

MINUTES OF WHATLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12th MARCH 2020 IN THE VILLAGE HALL FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY.

PRESENT:- Councillor Fisher in the Chair
Councillors Ratcliffe, Underhill and White
District Councillor Vikki Cook
District and County Councillor Field

OPEN SESSION / LATE ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

There were 12 local electors attending

Councillor White said the recent paper on RS3- Safety Package which mainly covered prioritizing the A.21, for – Pathways, traffic calming and speed restrictions. The clerk was asked to write to Huw Merriman asking what is happening about Whatlington’s needed improvements. Councillor Underhill asked what is happening with the Link Road where they were all supposed to join.

Councillor Field said that was the plan but it is not happening at the moment.

LATE ITEMS

The clerk reported The Highways have cut back the hedge from the sign by the railway bridge.. Rother have asked if councils will be starting a scheme to help people during the current virus scare. After discussion it was agreed in villages people will look after their neighbours. The Newsletter editor will advise this in the Newsletter.

1) APOLOGIES

Councillors Scott - absence agreed with the Chairman

2) DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

No disclosures of interests made

3) MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 17th January 2019, copies of which had been circulated.

After the change of the word STOP to SLOW at the beginning of agenda item 4a in the minutes were proposed by Councillor Fisher confirmed and signed.

4) MATTERS ARISING

- a) **East Sussex County Council** – The blocked storm water drains by the village hall have been cleared but this is an ongoing problem, The clerk has suggested to them that extra drains were sited up the hill. A parishioner said edging was needed to stop the earth and debris going onto the road and being washed down. This had been suggested in the past but was very expensive.
- b) **East Sussex County Council- SLOW signs on the bend by the church entrance-** Not agreed or approved for funding yet.
- c) **East Sussex County Council -Pot holes by the road narrowing at the bridge-** Now repaired
- d) **East Sussex County Council- Repainting of the SLOW signs on the road before the bridge.** These have been inspected but no action at present

WHATLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL 12th MARCH 2020 CONTINUED

MATTERS ARISING

e) Rother District Council – Road name signs for Woodman’s Green Road.

They have replied saying: -

1-To install the signs means traffic management with full lane closure to protect staff.

2- It would be unwise to install a sign on the embankment which could pose a significant risk to road users

3 – There would be limited visibility if the sign was installed in line with the road.

4 – As 3 above it could be confusing to road users as not clear where the road starts and ends. A resident of Hoath Lane said he had not been consulted and did not agree with the name of the lane or siting of name signs. Councillor White explained all properties in the parish were consulted by mail and the majority decisions were implemented.

After discussion regarding Rother's legal responsibility to either site the signs or revert the road name back to the A.21, it was resolved the Chairman and Councillor White will draft out a reply for the clerk to send.

5) CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Highways England** – They will be carrying out work on the A.21 from Johns Cross to Whatlington 16th – 20th March -9. 30a.m - 5.00p.m.
Riccards Lane to Marley Lane 24th March – 5th April- 8.00p.m. – 6.00a.m.
and from Johns Cross to Stream Lane 6th – 7th April 8.00p.m. – 6.00a.m.

6) REVIEW OF THE EQUALITY POLICY

After discussion the policy was agreed

7) PROCEDURE FOR ENFORCEMENT

After discussion it was agreed Councillor Ratcliffe will draw up areas, to possibly include in a new policy, using the Public Realm in Rother and the Village street publications. This will be discussed at the May meeting.

8) APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR FOR ACCOUNTS 2019-2020

It was resolved to engage Martin Humphreys – McCade, Ford and Williams, Cranbrook.

9) PLANNING

RR/2019/2728/P Chapel Cottage

GRANTED

10) FINANCE

The Balance in Barclays Bank as at 12th March 2020, is current account £550.95 and Deposit account £11,001.44

Accounts paid to Barclaycard by Direct Debit

Society of Local Clerks - subscription £78.00

Fast Host email fee - £2.39 £80.39

There were two accounts to pay

100792 - V. Bennett – Salary £1,291.32

100793 - V. Bennett – Administration costs £115.56

These were agreed with cheques drawn and signed and a transfer to be made from deposit account to cover cheques

11) GRANTS

Under Section 137

Whatlington Parochial Church Council - to cover purchase and fitting of an Electric hand dryer- £300.00

Rother Rural Trust - to help with their giving of grants to people in real need-£200

Speed Watch – To purchase needed equipment.

As no invoice from Sussex Police had been received it was agreed to make a payment of approximately £500 as and when the invoice is received.

Cheques were then drawn and signed, the transfer from deposit account will be increased cover the grant payments.

12) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This will be The Annual Meeting on Thursday 21st May in the village hall at 7.30p.m.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45p.m.

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