

**MINUTES OF WHATLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 20<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2016  
IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30pm**

**PRESENT:-** Councillor Fisher in the Chair  
Councillors Scott, Underhill and White

**OPEN SESSION / LATE ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

There were 9 local electors attending

Bev Marks Secretary to Battle Ramblers advised the following:-

The footpath diversion for the field at The Thatched Cottage is going ahead. The Ramblers suggestions for fencing around the stabling area and moving the footpath style back from the road have been agreed. The work is in progress.

Maddomswood now have a new electrically operated gate across the footpath, this is the only known one on a footpath.

The barn at Woods Place farm has been demolished. As the footpath ran through the barn he will be watching to see what happens next.

**LATE ITEMS**

Councillor Scott had attended the recent East Sussex County Council Highways Roadshow. They had advised the following:- They no longer replace finger footpath direction signs but would help with matched funds for repairs. - They also have community match funding with councils, for works such as grass cutting and road repairs which could be of use to the parish in the future.- Parishioners can report problems on their website, [www.eastsussexhighways.com](http://www.eastsussexhighways.com) which are then passed to the relevant department to deal with. - Parishioners can also contact our Highways Steward Jon Copp – email [jon.copp@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:jon.copp@eastsussex.gov.uk) to report any problems.

Battle Library opening hours are changing. The clerk will forward a copy of these for inclusion in the newsletter

The bi-election for our second District Councillor takes place 27<sup>th</sup> October in the village hall. There are five contestants.

Our PCSO Emma Phillips had advised there have been several reports of vehicle's stolen, broken into and number plates stolen. Emma said most vehicle crime can be prevented and advised actions people could take to do this. The clerk will again forward a copy of these for the newsletter

**1) APOLOGIES**

Councillor Apthorp and County Councillor Field

**2) DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

No disclosures of interests made

**3) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

After amending in the third paragraph of - Late Items and item 4b the name Underwood to Underhill the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> August 2016, copies of which had been circulated along with copies of the Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2016, both were proposed by Councillor Fisher, confirmed and signed.

**4) MATTERS ARISING**

- a. **Grass cutting along C.293 and Riccards Lane** - These were cut on the 20<sup>th</sup> August very badly. Following the council's complaint they were cut again on the 26<sup>th</sup> August.. A letter apologizing for this has been received and advising they will reinstate the 40mph sign that was knocked over by the grass cutting machine as soon as possible. Councillor Scott advised that on their website the verges are due to be cut again tomorrow 21<sup>st</sup> October.
- b. **Storm Water Drain Clearance** – The clearance was carried out early morning in the dark resulting in several drains being missed. Following council's complaint they have advised the will re-visit the gullies as soon as possible. They have spoken to the contractors about the quality of their work including the recent grass cutting and hopefully there will be no future problems
- c. **Purchase of a new tent.**- After looking into the actions needed to be undertaken for hiring out a tent it was found that the best way was for the Hall Committee to have a grant to enable them to purchase a tent..
- d. **Village Fund.** - After looking into how this could be set up, it was found the council has no legal powers to do this..
- e. **Any complaints to the planning department must be made by the person affected and not by the council.** We are waiting for confirmation of this from our District Councillor.

**5) CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. **Rother District Council** - Rother replied to our letter complaining about the waste and recycling collections in the parish saying they were sorry to hear the problems the parish are having, these are caused by Kiers schedules and daily work commitments. The council is aware of approximately 750 residents being affected in some way each week across the Rother area. They are continuing to seek the improvements needed for residents with the contractor..
- b. **Highways England.**- They have changed personal and Peter Phillips is our new contact. He has advised they are still considering the double white lines along with other traffic calming measures. A speed camera scheme will have a substantial effect upon accidents and driver behavior on this road. The proposed footpaths along the A.21 are included for consideration in the future five year plan for the A/21.
- c. **Local Boundary Commission** – The final review for the new Boundaries is now completed and will be implemented at the local elections in 2019. A copy of the report is available on [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

