

**MINUTES OF WHATLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY
19th JANUARY 2017 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30pm**

PRESENT:- Councillor Fisher in the Chair
Councillors Apthorp, Scott, Underhill and White
County Councillor Field

OPEN SESSION / LATE ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

There was one local elector attending

Councillor Field said county are busy with setting their precept. They are proposing 4.99% which includes a 3% element for Adult Social Care and a sum for this will be included for the following two years.

No late items

1) APOLOGIES

No apologies

2) DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Councillors Apthorp and White declared Personal interest in agenda item 11 as both are members of the Village Hall Committee

3) MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 20th October 2016, copies of which had been circulated, were proposed by Councillor Fisher confirmed and signed.

4) MATTERS ARISING

4.1 **Clearance of blocked storm water drains along the C.293** The drains were not unblocked last August and we have been chasing the highways to clear them. They have now advised our Highways Steward has been asked to inspect the drains and forward a report

4.2 **Siting of double white lines at crossroads of Riccards and Stream Lane.** We were told last March that our request had passed the Audit and was awaiting the finance. There was a change in personnel and in August last year we were advised Peter Phillips the new officer would look at our file and come back to us, but he was at the moment very busy. The clerk has since October been emailing him at the Highways Agency for an update. After a further telephone call yesterday they have promised to ask him to respond.

4.3 **Completion of naming A.21 / Maddomswood** - This has now been completed with the A.21 – Woodman's Green Road and Maddomswood – Hoath Lane. Councillor White advised that the list Rother had provided had wrong names for many of the properties and even one that is not a property. Councillor Fisher said the list had the Royal Oak now with the same post code as his. The list from Rother was also sent to the 'Gazetteer' which means that all the agencies that use them will have some incorrect property names and post codes. The clerk advised the Electoral Register has the correct names and post codes listed. After further discussion it was agreed for councillor's to forward to the clerk details of any incorrect names or post codes for her to forward to Rother asking for these to be corrected. Councillor White asked about the siting of the road signs, the clerk had been advised this matter has passed to Rother's Audit department to deal with.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) **Sussex and Surrey Association of Local Councils** - This year's Spring conference will be held at Hellingly 13th March 9.30a.m – 15.30p.m. if any councillor would like to attend. .
- b) **Charity Commission** – The Commission have advised that they need to deal with the Management hall Committee not the Parish Council as Custodian Trustees. They need a copy of the Village Hall Committee minutes where the resolution for the amendments to their Trust deed were agreed, in order for this to be added to their files. A new Trust Deed is not required; the hall committee merely has to attach a copy of the minutes to their copy of the deed, A copy will also be required by the parish council. Councillor White advised this is now being done.
- c) **Rother District Council** – They are now consulting on their Development Plan and a copy of the Plan was available for councillor's
- d) **Rother District Council** – They are consulting on a Governance Review for Bexhill on Sea. The possibility of having a Town Council for Bexhill has been discussed for many years but up to now not acted on.

6) REVIEW:-

ASSET REGISTER

7) RISK ASSESSMENT POLICY

8) INTERNAL AUDITOR TERMS OF REFERENCE / SPOPE AND COVERAGE FOR AUDIT.

All were approved

9) CONSIDERATION OF ANNUAL GRANT TO OUR CHURCH PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL TO HELP WITH THEIR GRASS CUTTING COSTS.

This was deferred to our May meeting.

10) REPORTS FROM – COUNCILLOR SCOTT ON THE ROTHER PLANNING SEMINAR

Councillor Scott said the meeting had covered setting up Neighbourhood Plans and the Development and Site Allocations in Rother’s Local Plan which parishes and the public are being consulted on. Control of Intrusive lighting is mentioned in the plan.

COUNCILLOR WHITE ON THE WILDFLOWER MEADOWS AND RURAL BROADBAND

MEETING Councillor White said the first part was on Wildflower Meadows. The timing of cutting the meadows was very important and in order to save costs parishes could get together and have one machine for cutting and collecting that they could all share. As we are a small village and do not have a large green area it would not be option for us. They also suggested verges could be sown with wildflower seed but again with the A.21 and having clear vision for drivers this would also not be an option.

