

**MINUTES OF WHATLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY
18th JANUARY 2024 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30pm**

PRESENT: - Councillor Fisher in the Chair
Councillors Clarkson, Sullivan and White
District Councillor Burton
County/ District Councillor Field

OPEN SESSION / LATE ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Nine government electors attending

A parishioner said he has a water meter and was charged for high usage showing on the meter but is now back to normal usage. He has had to pay the large sum for water they did not use. The clerk said she had had the same problem last year. She insisted she had not used the high reading on the meter and insisted South East Water came out to check. A leak was found and the water pipe was replaced from the road to her house with no charge to her. The chairman advised the parishioner contacts the water company again and if not resolved to write to OFWAT and our M.P

A parishioner said the Oak trees opposite Woodmans Oak Cottages during the last high winds branches came off the trees with one branch falling across the road onto parked car causing damage. As it not clear if the trees are on private land or the grass verge Councillors Field advised them to contact East Sussex Highways asking them to visit and advise further. She will forward the name of the person to contact.

Several parishioners said they are having problems with the very high Lalandi hedge in a neighboring property. The block out the light causing them to have the lights on during the day. They have spoken to the owner, but no action has been taken to lower them. Councillor Field advised they contact Richard Parker at Rother asking him to visit and explain what can be done.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Davis

2) DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

No disclosure made

MINUTES

3) Minutes of the council meeting held on the 16th November 2023 copies of which had been circulated. were confirmed and signed by the Chairman

4) MATTERS ARISING

a Leeford Place / Battle Abbey meeting. The Chairman said the meeting was a little unclear exactly what they intended but a planning application has now been submitted which will clarify matters. After discussion it was decided to ask Councillor Field to call in the application bearing in mind the excessive cars use, narrow road and outside possible lighting intrusion.

b Use of Flexi Bus. The clerk had been advised that providing the end destination is not on our bus route they can be booked. They could not put this in writing but are updating their leaflets hopefully this will be stated on the new leaflets.

c. Deposit of concrete in Riccards Lane. Our Footpath Warden advised it is still there. Councillor Field will try again with East Sussex to remove this.

**5) CORRESPONDENCE
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- a) East Sussex Highways. C.293 closed for one day 4th February 2024 from Oakhurst Road to Riccards Lane
- b) A.21 Safety Team meeting date. On Line meeting 13.00p.m. – 3.30p.m. on Thursday 8th February 2024
- c) East Sussex County Council - Advising D-Day 80 celebrations for 8th June
- d) Rother District Council. Advise by email approximate Election costs May £139.97 June - £2211.45, awaiting invoice

WHATLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 18th January 2024 continued

6) EMERGENCY PLAN

Deferred to March meeting

7) REPORT ON SPEED WATCH – STEVE TURNER

No report as no meetings have been held

8 REVIEWS OF FOLLOWING: -

Asset Register

Risk Assessment

Both approved

9 A PARISHIONER HAS ASKED-WHY THE PARISH COUNCIL DO NOT HAVE A WREATH FOR ARMISTICE DAY

The Chairman explained that the council are only allowed to give to the churchyard but not inside the church. This covers all religions. The clerk will check further to see if these is anyway this can be done.

10 PLANNING

ENF/316/23/WHA Whatlington Garage Structure not built correctly and before completion being used.
Asbestos present not being handled safely.

RR/2023/1948/P Springfield, Whatlington Road REFUSED

RR/2023/1651/P The Old Rectory, Whatlington Road GRANTED

RR/2023/1497/P Land adjoining Riccards. Riccards Lane REFUSED

RR/2023/2568/P Vinehall Oasthouse, Vinehall Road
Proposed 3 bay garage and associated external works SUPPORTED

RR/2023/2623/PP 2 Forstal Cottages, Woodmans Green Road
Proposed first floor extension to form Bedroom ensuit and dressing room

Proposed widening of 2 no. windows on side elevation and internal alterations.

11 FINANCES

100868 Averdell – Grass cutting - £240.00 Maintenance - £210.00 £450.00

100869 Rother District Council – May Election -£139.97 June -£2104.21 £2244.18

Direct Debit -Hugo Fox – Website Silver Service fee £71.97

Direct Debits – Barclaycard

Email fee Fast Hosts- Emails Fee -£2.88

H.P .Instant Ink -Photocopying £4.49 £7.37

Both Cheques agreed and signed.

Bus Shelter is in need of repairs and preservative painting.

After discussion Battle Abbey School Mr. Clarkson asked to provide estimate.

12 PRECEPT

The Chairman suggested in view of any future new clerk costs to raise the amount. After discussion it was resolved to increase by 5% - being £355. Precept will now be £7455

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

21st March 2024 which will be the Parish Assembly at 7.30p.m. with the council meeting following.

After discussion it was resolved to invite The Bursar Uta Acuna as our speaker for the Assembly or if not him a representative from the school

The meeting closed at 8.25p.m.

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