

MINUTES OF WHATLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 18th MAY 2017 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30pm

PRESENT:- Councillor Fisher in the Chair
Councillors Underhill and White
District Councillor Kirby-Green
County Councillor Field

1) ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor Fisher was proposed by Councillor White seconded by Councillor Underhill

OPEN SESSION / LATE ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

There were 3 local electors attending

Councilor White said he was pleased recently to see many fish in our river. The Chairman advised these are the rare brown Trout which are only in our stretch of the River Line.

LATE ITEMS

Letters had been received from the Good Companions and Rother Rural Trust thanking the council for their grants.

New regulations for Data Protection are being introduced in May 2018; the council has to keep a directory of what personal information they hold, where they obtained it and who has access to it. The clerk has not yet read through all the new condition but one is - councillor's need to be made aware that new regulations are being introduced.

2) ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Councillor Underhill was proposed by Councillor Fisher seconded by Councillor White

3) APOLOGIES

Councillors Apthorp and Scott

4) DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

No disclosures of interest were made

5) APPOINTMENT OF TWO REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE ROTHER DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS

Councillor Scott had advised she was willing to stand. Councillors Fisher and Scott were appointed.

6) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 16th March 2017, copies of which had been circulated

After amending agenda item 4c- second line October 2016 to January 2017 the minutes were agreed and signed

7) MATTERS ARISING

7.a Blocked storm water drains along the C.293 from Railway Bridge to Riccards Lane.- All drains cleared 5th and 9th April

. b Siting of double white lines on the A.21 junction with Riccards and Stream lanes.- The Highways have advised funding has been obtained and they are now waiting for the agreement of the Sussex Police.

c. Damaged posts around car park. The seven damaged posts were renewed on the 11th May

d Village Hall committee query regarding no condition in lease for removal of barrier top bar.

The condition –‘Top bar was only to be removed for work on the car park and / or river’ was applied, verbally, by landowner when current barrier was sited in 2001.

The current landowner in a letter dated 10th June 2013 confirmed this condition. The parish council have always complied with this and advised users of the car park. The hall committee and Parochial Church Council have both been advised and given copies of the letter.

The barrier top bar has now been straightened and the side posts made three inches higher putting the barriers back to six foot 6 inches (two metres). Councillor White said the matter of the hall committee opening the top bar needed to be sorted out and they would like the landowner, Chairman and the Clerk to attend their next meeting to discuss this..

8) CORRESPONDENCE

8.a Rother District Council had replied to our letter asking why parish council are not advised and/or consulted on amendments to planning applications.

Mr. Wilson, Planning Department had replied stating there is no statutory requirement for re-consulting or –advertising amended plans. They do make a judgement as to when to do so is appropriate. Councillors Field and Kirby Green said other parishes have had the same problem. Councillor Underhill mentioned the case of letters from and to the applicants for Oakley Farm which were not on the web site. Councillor Kirby-Green said this was unusual and asked for the clerk to advise her of the applications we had problems with and she will check to see if it is the same officer and make enquiries.

9 CONSIDERATION OF GIVING AN ANNUAL GRANT TO HELP WITH CHURCH YARD MOWING COSTS

The Chairman asked the Church Warden attending to advise their problem with costs. He advised the costs for grass cutting over the past years has been £800 - £1000 which with a small congregation they find very difficult to fund. After further discussion it was resolved to give an annual grant in May each year of £500 starting now.

10	PLANNING RR/2017/435/P RR/2017/867/P RR/2017/910/P	Harpenden Forest Lodge Hooks Beech Erection of a flat, profile coloured metal roofed car port on timber columns Riccards Farm, Hastings Road Proposed private manege.	GRANTED Mr. Pearson L. Parsons and Miss D. Bradbury
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11 INTERNAL AUDIT AND RECCOMENDATION ON INSURANCE COVER

The internal audit has been completed and found all in order. The auditor has advised the council look every year at all their insurance cover not just Public Liability. The Clerk went through a check lists of all the areas covered by our current insurance and it was agreed the cover was satisfactory. Councilor White said we need to be careful not to be over insured The clerk will obtained several quotes when the insurance is due next year.

12 FINANCE

The NALC and SACC subscription cheques £104.54, which was paid between meetings, has now been paid in and the CTS grant and half of the precept has been received.

The balance in Barclays Bank as at 18th May 2017 was current account £1122.90 Deposit £8756.82

There were three accounts to pay

100728	D. Coupie	Internal Audit	£184.00	-
100729	Whatlington Village Hall Committee	Annual advance hall rent	£200.00	
100730	Aon U.K. Limited	Insurance Premium	£207.29	
100734	Whatlington Parochial Church Council-	Annual grass cutting grant	£500.00	

All were agreed with cheques drawn and signed..

There were three accounts to pay in the next few weeks.

J. Tassell -For work on the car park fencing

Ripleys Forge and Fireplaces Limited -Work on the car park barrier and

Subscription for Rother Association of Town and Parish Councils

It was agreed for cheques to be drawn and paid when invoices received and a transfer from deposit account made to cover

13 EXTERNAL AUDIT – AGREEMENT OF GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2017

- a. **Section One – Accounting Statements** - A copy of this had been circulated to councillor's the Governance after discussion this was agreed
- b. **Section two – Annual Governance Statement** - A copy of this had been circulated to councillor's after discussion The Statement was agreed.
The Chairman then signed the Governance and Accounting Statements for the 2016 -2017 audit.

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 17th August 2017

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 8.15pm