Committee was wrong in law and the decision must therefore be quashed. In particular they have admitted that 33 houses is far in excess of what the Local Plan allows ie; 20 houses over the next ten years less the 11 already built.

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- The High Court will now quash the decision and order Wealden to pay the costs amounting to £23000.
- The Firle Estate application will then lie on file until they have decided what to do. It is unlikely that they will proceed with that application since it would be contrary to the admission referred to above. But they might resubmit if and when the new Local Plan is adopted.

Lord Lloyd has since contacted the trustees of the Firle Estate who, whilst offering no regret, have said they will continue to engage with residents in an open and inclusive way. He has offered to meet them to discuss the future.

He has also spoken to the Chief Planning Officer and he has agreed to keep Lord Lloyd informed of any future developments.

Councillor Burrough thanked Lord Lloyd for all his hard work.

Mr Metlock said he is hoping to submit a Planning Application to Wealden in the next few weeks. He would like to extend Berwick Stores and convert it into five flats and distributed copies of the Plans. He also agreed to attend the Council Meeting at which the application will be considered.

Mr Clapson asked if the Parish Council could display planning applications on a screen at meetings, The Clerk will look into it.

The applicants for Planning Application WD2016/2946F offered to answer any questions about their planning application. They confirmed;

- the extension to the Posturite Car Park on the Bodkins will return to a field when the lease runs out.
- all three boundaries of the on-site car park will be screened.
- they will check the width of the bridle path meets any legal requirements.
- a Heritage Report has been commissioned.
- the car park will keep all the parking on one site and will also mean Posturite can stay in the village.
- the car park will have minimal impact and will be constructed with compacted type 1 or similar to ensure active drainage. The perimeter will be defined by railway sleepers and there will be a landscaping strip around the perimeter with low level timed bollard lighting.
- there should be no increase in the volume of traffic.
- they will look into reports that a mains water supply runs through the site.

Councillor Smith said the Parish Council has recently asked for 'Keep Clear' signs on the road there but Highways rejected the request because there was not enough traffic. There may be if this application goes ahead.

BP.04.01.17 County Councillor Report: There was no report from the County Councillor on this occasion.

BP.05.01.17 District Councillor Report: There was no report from the District Councillor on this occasion.

BP.06.01.17 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 24th November 2016:

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The minutes of the meeting held on the 24th November 2016 were read, approved and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting by the Chairman.

All matters' arising from these minutes are covered elsewhere in these minutes.

BP.07.01.17 Planning Application:

WD/2016/2985/F – 2 Downsway, Station Road – Two storey side extension and single storey rear extension – Berwick Parish Council has no objections to this application on any planning grounds.

WD/2016/2946/F – The Mill, Station Road – Proposed extension to existing car with associated landscaping – Berwick Parish Council has no objections to this application as long as the bridle path width conforms with the legal requirements.

BP.08.01.17 Reports:

- a) **Berwick Playing Field** – Councillors resolved to repair the main entrance gate at a cost of £70 plus VAT, and supply and fit a new small gate at a cost of £195 plus VAT.

Councillors also resolved to fit the bench which is currently being stored at the side of the Village Hall, on the Berwick Way. This bench will replace an existing bench which is broken.

b) Highways and Transport Matters –

- i: Highways has said it will replace the directional sign for Chalvington and Ripe within 28 days from 16th December.
- ii: the flooding at Crossways Cottage has also been reported to Highways (with photos).

BP.09.01.17 Reports from Outside Bodies:

- a) **Village Hall Committee** – Councillor Burrough said the Village Hall Trustees are meeting next week to appoint a contractor to carry out the heating works. The Parish Council should then be able to release the Solar Farm Money upon receipt of a copy of the invoice.
- b) **Cuckmere Community Bus** – Cuckmere Community Buses are consider buying a new bus. Each new bus costs approximately £100,000 by the time they are kitted out.

BP.10.01.17 Finance:

- a) **Approval of payments and receipts** – Members approved the following cheques for payment totaling £1869.50;

Cheque 100978	Berwick Village Hall	£ 76.00
Cheque 100979	Cancelled	
Cheque 100980	A Stevens – Salary – December	£ 274.97

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Cheque 100981	HMRC	£ 622.80
Cheque 100982	ESCC	£ 438.26
Cheque 100983	A Stevens – Salary – January	£ 311.38
Cheque 100984	ESCC	£ 146.09

b) Approval of accounts to date – Members approved the accounts to 30th December 2016 and Councillor Smith checked the bank statement agreed with the bank reconciliation which it did.

BP.11.01.17 Berwick Recreation Ground:

i: to consider installing a notice board to advertise the recreation ground and entrance to the Village Hall. – update;

Instruction has been given to the Contractor who will be making the signs shortly.

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

ESCC wrote to the land owners on the 3rd November and has allowed them another two to three weeks to get the hedge fully cut back. The Clerk asked for a progress report on the 3rd January and is waiting to hear back.

BP.12.01.17 Fingerpost Review – update:

ESCC has now approved funding to repair the fingerpost signs and instructions have been given to the contractor to proceed.

BP.13.01.17 Questions from Members: There were no other questions from the Councillors on this occasion.

BP.14.01.17 Close of Meeting; The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.35pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Signed: _____

Dated: **23rd March 2017**