

**MINUTES OF WHATLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY  
21<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2024 FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**

**PRESENT: -** Councillor Fisher in the Chair  
Councillors Clarkson, Davis, Sullivan  
County/ District Councillor Field

**AGENDA**

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

6 local electors attending

The clerk advised additions to the agenda of Engagement of Internal Auditor and Agar form.

**APOLOGIES**

Councillors White and Burton

**2) DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Councilor Clarkson item no 4f

**MINUTES**

**3)** Minutes of the council meetings held on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024 copies of which had been circulated. The minutes were then confirmed and signed by the Chairman

**4) MATTERS ARISING**

- a)** Leeford Place – After explanation for usage councillors had approved the application
- b)** Flexi Bus – New Leaflet now published clarified arrival destination can be outside our bus zone.
- c)** Deposit of cement in Riccards Lane- As still not removed Councillor Field will try one last time.
- d)** A .21 Safety Team – Discussion online meeting held with councillors on 8<sup>th</sup> February. A public meeting will now be held possibly in May.
- e)** Council purchasing a wreath for Remembrance Day. The council have no powers to purchase this but can under Section 137. To be discussed at September meeting.
- f)** Bus Shelter – Councillor Clarkson declared his interest, as he has given the council an estimate of £575 for the maintenance work needed, and took no part in the discussion. It was agreed to accept the estimate and have the work done.

**5) CORRESPONDENCE**

- a)** East Sussex County Council– Following a request from a parishioner the clerk had written to East Sussex County Council asking if Riccards Lane could have a speed limit. They have replied saying they will look into it but they have many such requests but have to prioritize sites where people have been killed or seriously injured. The request will now be assessed.
- b)** Hugo Fox – The have tested our website and confirm this is fully compliant with the new WCAG2.2AA
- c)** Rother Voluntary Group – They have asked to attend one of our council meetings to explain what they do and if they are able to work with the parishes. The clerk will advise them of our meeting dates.

**6) SPEED WATCH** – Additional to the report given at the Parish Assembly -Tif requested hey have been told they will be given a new Speed Gun the cost is £1500 but they will have it for free. A donation of say £500 could be considered by councillors when this is received, no date as yet.

**7) REVIEW OF POLICIES**

Equality Policy - This was agreed.

**8 EMERGENCY PLAN**

Councillor Davis had updated the plan and gave a copy of this to councillors to check and advise any amendments. This will then be agreed and approved at the May meeting

**9 DEFIBRILLATOR PRCHASE**

Our present one has failed three times and we were advised a new one is needed. We can apply for this through the government scheme for £750.00 saving £750.00. after discussion it was agreed to do this. As there is only £400 allocated to Defibrillator a variance of £350.00 needed to be done, this was agreed. As the village hall had been suggested for the siting, the hall committee was asked if they would like this sited. Following meeting their committee decided the Royal Oak was the best place. Shepherd and Neame have agreed again for this to be siting at the Royal Oak and an electric wire to be fitted from the Royal Oak cellar. This is needed as in cold weather the Defibrillator stops working and has to be taken to a warm room. Councillor Clarkson will obtain a quote from an electrician for the wiring and also one to remove the old box and fit the new one. The cabinet will not be locked even though it has a lock

**9) PLANNING**

RR/2023/2568/P	Vinehall Oasthouse, Vinehall Road	GRANTED
RR/2023/2623/P	2 Forstals, Woodmans Green Road	REFUSED
APP/U1430/W/23/3332233	Riccards Farm	APPEAL

RR/2024/441/P 2 Forstals, Woodmans Green Road

Proposed first floor rear extension to form bedroom. Proposed Widening of two existing windows on side elevation. Councillors discussed the new application The two windows are wider and no on suite or dressing room included

It was agreed to support the application.

**10) FINANCE**

The balance in Barclays Bank as at 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 was current account - £1,235.42 deposit account -£8,315.31.

There were three accounts to pay

100870 – Averdell – Willow and bank cutting	£140.00
100871 – V. Bennett – Balance of half yearly salary	£1,760.64
100872 - V. Bennett – Administration costs	£160.65

Transfer to cover to be made

Barclaycard Direct Debits.

H.P. Instant Ink – Photocopying - £2.99 – Fasthost – Email fee - £2.88 £5.87

H.P. Instant Ink – Photocopying – 2.99 – Fasthost Email fee - £2.88

Society of Local Council Clerks – Subscription - £105.00, H.P. Photocopying - £2,99 £113.86

Engagement of Martin Humphreys of McCabe Ford and Williams as Internal Auditor, Agreed the Agar form to not have an external audit which would be extra costs. The Chairman and clerk will complete the form for our May meeting

**GRANTS**

After discussion it was agreed to make a grant of £300.00, under Section 137, to Whatlington Parochial Church Council towards the cost of paving for the Garden of Remembrance

A grant of £300.00, under section 137, to the Newsletter towards printing costs

As there is only £250 allocated to Section 137 a variance of £350.00 will be needed, this was agreed.

The Chairman asked councillor Field if she would speak to Rother asking if they could carry out the printing at a reasonable cost. The Editor will forward to the council two annual estimates for this.

**11) DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

16<sup>th</sup> May 2024

The meeting closed at 8.40p.m.

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