

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

PRESENT:- Councillor Fisher in the Chair
Councillors Ratcliffe, Scott and White
District Councillor Cook

OPEN SESSION / LATE ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

There were 2 local government electors attending

A parishioner asked if a STOP sign could be sited on the road at the road narrowing over the bridge on the C.293 as vehicles approach the bridge going fast and do not always stop the clerk will contact East Sussex Highways regarding this.

Councillor White said the days and dates on both Rother's Website and the weekly My Alerts are wrong. The collection from his address is over three days and are never the same. Councillor Cook will look into this.

The Newsletter editor advised the meeting of 'Speed Watch' started by a neighbour of his. The group have undertaken on-line training including how to use the speed gun. They are now looking for sites to carry out the checks both for safety and legal sight lines for vehicles. The Chairman said they have the council's support for this.

District Councillor Cook reported that Rother are now committed to Climate change and have appointed a Climate Change steering group. They have agreed to the development of housing in Marley Lane and there is money available from them for V.E day celebrations.

Councillor Cook then read District and County Councillors Fields report: _

1. The County Council has declared a Climate Emergency with the ambition of being carbon neutral as soon as possible or by 2050. It rejected a Liberal Democrat amendment to reduce the date to 2030 in line with Rother, Eastbourne and Hastings.
2. The County Council heard an e petition asking us to instruct the Pension Committee to remove fossil fuel investments from the pension fund. Committee members are quasi trustees and cannot be mandated. They also have a fiduciary duty to pension holders and members of the fund. We agreed to ask the fund's advisors to devise a scheme which will provide a return as good or better than that provided by fossil fuels and then make the switch.
3. We agreed to join with others to ask the government to allow asylum seekers to work while their status is being determined. It is hoped that this will have knock on benefits to the NHS etc., by alleviating physical and mental health problems and providing them with money to live on (the government's allowance is very small) while at the same time raising tax revenue.

Late Items

Rother Rural Trust advised they can give grants to those in need both individuals and groups in parishes. The Trust is dependent on contributions from parishes and if the council wish to make a donation it would be appreciated. Copy of letter given for newsletter.

Sussex Police advised that from November 2019 every community will have a named PCSO, this will increase the numbers on our street by 100. They will once again be a visible presence and a point of contact. We are equipping them with more knowledge, but keeping the best of the old model. Recruiting for this started back in July and August and continues in January and March 2020 under the apprenticeship scheme

1) APOLOGIES

Councillor Underhill and County and District Councillor Field

2) DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

No disclosure of interests made

3) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 15th August 2019, copies of which had been circulated were agreed and signed by the Chairman:

4) MATTERS ARISING

- a. **Siting of road signs on Woodman's Green Road** We have been advised by Rother that East Sussex Highways are not happy with these being sited for safety reasons. Councillor Field has been looking into this and the clerk will contact them to press the need for the signs.
- b. **Fibre Broadband in the parish** – Open Reach cannot help with this. British Telecom advised- residents can be connected they would need to contact them to apply, there is a monthly cost for this service. The newsletter editor will publish to advise this in the newsletter

MATTERS ARISING CONTINUED

- c. SLOW signs on the road-** East Sussex Highways on the 2nd October advised that repainting the signs is in their work program to be done. They also advised the request from the Parochial Church Council to have 'SLOW' signs at the bend by the church entrance has been passed to their safety team for their decision on if they are appropriate and achievable. They have supplied three signs warning of pedestrians in the road for the parish to site, Highways England do not supply these signs. Councillor Ratcliffe has offered to place the signs. They can only be sited on private property not on street furniture or telegraph poles.
- Councillor Ratcliffe then advised the hedge just before the sewage works going north is coming out into the road and the road sign is now hidden; the clerk will contact the owner of the land regarding this.
- d. Grass verge between Hoath Lane and Whatlington Garage -**This has now been cut.
- e. Contact from Huw Merryman re Paths along Woodman's Green Road.**
- Following further letters and emails a reply had been received together with copies of reports from Transport for the South East and Highways England. Transport for the South East letter dated 25th July 2019 states a draft strategy for the south east region will be published this month for consultation and detailed area studies will be published by the end of next year. Any further improvements to the A.21 will then be competing investment priorities within the region.
- Highways England Overview- 1 -Works undertaken in Whatlington during the last five years – Double white lining south of Whatlington at Stream Lane and Riccards Lane junction to reduce collisions resulting from overtaking maneuvers.
- 2- Planned maintenance 2019-2020– hatlington resurfacing -localized resurfacing where the wearing course is breaking up.
- 3- Future Network Needs – A.21 Junction – A.21 Whatlington footway – additional footway provision- Further studies will help us to establish the correct course of action
- Safety proposals identified as part of the Route Safety Scoping Study and route feasibility studies to improve safety including further consideration of the Vinehall School right hand turn, the footway and A.21 / B2090 junction. - These have been identified and may be funded in R1S2
- Additional comments on this matter from Councillor White will be attached to minutes at a later date.