The second part of the meeting was on Rural Broadband with the problem of everyone having different speeds. B.T outlined the national rollout and what needs to be done for those not included in current plan. They said that by the end of this year, 96% of properties will have Super-Fast Broadband, at the moment it is only 86%. One suggestion was to form a community group to try to get all properties connected to Super-Fast Broadband. This would be expensive but if more people joined the cost could be lower. There had been a voucher scheme but that had now ended. If we were interested in this scheme we needed to contact Andrew Wedmore who is Chairman of the Rother Association of Local Councils working party on Rural Broadband

After further discussion it was resolved that Councillor Underhill would be our lead councillor for Broadband, the clerk would contact Mr. Wedmore asking him to come to our Parish Assembly to explain the Community scheme and take part in discussions along with Huw Merriman M.P.

Councillor Field advised she will be attending a meeting regarding coverage and problems with Broadband on behalf of villages and could speak for us. The Chairman accepted and thanked her for the offer.

Councillors Apthorp and White declare their Personal Interest in the following

11) REQUEST FROM VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE FOR AN AMENDMENT TO COUNCILS CAR PARK LEASE IN RESPECT OF OVERNIGHT PARKING

Members of the hall committee have been receiving comments regarding the parking of vehicles overnight in the car park pointing out this was in breach of the lease. In order to address this they ask that the lease be amended to:-

Section - 2 (3) last sentence – delete - nor at any time to allow cars to be parked on the demised land overnight, to – The car park must be locked overnight. The clerk will ask the owner for a letter to cover this.

12) PLANNING

RR/2016/2712/P Maddomswood Barn, Hoath Lane.	GRANTED
RR/2016/2788/P 2 Forstals, Woodman’s Green Road	GRANTED
RR/2016/3047/P 1 Leeford Cottages, Whatlington Road	GRANTED
RR/2016/3064/P Wimbletotts Cottage, Battle Road	GRANTED
RR/2016/3132/P La Capannina, Woodman’s Green Road	GRANTED

The clerk advised the above 1 Leeford Cottage application had not been notified to the council and therefore we had not commented. She had contacted Rother Planning and been advised this was due to a technical problem which has now been resolved, unfortunately there was a second application for the same property RR/2016/3168/P Remove existing garage/outbuilding. Provide new outbuilding/car port. Hard standing and access off private drive, not advised but not yet granted so we can still comment. As there were no objections the clerk will forward the council support for the application.

13) FINANCE

The balance in Barclays bank as at 19th January 2017 was current account - £558.11

Deposit account - £8,706.82

One agreed account had been paid between meetings

100716 Averdell – Grass cutting- £240.00 Pruning Willows and Ash tree/Clearing Bank - £150 = £390.00

There were two accounts to pay

100717 Society of Local Council Clerks – Subscription - £67.00

100718 V. Bennett – Norton Protection – 79.99 P.C. World, computer hub - £19.99 = £99.98

Both were agreed with cheques drawn and signed

14) PRECEPT

The clerk advised the proposed figures do not include an increase in our precept, as with the current financial situation and the increase in District, County, Fire and Police precepts, it may well be of help to our parishioner's. The Governments contribution for the Reduction scheme grant has been halved and this will probably be the last year a payment is made Councillors discussed the current financial situation and also that we needed to be aware of possible future costs for a new clerk such as pension and national insurance payments.

After further discussion it was resolved, as we had a reasonable carry forward balance, to accept the proposed figures with no increase in the Precept this year. The Chairman signed the Precept form.

15) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 16th March 2017, following the Parish Assembly.

16) DATE OF PARISH ASSEMBLY AND SPEAKER

Thursday 16th March 2017 at 7.00pm Speaker Huw Merriman M.P and possibly Andrew Wedmore.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50p.m

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