

**MINUTES OF WHATLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 13<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2020  
IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30pm**

**PRESENT: -** Councillor Fisher in the Chair  
Councillors Ratcliffe and Scott  
County and District Councillor Field

**1) ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Councillor Fisher proposed by Councillor Scott and seconded by Councillor Ratcliffe  
Councillor Fisher then signed his Declaration of Acceptance form

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

There were three local government electors attending

Councillor Ratcliffe had been asked by some parishioners about the use of a caravan on Eastland's Farm land with people coming and going. The clerk was asked to look into this.

Councillor Field said many people in Battle are concerned about the proposed changes for the Fire and Rescue services that will affect Battle.

**Late Items**

Letters of thanks had been received from all reciprocates of the council's Annual March grants.

East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service results from their consultation. The papers for this had been circulated to councillors  
Councillor Scott had attended the Rother Association of Local Council's Zoom meeting. Two items of interest -they were circulating weekly bulletins on the current crisis, and wanted them circulated to councillors. We are already doing this. The other matter was councils can purchase a speed cat radar device; cost £2500. Battle council are purchasing one.

Footpath queries from parishioners – Damage to the surface of the bridge on footpath no 6, off Mill Lane, ref. TTH 110 53m 31ch – The clerk has reported this to the Rights of Way team. Lane off Benham Cottage, not on our footpath map, checked with East Sussex, confirmed not a footpath but a private Lane and any problems are a legal matter between neighbours.

The Local Electricity Bill had its first reading in parliament on 10<sup>th</sup> June with the second to be on 11<sup>th</sup> September followed by the Committee stage

Rother District Council Annual Conference with councils is being held on Zoom at 3.00p.m. on 21<sup>st</sup> October, Agenda to be sent nearer the time.

**2) APOLOGIES**

Councillors Underhill, White and District Councillor Cook

**3) DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Councillor Fisher declared his Personal and Pecuniary interest in item 11/5 as it is a planning application for his own property

**4) ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

Councillor Underhill was unable to attend the meeting but had advised he was happy to be stand for this. With no other candidates Councillor Underhill was proposed by Councillor Scott and seconded by Councillor Ratcliffe. He will sign his Acceptance of Office when next available.

**5) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020, copies of which had been circulated. The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman Councillor Fisher

**6) MATTERS ARISING**

- a. Woodman's Green Road signs. - These are now with Rother awaiting siting date.

**7) CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. Highways England. - They advised that details and plans of any proposed work or siting of objects on the Highway must be approved and authorized by them.
- b. **The Local Government Association** -Suggested content for councils Code of Conduct. After discussion it was agreed in order to comply our current Code needs to be checked and any needed changes to be implemented.
- c. **F. McKenna, Huw Merriman's manager**-In reply to our letter asking when the safety measures and footpaths are to be installed. A letter from The Roads Minister Baroness Vere of Norbiton was enclosed she advised they were trying to speed this up in order for it to be completed by 2025 and not after. Further upgrades will be as it updates it route strategies. A list of A.21 Safety Potential interventions was also enclosed. As no mention of the siting of footpaths along the verges of Woodman's Green Road (A.21) the clerk was asked to write thanking he and Huw Merriman for the information but querying the non-inclusion of footpaths.

**8) SPEED WATCH REPORT FROM STEVE TURNER**

Copy of report attached to minutes

**9) REVIEW OF FOLLOWING**

Accessibility statement A check needs to be made of the website to see if it is easy for users. Steve Turner was asked to carry this out giving a report on his findings to the council.

Information Protection Policy

Internal Financial Control

Retention of Documents

Risk Schedule

Councillors all have copies of the above . After discussion all were agreed

**10) COUNCILLOR RATCLIFFE – POSSIBLE LOCAL IMPROVEMENT ACTION PLANS.**

After discussion it was agreed to defer this with Councillor Ratcliffe bringing suggested plans to the October meeting.

**11) PLANNING**

RR/2019/2728 Chapel Cottage, Woodsman’s Green Road Granted

RR/2019/2758/P St. Mary Magdalene Church Refused

RR/2020/145/P Oast Meadow, Riccards Lane Refused

RR/2020/196/P Woods End Cottage, Mill Lane Refused

Councillor Fisher had declared an interest in the following application

RR/2020/415/L Woodman’s Cottage, Woodman’s Green Road Council have supported Awaiting decision

RR/2020/836/P Benham Cottage, Woodman’s Green Road Council have objected Awaiting decision

New application

RR/2020/1226/L Reinstate Oriel Window East elevation. Removal of modern casement window and soil vent pipe, toilet window to carry out structural repairs etc. Council have supported application

**12) FINANCE**

The balance at Barclays Bank as at 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020 Current account £188.84 Deposit Account £11,708.11

A confirmation of acceptance of our AGAR form to exempt status for External Audit has been received

Confirmation of Acceptance of Accounts papers 2019-2020 were signed by the clerk and Chairman

Payments made between meetings: -

100801 McCabe, Williams and Ford - Internal Audit £228.00

Direct Debits: -

June Information Commissioners Office - Data Protection £35.00

Barclaycard

February – H.P Photocopying - £10.98- Fasthost computer network fee £2.39 £13.37

March H.P Photocopying - £7.99 Fasthost network fees - £2.39

Fasthost Domain renewal fee -£31.18 Norton - £29.99 £92.89

April Fast Host network fee - £2.39

May H.P. Photocopying - £15.98 Fasthost network fee - £2.39 £18.37

June Fast Host network fee £2.39

July H.P. Photocopying - £7.99 Fasthost network fee £2.39 £10.38

There were two accounts to pay:-

100802 Whatlington Village Hall Annual Rent £200.00

100803 Ben Markson – Repair to Mill Lane finger post sign £35.00

A transfer of £400 from Deposit account will be made to cover cheques and ongoing Barclaycard payments

Hugo Fox our website provider had advised they cannot use an external SSL certificate for our website.

They suggested we have a silver package with them, costing £19.99 a month. This will cover their applying to Cloudflare for the SSL Certificate, and then continuing to monitor the web site, keeping it legally updated.

Agreed with Chairman and package taken out.

**13) DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

15<sup>th</sup> October 2020

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15p.m.