CORRESPONDENCE

- 5) a Rother Association of Local Councils** They have confirmed Clerk and Councillor White are booked for On-Line Mapping Training on 6th November 9.30a.m. at the Emmanuel Centre
- b Rother District Council** - Advised the amount allocated for Community Grants is now limited to £130,000 but dependent on the project top up funds can be considered.

6) REVIEW OF FOLLOWING WORKING DOCUMENTS**Code of Conduct.****Freedom of Information Publicity Scheme**

After discussion it was resolved as the heading on the Code of Conduct document has the council name, references to Whatlington in the document to be deleted along with the wording 'to be reviewed bi-annually'. Both documents were approved and will be reviewed every two years.

7) ENFORCEMENT – COUNCILLOR RATCLIFFE

Councillor Ratcliffe said he believed it was fair for everyone to have to apply for planning permission, which is not happening at the moment with some activities in the parish not having permission. The council could also consider having a policy on what people should do to keep the parish looking nice. After discussion on this and also whether the council should complete the questionnaire to Rother on a development that has no permission in order to keep the complainant anonymous, or if the person reporting it to the council should do this themselves. The Chairman pointed out that our Code of Conduct section 4 partly covers this. It was decided that more thought should be given to this and asked the clerk to put it on the agenda for the January meeting to be fully discussed then. The clerk was asked to forward the photographs of the new fence and drive which possibly has no permission to Rother, but not to complete a questionnaire for this.

With regard to the possibly temporary drive at Whitechapel car park the clerk will speak to the person involved to access the situation, before contacting Highways England

8) PLANNING**Appeal –**

APP/U1430/W/18/3219022	Mill Farm, Mill Lane	
Replacement dwelling and ne vehicle access		Appeal allowed and planning permission GRANTED
RR/2019/1620/P	Wood's Place Farm	GRANTED
RR/2019/1844/P	1 & 2 Leeford Cottages; Whatlington Road	GRANTED
RR/2019/1853/P	Hancox	GRANTED
RR/2019/1878/P	Mill Farm, Mill Lane	
	Proposed change of use of land from agriculture to use for Exercising dogs.	GRANTED
RR/2019/1894/P	The Barn, Ringlett's Farm	Awaiting decision
RR/2019/1912/P	Wood's End Cottage, Mill Lane	
Amended plans received with reduced building size The clerk was asked to advised Rother that the council's earlier comments were still their views and were still appropriate and would like them to be used for the amended plans.		
RR/2019/2271/P	Little Dorrell's	
	Proposed Annexe Building	Mr. D. French
	Councillors have sympathy with the family for this, but the proposed Annexe is really a large new property and to avoid future speculation in the parish it needs to have a legal clause that it cannot be sold separately to the main property	

9) FINANCE

The balance at Barclays Bank as at 17th October 2019 - current account 362.84 Deposit account - £13,395.23

Credit -Final payment of Precept received from Rother District Council - £3550.00

Cheque 100782 - Rother District Council – Election costs agreed at May meeting £118.53

Direct Debits

Barclaycard –	
Fasthosts email fee - £2.39, HP printing £3.49 -	£5.88
Fasthosts – email fee	£2.39
100785 V. Bennett – RALC – On Line Mapping training	£45.00
100786 V. Bennett - Administration costs	£134.55
100787 V. Bennett - Salary	£1,291.32
100788 Averdell – Maintenance work on car park entrance barrier	£125.00
100789 Averdell - Grass cutting	£330.00
100790 V. Bennett – First Strike Computer maintenance	£30.00

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 16th January 2020

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.00pm