

**MINUTES OF WHATLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY  
18<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2018 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30pm**

**PRESENT:-** Councillor Fisher in the Chair  
Councillors Apthorp, Scott, Underhill and White  
District Councillor Kirby-Green

**OPEN SESSION / LATE ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

There were eight local electors attending

Councillor White had looked at the Rural Investors Strategy 2 site and it seems the next stage for the A.21 will be Lamberhurst to Hurst Green. This may mean Robertsbridge after that and then possibly our section. The Chairman said councillor's had attended a meeting with Highways England when they had said there was to be a five year plan for the A.21 which would take it up to 2020.

**LATE ITEMS**

Several emails had been received from Mr. Wedmore regarding Broadband. There is still no date for faster Broadband being rolled out in Whatlington. He will keep us informed.

Councillor Scott informed the meeting that they had been advised by British Telecom that they were to be connected by fibre wires to the box in Stream Lane.

Rother have advised planning fees will be increased by 20% on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018

East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service invite councillor's to a consultation forum on their service 13<sup>th</sup> February 10a.m. – 12p.m. at their Training Centre in Maresfield.

U.K. Power is holding a Roadshow at East Sussex College, Hastings on 8<sup>th</sup> February 9.30a.m- 12.30p.m.

Councillor Scott will be attending. The Chairman said they were still having problems with low voltage.

As they have not contacted the council or Councillor White regarding siting a substation on the A.21 to solve this problem, the clerk and Councillor White will contact them.

County Councillor Field has advised that Mountfield and Whatlington School has been sold and will function as a Special Needs School. No further information available at the moment.

**1) APOLOGIES**

County Councillor Field

**2) DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

No disclosure of interest made

**3) MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2018, copies of which had been circulated. After deleting the 0 in the 8.450p.m at the end of minute's. The minutes were proposed by Councillor Fisher confirmed and signed.

**4) MATTERS ARISING**

- a) **Highways England** - They have advised that a lining refreshment programme will take place in the next few weeks and it is hoped the double white lines will be done at the same time. They apologized for the delay but the new Designated Funding had had teething problems. They will contact again when the work is completed.
- b) **New Data Protection Regulations Training.** – Councillor Scott and the clerk are attending the training day on 1<sup>st</sup> February The new regulations come into force on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

**5) CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) **East Sussex County Council** - They have forwarded a copy of the Division Order for Public paths 5a – 5b (part) and 2 (part) all as previously agreed by councillor's. The Chairman asked the Battle Secretary if they were in agreement with the order. He said they are pleased it has all been legally corrected, but a pity it has taken so long to do so.

**6) REVIEW:- ASSET REGISTER**

**RISK ASSESSMENT POLICY**

**INTERNAL AUDITOR TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**SCOPE AND COVERAGE FOR AUDIT.**

The clerk reported Mr. Coupee has now retired but has recommended Martin Humphreys of Mclade, Ford and Williams. The clerk has spoken to him and it seems he will agree to be our Internal Auditor.

After amending page 3 of the Risk Assessment policy for the Defibrillator inspection from monthly to weekly and Councillor Fisher to audit the inspection book. All were approved

**9) CONSULTATION FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE DOCUMENTS PRESENTED BY THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL AND GRF PLANNING.**

The Chairman explained Councillors were not discussing the suggested development merely how consultation with the parish can be achieved. He would like to make a proposition on this ‘The council suggest the Parochial Church Council consult with parishes by perhaps having details in the next newsletter with a supplement inside setting out their aims and the reasons for the development, they would need to liaise with the Newsletter editor on this. To perhaps mount a small exhibition on a Saturday morning in the church where people can come along and ask questions and be more informed. Put information on this in the newsletter and village voice. When a planning application is made the council will have, as usual, an open planning meeting. The PCC said there was no real plan yet it was just an initial idea. They were consulting with the council rather than presenting them with a planning application that they had no knowledge.

Councillors then discussed why they were not going to discuss the possible development. The Chairman explained the project is not a small development and nothing like this has happened for 50 years and the council have no remit on dealing with this, the results in the last parish plan was parishioners did not want any new housing. Therefore the council cannot go ahead without consulting. It may well be that the Parochial Church Council does not wish to have consultation but choose to put in a planning application but that is up to them. The Chairman also advised it is not the parish council’s job to help prepare a planning application After more discussion by councillor the Chairman again put forward his previous proposal which was then accepted.

**10) ONGOING PROBLEMS FOR WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS IN THE PARISH**

Councillor Ganly had asked the clerk to report after today’s meeting of any continuing collection problems in the parish. After discussion it was resolved to write saying properties at the top end of Hoath Lane do not always have all their black sacks collected, there are still missed collections and bins not returned to where they were but left blocking drives The council also feels that as we all pay in our council tax for waste collection, but have has been suffering problems with this for the past few years Rother should reconsider giving a small sum back to residents as recompense especially as we understand Whatlington has had the most and continuing problems.

**11) APPOINTMENT OF DATA PROTECTION OFFICER**

The clerk explained clerks cannot act as Officers nor can councillor’s as you cannot audit yourself. She is receiving emails every week with changes to the criteria. The clerk approached Rother asking if one of their officers would take over the role, but they said no. SSALC and NALC are looking into companies that would be prepared to do this, as legal knowledge is one of the current requirements. Councillor Scott had attended the Rother Association of Local Councils meeting last week when this was discussed. As the criteria is slowly being lessened a suggestion had been made that perhaps clerks could be officers to neighboring parishes.

**12) PLANNING**

RR/2017/242/P	Ringlett's Rise Single storey extension	Miss H. Cox GRANTED
RR/2017/2474/P	Woodmans Glen, Woodmans Green Road Replacement Dwelling	Mr. P. Mitchell

District Councillor Kirby-Green informed the meeting that the applicant had agreed to some changes The dwelling would be painted grey, the width of the dwelling would be reduced by one metre. They would not reduce the size of the windows but would use reflective glass. The dwelling is not being repositioned

ENF/7/18/WHA Hillside Nursery , Woodmans Green Road  
Use of nursery for Chemical Spraying and storing, Change of use of site and various breaches.

**13) FINANCE**

The balance in Barclays bank as at 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017 was current account - £542.29

Deposit account - £8,758.31

There were three accounts to pay

100744 Society of Local Council Clerks – Subscription - £72.00

100745 SSALC = Training costs for clerk and councillor on Data Protection - £115.20

100746 Cheque cancelled

100747 V. Bennett re Fast Hosts council web site fee - £31.18

**14) PRECEPT**

The clerk advised that the proposed figures do not include an increase in our precept as with the current financial situation and with the District, County, police and East Sussex Fire and Rescue all increasing their part of the council tax this would help our parishioners.

We are still waiting to hear from Rother if we will received any reduction scheme grant.

An allowance for extra training for councillor's on the new regulations for Data Protection is included.

As clerks are not allowed to be Data Protection Officers for the council SSALC and NALC are looking at Companies who could carry out this work for parishes with a possible cost of £300, this sum is in the precept.

After further discussion it was resolved, as we had a reasonable carry forward balance, to accept the proposed figures with no increase in the Precept this year. The Chairman signed the Precept form.

**15) DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018, following the Parish Assembly.

**16) DATE OF PARISH ASSEMBLY AND SPEAKER**

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 7.00pm Speaker possibly Inspector Dan Russell from the Sussex Police.

Councillor Kirby-Green will forward his contact details to the clerk for her to invite him to the Assembly..

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50p.m