

**MINUTES OF WHATLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY
17th JANUARY 2019 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30pm**

PRESENT:- Councillor Fisher in the Chair
Councillors Underhill and White
County Councillor Field
Battle Town Councillor Kevin Dixon

1) OPEN SESSION / LATE ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

There were 3 local electors attending

LATE ITEMS

Councillor White said that following a tree coming down in Stream Lane pulling down both the electric and telephone wires U.K. Power had worked through the night to put the electric wiring back and restoring power to properties, Open Reach, acting for British Telecom, has still not replaced the wiring and given no set date to do this, fortunately there had been no brake in the supply to properties.

Councillor White said the new waste collection company 'Biffa' has now been announced, Councillor Kirby-Green has also advised this and both hoped the service would be better, but we will wait and see.

Councillor Field told the meeting East Sussex County Council had been awarded by OfSTED, - outstanding for its Children's Services, only one out of five authorities to obtain this. However, Officers are concerned that the services offered to make the council outstanding may not survive the cuts.

The subsidy of £4.10 per meal for those eligible for Community 'meals on wheels' is likely to be cut.

The County have been accepted for a pilot to retain 75% of its business rates which should provide about £1.2 million

APOLOGIES

Councillor Apthorp, agreed absence with Chairman, Scott at present away from parish and District Councillor Kirby-Green family illness

2) DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

No disclosures of interests made

4) MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 18th October 2018, copies of which had been circulated.

The minutes were proposed by Councillor Fisher confirmed and signed.

3) MATTERS ARISING

- a) **East Sussex County Council** - The road signs along the C.293 have been cleared of obstructing branches
- b) **Offer from a parishioner for a band to play at a village event.** - Councillor Underhill has passed all the details for this on to the Village Hall committee
- c) **Blocked storm water drains by village hall** – They have been cleared but are blocked again and following the clerks request to clear the two drains by the hall and, as many are blocked, all the storm water drains along the C.293, Our highways steward telephoned and advised they will be cleared at night next month meanwhile she will clear the two drains by the hall and any others that she can clear safely. Apparently, we have 33 drains along the C.293 and they are marked on a plan so working at night should not be a problem but if any are missed let her know.
- d) **Rother District Council Rother** - Advised the work is in hand for both Hoath Lane and Woodman's Green Road but unable at the moment to give a date for this due to shortage of staff. Councillor White said there should also be a sign for Hastings Road, the clerk will query this with them.
- e) **Bus Shelter Maintenance** – Work in progress. This had been delayed due to the notice board being very wet and in order not to crack the wood it is being dried out slowly.

5) CORRESPONDENCE

- a) **Barclays Bank** – The Children’s Christmas Party Fund account has now been closed and the closing balance of £235.02 credited to the parish councils account. This will be noted under section 137
- b) **Oakwood Surgery & Battle Health Centre** - After discussion it was agreed not to take any action. The clerk will advise them of this and the site of our Defibrillator as this was missing from their list of sites.

6) REVIEW OF THE FOLLOWING: -

Asset Management register
 Risk Assessment Policy
 Internal Auditors Terms of Reference / Scope and Coverage
 After discussion and as we now have a Certificate of Exemption for the External Audit, we need to delete External Auditors from Scope and Coverage Finance and Employer Liability and amend monitoring of Bus Shelter to Royal Oak Handyman, all were then agreed

7) PLANNING

R/2018/2814/P Woodman’s Glen Mr. Mrs. P. Mitchell
 Proposed garage building and ancillary accommodation
 This has been refused by Planning Committee

Appeal – APP/U1430/W/18/3212146

Mr. E. Sturgeon & Mrs. L Funnell- Land at the Barn, Ringletts Farm, Whatlington Road TN33 0NA
 Change of use of Annexe to dwelling. The clerk advised that all previous comments will be forwarded to the Inspector for the Appeal.

8) FINANCE

The Balance in Barclays Bank as at 17th January 2019 is current account £687.13 and Deposit account £10176.95
 There is one cheque not presented -Work on Bus Shelter - £250.00 There is one account to pay.

Barclaycard Direct Debits

September – Fast Host council email	- £2.39	H.P. Inks - £4.99	£7.38
October - Fast Host council email	- £2.39	H.P. Inks - £7.49	£9.88
November - Fast Host council email	- £2.39		£2.39
December - Fast Host council email	- £2.39	H.P. Inks - £3.99	
		Society of Local Council Clerks Subscription	£76.00
			£82.38
January - Fast Host council email	- £2.39	H.P. Inks - £3.49	£5.88
100770 - V. Bennett First Strike Computers			£45.00

PRECEPT 2019-2020

Councillors discussed the proposed spending and the increase in Clerks salary by 2%. The Chairman proposed that as the money from the grant to the Children’s Christmas Party Fund had been returned councillors could consider lowering our Precept by £500 to £7,100, which would be a help to our parishioners.

After discussion this was agreed along with the increase in clerk’s salary. The Chairman signed the form for the increase in clerk’s salary to £2,582.64.

9) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

21st March 2019

10) DATE OF PARISH ASSEMBLY AND SPEAKER

After discussion it was agreed to ask ‘The High Weald ANOB’ for a speaker, our footpath warden will forward the names for the clerk to contact. It was also agreed to hold this on the same date as the March council meeting but as some councillors will not be able to attend the date to be changed to either 28th March or 4th April. The clerk will check with the village hall booking clerk and the speaker and advise councillors of the date when known. To allow extra time as in past years the meeting will start at 7.00pm in the village hall and copies of Local Reports to be given out.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8. 05p.m.