

**MINUTES OF WHATLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 16<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2020  
IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30pm**

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

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

There were 2 local government electors attending

The Chairman invited a member of the Speed watch to give a report on the group.

The scheme started in December, there are five active members who work in groups of three or four, the coordinator is Anne Smith of Maddomswood Barn, Hoath Lane.

We have been trained and are insured by the police.

At present we have two checkpoints - A.21 at the junction with Hoath Lane measuring the speed of traffic heading North and, on the C.293 by the village hall measuring traffic in both directions. We are waiting to discuss other checkpoints with the police.

In December we held four sessions with our aim to have at least one a week. We have to provide a tally of the number of vehicles going past (not all measured by the speed gun) the Total for the four sessions was 1,600 (A.21 plus C.293)

On average 380 vehicles per hour passed us heading north on the A.21 and we clocked 28 vehicles exceeding the speed limit (taking into account the extra margin added in by the police). The highest recorded was 61mph. Of these 21 received warning letters from the police. The other 7 were not registered with the DVLA and their details were circulated to the relevant authorities.

The police have funded this for six months and It may be that we will have to seek funding from the parish council the police have said possibly £500 would be needed, this would include the gun, helmet's, clothing etc., I will be attending a meeting when they will advise the funding we need. The Chairman said there should be no problem for this as it is helping safety by slowing down speeds in the parish.

Councillor Field said county are dealing with their budget and Climate Change and sadly Broad Oak School is to close.

Rother are also dealing with Climate Change also this year the Parish Conference meetings are being restarted and being organized by Councillor Prochak with possible venue Sedlescombe Golf Club. They are also looking into disability access to the Town Hall which is proving difficult and they may have to relocate.

**Late Items**

The clerk advised after many emails the Highway Steward is to inspect both the pot holes on the South side of the bridge reference 425610 and also the drains on either side of the bridge which are again blocked reference 425610

The Chairman felt the application from the church was not sufficient and as this was a Community Asset Building the finance statement should be known for the council's discussions

**1) APOLOGIES**

Councillor Underhill and District Councillor Cook

**2) DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

No disclosure of interests made

**3) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2019, copies of which had been circulated were agreed and signed by the Chairman:

**4) MATTERS ARISING**

- a** Request for a 'STOP' sign on the road either side of the bend near the church entrance. They have replied reference 4260117 advising that our request will be assessed by an experienced officer against their clear criteria. They have very little finance for viable road safety schemes. They will advise us of the outcome.
- b** **Request to amend some incorrect dates for waste collection on both Rother website and Alert.** The council have had no reports of missed dates from parishioners but Councillor White said they and the nearby cottages are still having collections on various days. As it would seem this to be the only part of the parish with a problem Councillor Field said she would inform Councillor Cook of this as she is on the Waste and Recycling committee.

**MATTERS ARISING CONTINUED**

- c. **Siting of road signs for Woodman's Green Road.** After many emails and telephone calls it was finally agreed that Highways England were the responsible body for this. The clerk received a telephone call from a Chris at Avon who carry out maintenance for Highways England and wanted to know all the back ground. The clerk advised this and he has promised to look into it and come back to us.  
A resident in Hoath Lane said a sign for them had been sited but then removed. They did not know by whom. Councillor Field will look into this.
- d. **'SLOW' signs on the C.293 before the road narrowing on the bridge over the river.** After many emails Reference 425610 East Sussex Highways are sending the Highway Steward again to inspect them.
- e. **Woodman's Green Road terrible road surface and compensation to resident for noise from traffic.** They advised a resurfacing scheme is planned for 2020-2021. Their inspector will continue to monitor this area and any defect will be logged and dealt with. After discussion and with the date for work to start moved from 2019-2020 to 2020-2021 the clerk was asked to write pointed this out and asking for more than just filling up a few pot holes to be done, also a copy of their December 12<sup>th</sup> 2019 inspection report.
- f. **Outcome of On Line Training.** The clerk had attended but found the meeting disorganized and unhelpful. But has since managed to get all councillors with their own password to log on.,

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- 5) **ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL.** Advised the Parish Conference will be held in the afternoon of Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020. Agenda and venue to be advised.
- 6) **REPORT ON SPEED WATCH** -This was covered in the Open Session
- 7) **REVIEW OF FOLLOWING WORKING DOCUMENTS**  
ASSETT REGISTER  
RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICY  
Both were agreed.
- 8) **PROCEDURE FOR ENFORCEMENT – COUNCILLOR RATCLIFFE**  
After discussion and with only three councillors attending it was resolved to defer this to the March meeting.
- 9) **PLANNING**
- |                |  |           |
|----------------|--|-----------|
| RR/2019/2271/P | Little Dorrells  | REFUSED   |
| RR/2019/2271/P | Woods End Cottage<br>Proposed detached garage building with home office over.  | GRANTED   |
| RR/2019/2454/L | 1 Dorrells Cottages<br>Install replacement timber double glazed windows and doors  | WITHDRAWN |
| Rr/2019/2296/1 | The Royal Oak Inn<br>Replacement signage including illuminated lettering and projecting<br>Sign and six other non-illuminating signs. New illuminating pole sign | GRANTED   |
- 10) **FINANCE**  
The balance at Barclays Bank as at 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020 - current account £287.34 Deposit account - £11,501.44
- |  |                                |         |
|--|--------------------------------|---------|
| Direct Debits                            |                                |         |
| Barclaycard –                            |                                |         |
| September H.P. Inks Photocopying - £3.49 | Fasthosts email fee - £2.39,   | £5.88   |
| October H.P. Inks Photocopying - £3.49   | Fasthosts email fee £2.39      | £5.88   |
| November H.P. Inks Photocopying - £3.49  | Fasthosts email fee £2.39 plus |         |
| December H.P. Inks Photocopying          |                                | £7.87   |
| 100791 Averdale Grass cutting-£66.00     | Cutting of Willows £185.00     | £186.00 |
- 11) **PRECEPT**  
After discussion it was resolved to leave the Precept at the current year's figure of £7,100.00.  
The increase to the clerk's salary of 2% was agreed in the figures.  
Councillor Ratcliffe suggested that next year we could include finance for improvements and possibly projects for the parish. Discussion on how the council can find out what parishioners want to see happen in the parish and it was resolved to put this to them at the Parish Assembly.

**12) DATES FOR NEXT MEETINGS**

Planning Meeting - Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020 in the Village Hall at 7.00p.m.  
Parish Assembly – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 7.00p.m. with Parish Council Meeting following.

**13) DATE AND SPEAKER FOR ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**

After discussion the clerk was asked to write inviting a speaker from Transport for the South East to speak on their strategy for Woodman's Green Road / A.21 the A.21. If they cannot come the Clerk will contact Councillor Field for the name of her suggestion – East Sussex Archaeologist.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.00pm

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