**CORRESPONDENCE CONTINUED**

- 5.d Rother District Council** - They advised a partial result for naming the A.21 giving Woodmans Green Road 20 of the 30 votes received. Nine properties that were left out of the original vote have now received voting letters that have to be returned by the 31<sup>st</sup> October. The final result will be known after that date. The clerk had asked Rother about providing new road signs; once the vote is completed they will pass a request to their audit department for the signs. They were concerned at too many signs being sited at Hoath Lane, with road, footpath and car in the road signs. Councillor White said as Rother have named the road they have a duty to provide road signs.
- e. Rother District Council** – New date advised for the Parish/Town Council Seminar 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2016, agenda to follow. The Chairman will attend on behalf of the council
- f. Huw Merryman M.P** – Advised a parish conference to be held at Great Dixter on 18<sup>th</sup> November from 10.00am – 12.00pm, The conference will cover two subjects - Access and Effective Broadband in rural and hard to reach areas and the importance of wildflower meadows. Councillors Scott and White will attend on behalf of the council.
- g Freedom of Information request** – This was refused under Section 40 sub section 2

**6 CONSIDERATION THAT COPIES OF LETTERS FROM PLANNING TO APPLICANTS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO PARISH COUNCILS SO THEY ARE FULLY INFORMED IN MAKING A DECISION / COUNCILS COMMENTS ON LIGHT POLLUTION TO BE MADE ONLY IF RELEVANT.**

After discussion the clerks was asked to contact Rother regarding copies of all correspondence being available to parishes. Councillor then discussed comments on light pollution. It was agreed to only send the full text - 2b in our Planning Policy when appropriate with the last sentence of the text being amended to 'The parish council will only give qualified support to the application if external lighting is thought to be excessive or if the application fails to comment of outside lighting'..

**7 CONSIDERATION ON GIVING AN ANNUAL GRANT TO OUR CHURCH PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL TO HELP WITH GRASS CUTTING COSTS.**

After discussion it was agreed to give £600 now and to review in January when the Precept is fixed.

**8 COUNCILLORS MEETING WITH HUW MERRYMAN M.P / DATE OF PARISH ASSEMBLY**

Councillors Fisher, Scott and White had attended and found the meeting useful. Mr. Merryman had not been aware of our negotiations, for footpaths along the A.21, or our request for double white lines. A copy of the map showing our proposed footpaths was given to him. He advised he has regular meetings with the Highways and will raise our matters with them, he also said that he may be able to arrange one of their meetings in the parish so we can discuss with them more fully. Broadband coverage was also discussed and he is arranging a Parish Conference which will include this, he will advise the date for this.

Following discussion it was agreed the Parish Assemble will be on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017 with the council meeting following. The clerk will advise Huw Merryman M.P's office of the date

**9 PLANNING**

RR/2016/2317/P	Highlands, Vinehall Road	Granted
RR/2016/2084/P	Maddomswood Farm,	Refused
RR/2016/2102/P1	Ringlett's Cottage, Whatlington Road two storey side extension. Front porch	Granted
RR/2016/2545/P	1 Forest Cottages, Vinehall Street Erection of replacement open fronted double garage	

**10 FINANCE**

The balance in Barclays Bank as at 18<sup>th</sup> August 2016 was current account £1826.06 Deposit £9755.74  
The deposit amount reflects the balance received of our Precept payment.

There were three accounts to pay:-

100712 V. Bennett – Salary - £1235.50  
100713 V. Bennett – Administration costs - £92.45  
100715 Whatlington PCC - £600.00

Cheques - 100711 and 100714 had been spoilt and cancelled

All payments agreed with cheques drawn and signed and a transfer from deposit account to cover cheques to be made.

The clerk advised an estimate for cutting down the willows along the river bank and the Ash tree at the entrance had been received from our grass cutter for £150.00. We had allocated £230.00 in the budget for this. It was agreed to accept the estimate of £150.00.

**11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 8.30p.m

**Minutes remain in draft format until approved at the next Meeting of the Council**