

MINUTES OF THE WHATLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING ON 20th MAY 2021 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30P.M.

To comply with current regulations Sanitizer liquid had to be used, Masks worn and seating at two metre distancing. We were also restricted to only 20 persons attending and at the end of the meeting all chairs and other surfaces that had been touched had to be wiped with medicated cloths

Present - Councillor Fisher Chairman
Councillors Underhill, Scott, White and Ratcliffe
District Councillor Cook
County Councillor Field

1) ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor Fisher Proposed by Councillor Scott and seconded by Councillor Underhill was elected as Chairman. The Acceptance of Office was signed.

OPEN SESSION

There were five local parishioners attending

A parishioner asked how and who decides to name and erect new name road signs. The Chairman explained Rother District Council have a legal duty for this and when the new names Woodman's Green Road and Hoath Lane were decided this was by a vote of all parishioners. Any queries of road naming should be made to Rother District Council.

2) APOLOGIES

P.C.S.O Emma Philipa and Daryl Holter

3) DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

No disclosure of interests made

4) ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Councillor Underhill Proposed by Councillor Fisher seconded by Councillor Ratcliffe
The Acceptance of Office was signed

5) APPOINTMENT OF TWO REPRESENTATIVES TO ROTHER ASSOCIATION OF PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS

Councillors Fisher and Scott were appointed as representatives

6) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 18th March 2021, copies of which had been circulated were agreed and signed by the Chairman together with the minutes for October 2020 January 2021 both previously agreed by councillors on email.

7) MATTERS ARISING

- a. **Hoath Lane road name signs.** – As no response from Rother the clerk will contact them for update.
- b. **Grant to Air Ambulance Kent, Surrey and Sussex.** As no correspondence or copy of their financial statement received no consideration on giving a grant can be made.
- c. **NALC** Asking for comments on allowing permitted development in A.N.O.B.by telephone mast companies. In consultation with councillors, we have written objecting.

8) CORRESPONDENCE

- a. **Huw Merriman** permission to put his newsletter on our website - Permission for this received.
- b. **East Sussex Highways.** In response to our complaint of soil and debris blocking the drain by the village hall and spilling out over the pavement. This was cleared but just three days after clearance the drain is again blocked with soil and debris building up.. The clerk will write again to East Sussex Highways.

9) REPORT ON SPEED WATCH

The report had been circulated to Councillors and on the website.

The report mentioned a mobile speed warning sign costing £2,200 which councillors' thought was a good idea. The clerk will check if a grant from the National Lottery or Rother for this could be applied for.

10) REVIEW OF FOLLOWING

- a. **Planning policy** – Following discussion it was agreed there were sections in the policy that needed amending. Councillor Fisher will draft this, with it to be agreed finally at the August meeting
The clerk was asked when forwarding planning applications to councillors would she put a link to Rother on this, also when submitting Councillors comments on planning applications a copy of this to be forwarded to councillors. The clerk will do this.
- b. **Health and Safety** – Policy agreed
- c. **GDP Risk Assessment** – Policy agreed
- d. **Code on Conduct** – The clerk advised that NALC are in the process of amending this. It was agreed to agree the current one and review again when NALC have forwarded the amended policy

11) COUNCILLOR RATCLIFFE – IMPROVEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT ENFORCEMENT IN THE PARISH

Councillor Ratcliffe said we live in a nice village and want to keep it that way and also to keep parishioners safe we need to slow down the traffic and he believes having a gateway would help with this. Pathways may also help and as Councillor Fisher said at the meeting with Highways England both of these suggestions were taken on board by them to consider. With regard to the pathways, we had suggested three crossovers for pedestrians but this could cause problems on a trunk road so will have to be rethought.

..... Councillor Ratcliffe went on to say we should have in our planning policy measures that would enhance and maintain the parish for everyone similar to the one we have about Night Sky's..
He will forward to Councillor Fisher some notes to be include in the planning policy for consideration by councillors. Councillors suggested various sites to help with this.

12) PLANNING

RR/2020/2556/L	Riccards Springs, Riccards Lane	Withdrawn
RR/2021/186/P	Vinehall Farm Business Centre, Woodman's Green Road	Granted
RR/2021/363/O	1 Forstals, Woodman's Green Road	Legal Use Granted
RR/2021/106/P	Cottage Wood Farm, Mill Lane	
	Retrospect permission for siting of mobile home	Council objected
RR/2021/458/P	Riccards Farm, Hastings Road	
	Erection of garage/storage/office building and annexe accommodation	
	With occasional use as holiday let. Demolition of large 2 storey	
	steel frame buildings	Council Objected
RR/2021/458/P	Hancox Oast, Woodman's Green Road	
	Upgrading and re-route existing agricultural road	Withdrawn

13) FINANCE

The balance at Barclays Bank as at 20th May 2021 current account £511.18 Deposit account - £14190.39
Balance includes first payment of Precept received from Rother District Council - £3550.00

Although contract agreed for Silver Service with Hugo Fox, direct debit payments for November 2020 £57-97 was not listed on the October Agenda or Minutes.

Barclaycard Direct debits

March – Fasthosts – Email fee

There were four accounts to pay: -

100813 – The annual agreed grass cutting payment to Whatlington P.C.C	£500.00
100814 - Annual Rent to Whatlington Village Hall Committee	£200.00
100815 - V. Bennett re First Strike Computing Ltd. Repairs to computer	£40.00
100816 - BHIB Insurance – Insurance Premium	£161.38

All the above were confirmed and agreed with a transfer from deposit account to cover being made.

14) AUDIT

The Internal Audit of the council's finances has been completed with receipt of the auditor's letter. All in order.

Councillors need to authorize the AGAR form and Accounting sections 1 and 2

- a. AGAR form - authorized and signed by Chairman and Responsible Financial Officer
- b. Accounting section 1 – Authorized and signed by Chairman and clerk
- c. Accounting section 2 - Authorized and signed by Chairman and clerk.

Work is needed on the car park fencing. Many posts and rails along the car park need replacing estimate awaited from Mr. Tassell. Councillors advised getting two more quotes from Tate's Fencing and Littlewoods. We also need to have the blackberry bushes cleared as they block the footpath the clerk will check with East Sussex Footpath section, if they cannot do this will contact the landowner.

With the problems with the council computer over the past year First Strike Computing have suggested replacing the hard drive at a cost of approximately £160.00 or we could purchase a new one. It was agreed to have the repair carried out.

15) DATE OF NEXT MEETING -

19th August 2021

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 8.30pm

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