

**MINUTES OF WHATLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY
22nd MARCH 2018 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30pm**

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

1) OPEN SESSION / LATE ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

There were 4 local electors attending
No matters raised in Open Session

LATE ITEMS

The clerk advised the following:- East Sussex Highways are reducing the number of urban grass cutting to a minimum of five. As our verges are rural they will not be affected and will continue with having two cuts a year. Our grass cutter is unable to cut all the grass on the hall side because of the fallen tree, if the hall committee would like him to give a price for clearing this he would be happy to do so. Councillor White said they intend clearing the tree in the coming week.

A portion of the grass bank on the village hall side of the river has fallen into the river, and a further section has a crack along it and could fall in the future. The clerk suggested the hall committee could either contact the Environmental Agency for their advice. The same thing happened in November 1995 and the River Authority, as they were then, advised putting in brick Gabions, three were put in place by them at a cost of £1,380.00 or they could let nature take its course and let it fall into the river

2) APOLOGIES

Councillors Scott and Underhill, District Councillor Kirby-Green.

3) DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Councillors Apthorp and White declared a Personal and Prejudicial interest in item 12 as both are members of the Village Hall committee.

4) MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 18th January 2018, copies of which had been circulated. The minutes were then proposed by Councillor Fisher confirmed and signed.

4) MATTERS ARISING

- a) U.K. Power Their contractors Fisher German have proposed putting a substation three metre square with a further one metre surround on the land to the right of the bus shelter. The council has objected as this would be overdevelopment of the area and could well be an eyesore. There is also the problem if the area is large enough for a walkway for pedestrians. The council has suggested land on the left hand side at the back of the Royal Oak. We have now been advised that they are asking a local surveyor to inspect the sites. Councillor White requested the clerk asks for the council to be advised of the date and time of their visit so a councillor could meet them to discuss further.
- b) Highways England - They advised that the work for double white lines on the A.21 by Riccards and Stream Lanes will be carried out in the next fortnight. They apologized for the delay in this being done.
- c) Rother District Council. They have advised that a transitional grant will not be paid this year.

5) CORRESPONDENCE

a) **Rother District Council** - Apologized for the ongoing problem we have had with waste and recycling collection. Since 1st January they had 8 complaints from the parish, three of which were for whole missed roads, this relates to 8th and 9th January when they had exceptional high volumes of waste after Christmas and New Year when they had to stop collections due to the lack of space to tip at the transfer depots. They are dealing with our problems and hopefully collections will improve. With regard to compensation payments to parishioners, as ultimately the bins are collected albeit not on the correct day the service has been fulfilled so no compensation is due.

CORRESPONDENCE CONTINUED

- b) St Mary Magdalene Parochial Church Council - They advised the sale of Mountfield and Whatlington school building and land to Acorn Care and Education with the completion tomorrow when they hand the keys to them. The Head Teacher has been to Mountfield Parish Council meeting to explain all about them.
- c) Mr. R. Vallier – Mr. Vallier had written separately to councillor's and the clerk suggesting a meeting in order for him to explain his concept for an International Romantic Piano School which would be self-financed by a housing development on the site. The Chairman had replied to him explaining that it is not the role of the council to advise on potential planning applications. Our advice is the same as given to the Parochial Church Council on their possible development, in that they should consult as widely as possible with a public display of the proposed development. When an application is received this would be considered and discussed by the council at an open meeting and a decision made then.
- d) Larkin & Pollington Design - Letter asking for the councils help in both supporting an application and contacting Rother to complain about councilors losing control of planning by giving delegated powers to officers. We have advised that after a planning application is received we will discuss the plans and then make our decision to either support or object and any concerns they have on planning should be made to Rother Planning Department.

6) OUTCOME OF MEETING WITH HUW MERRIMAN AND AMBER RUDD ON IMPROVEMENT TO THE A.21

Councillor Fisher and Councillor White had attended on our behalf. Councillor White said the meeting was chaired by Amber Rudd and Huw Merriman, Amber Rudd was very keen on dualling the A.21 all the way from London to Hastings, but no pacific site in Hastings for this to end. The next five year plan is 2020-25 and the A.21 is not a priority in this. All the parish councils attending wanted their roads upgraded; Hurst Green had their bypass cancelled.

Amber Rudd is very keen as she sees this helping the regeneration of Hastings.

The responses to the public consultation on this are not being published.

The minister Greg Clark and a member of the Civil Service also attended. The Civil Service member said we may hear something in 2019 and if some money is found there may be some improvements carried out.

Lamberhurst were against dual carriageways, Hurst Green wanted more safety for their school, Flimwell wanted speed cameras and we wanted white lines, speed cameras and pavements.

East Sussex Highways have been consulted but they are more interested in roadways East to West.

The feeling was it will probably not happen for many years.

7) BI-ANNUAL REVIEW OF VILLAGE HALL ACTIVITIES AND/OR ANY COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

No complaints have been received. The clerk advised- the council as Custodian Trustees need to have a copy for their files of the confirmation letter from the Charity Commission agreeing to the changes requested

8) DATA PROTECTION NEW REGULATIONS 25th MAY 2018 AND EQUIPMENT NEEDED FOR THIS

The clerk advised that in co-operation with the Chairman she has been sorting out what actions we have to take in order to comply. After considerable problems a council credit card had been obtained, a computer as the existing one is over 10 years old and has been having problems, software – Microsoft Business

Works, and Norton Security Protection, payments for these have been made on our credit card to be cleared on 5th April. We also need each councillor to have a council email address and this is being arranged with again the monthly cost being debited on our credit card. All payments previously made on the clerk personal credit card- H.P Cartridge costs and Website Fee will now be debited on the council card.

The clerks telephone can no longer be used and we have been advised to have a mobile phone and this is being looked into. Councillor Apthorp suggested having Skype which would be free. The clerk was not happy with this and after discussion the council will go ahead with purchasing a mobile phone.

The clerk cannot be our Data Protection Officer only the coordinator and we have to engage one. SSALC and NALC are not able to recommend a company but we were approached by a company Local Council Public Advisory Service, Bury St Edmunds, who will carry out this role, working similar to Open University, where they will forward all the forms, policies and information we need and send at intervals check lists to be complete. The Annual cost for this will be £150; if we wanted home visits by them it would cost £300 plus travelling costs. As we have to have a Data Officer we will go ahead with this and the Chairman signed the contract for this.

The clerk said it is taking all her time at the moment sifting through the information and clearing all our paper files.

9) **APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR FOR ACCOUNTS 2016-2017**

Mr. Coupie has now retired but has recommended Martin Humphreys from McCade, Ford and Williams, Cranbrook he will audit for one year and we will go from there.

10) **PLANNING**

RR/2017/2474	Woodmans Glen	GRANTED.
RR/2018/543/FN	Maddomswood Farm - Barn for fodder storage	Supported
RR/2018/571/P	The Barn, Ringletts Farm	Mr. E. Sturgeon and Mrs. L Funnell
	Change of use of annexe to dwelling	

Councillors discussed the application raising several points; This could be seen as back door development, Change of original intended use which was for a relative. The purchases were well aware of the restriction when they purchased the property. Whatlington has a no growth plan and this breaches this. The council will object.

RR/2018/632/P	Riccards Farm	Parsons and Miss D. Bradbury
	Proposed private Menage	

Following discussion and as the council did not object previously and the new application building is much lower than the previously one and fits into the landscape better the council will approve.

Enforcements

ENF/7/18/WHA	Hillside Nursery	Use of nursery for Chemical Spraying and Storing Change of use of site, various potential breaches.
ENF/38/18/WHA	Woodmans	Separate residential use of Annexe

Appeal by Mr. T. Oakley and Ms. S.E. Ryan. Land south of Mountfield Landfill Site, Oakley Farm

They are appealing on three grounds- a. Planning permission should be granted for what is alleged in the notice

b- There has not been a breach of planning control

c- The steps required to comply with the requirements of the notice are excessive and lesser steps would overcome the objections.

11) **FINANCE**

The balance in Barclays Bank as at the 22nd March 2018 was current account £323.91 and Deposit account £8,762.68

There were two accounts to pay:-

100748 V. Bennett – Salary - £1235.50

100749 V. Bennett - Administration costs- £84.66, H.P. Photocopying charge £20.45 - £105.11

Three additional accounts to pay:-

100750 R. Fisher - Travel Cost to A.21 meeting in London on behalf of the council - £24.50

100751 S. White - Travel costs to A.21 meeting in London on behalf of the council - £20.65

100752 Whatlington Village Hall re Good Companions rent - £50.00

100753 Rother Rural Trust - £100.00

100754 Local Council Public Advisory Service. Contract for Data Protection Officer - £150.00

100755 Whatlington Parochial Church Council - Purchase of Hedge Cutter £200.00

12) **GRANT REQUESTS**

Councillors Apthorp and White declared a Personal and Prejudicial interest in discussion of a grant for the Village Hall Committee and took no part in the discussion for this.

After discussion it was resolved to pay the following:-

100755 St Mary Magdalene Parochial Church Council – Purchase of hedge cutter - £200.00

100752 After discussion it was agreed to annually give a grant to Whatlington Village Hall of £50 to cover two Sessions rented for three hours each for the Good Companions. This has been agreed by both the Village Hall Committee and the Good Companion

Councillors Apthorp and White declared a Personal and Prejudicial interest in the following

Whatlington Village Hall Committee- No grant at the moment,

The Chairman advised in light of the hall current finances he had a discussion with the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee and they agreed future grants of 50% to be given on invoices received up to an annual total of £1,000.

100753 Rother Rural Trust - £100

Hands of Help - No grant given

13) **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

This will be the Annual Meeting of the council on Thursday 17th May 2018 at 7.30pm,

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40. p.m.

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