



## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 19:30.

**Present:** Cllr N Beaumont – Chair (Cllr NB), Cllr Jim Brown (Cllr JB), and Cllr N Shefras (Cllr NDS).

**Also present:** Anita Emery (Clerk & RFO), County Cllr S Osborne and District Cllr D Stewart-Roberts

**Absent:** Cllr N Satchell (Cllr NS), Cllr Paul Burford (Cllr PB), Cllr G Peacock (Cllr GP).

### MOP's: 1

### The AGENDA is as follows:

1. To accept apologies for absence
  - Cllr's PB, NS & GP tendered their apologies and reason for absence accepted.
2. Declarations of pecuniary and disclosable interests in respect of matters to be discussed.
  - None
3. To Approve Minutes from Parish Council meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024
  - Unanimously approved with amended changes as below;
    - Transport and Environment/Footpaths/Policing
      - To consider Cllr NDS recommendation to write to the Environmental Agency regarding flooding and request potential investigation to dredge the Bevern.
      - ii. • Draft letter written by Cllr NDS came about as some residents had informed her that there was an improvement in the flooding when the Bevern was previously dredged.  
Residents had also voiced concern about the negative impact of development on the flooding issue.  
Council agreed to revise and send the letter. Cllr NB to action.
18. Communications/Website
  - i. New website update
    - Cllr NDS reported site is almost ready to launch, proposed launch date middle of January to coincide with the local plan consultation, taking advantage of the increased traffic to the new site to engage residents with the consultation.
4. Clerk's Report and discuss any Matters Arising from previous meeting.
  - As per minutes published.



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### 5. Brief Report from the County and District Councillor on matters affecting this Parish.

#### **County Report**

- Cllr SO reported about Devolution which is Government directed at White paper stage, and expected will go through – all East Sussex District and Boroughs will become Unitary Authority which means an amalgamation of a District, City and County Councils. ESCC have sent a letter to the Government saying they want to be in the first tranche of local authority into Unitary. ESCC Tory party requested that Elections be delayed for a year and potentially 2 years, a move opposed by other parties Unlikely that ESCC will be in the first tranche as they have not done any work towards how they convert.

#### **District Report**

- Cllr DSR – Local Plan attended the online consultation last week with town and parish councils with a good Plumpton turnout. The SDNP Local Plan event being held on 5<sup>th</sup> Feb at Lewes Town Hall.
- UKPN road closures – spoke with highways and was told as utilities they have the power to close the road without warning. UKPN did write to houses immediately affected by the works.
- Racecourse – development of 9 houses - waiting for highways comments on access needs to be substantially sorted before a decision is made.
- Riddens – still no news on whether what they have done means they have started the build.
- It was reported at the East Chiltington PC meeting that the depth indicator on Novington Lane misreads by 3ft.

### 6. Questions from Members of the Public – limited to a maximum of 15 minutes in total

- MoP addressed the UKPN road closures and asked Cllr SO to follow up. SO will speak with Highways to see why no notice was given to the parish council nor advance warning signs. It was commended how UKPN gave plenty of notice to residents effected.

### 7. Planning applications and consider further applications submitted after agenda publication:

- No applications received.

### 8. Correspondence

- Letter received from resident asking the PC to revisit the car parking charges at the Station with APCOA as the car park isn't apparently being used and is having a knock on effect to residential roads and playing field car park. PPC agreed to try and obtain an analysis of number of parking charges since inception and advise the company/Network Rail the effect it is having on playing field car park and residential roads. **Clerk to action.**

### 9. Finance Committee

- a. To approve expenditure as itemised on the schedules.



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- b. To approve year to date accounts.
- c. To approve combined bank reconciliations

- Unanimously approved a-c.

### 10. Neighbourhood Plan Update

- Cllr NB – PPC to respond to the Local Plan public consultation. Cllrs NDS, NB and GP to meet and discuss before the consultation deadline of 28<sup>th</sup> February.
- Cllr NB recommended PPC do a response to the 150 Wivelsfield development LW/24/0820 –. Duly agreed.

- (i) Planning Liaison Working Group update – report above
- (ii) Update regarding LDC Local Plan public consultation – see above.

### 11. To note and action if necessary monthly RA reports.

- Nothing to note

### 12. Update on promotion of parish councillors

- Clerk had two enquiries and invited them to Jan meeting – Clerk to follow up and invite to the Feb meeting. Clerk to email another potential candidate. Draw up a PC leaflet for stuffing into the parish magazine for the March edition. **Clerk to action.**

### 13. Allotments – Update on plots – 2 plots rented out – Clerk visiting next week to inspect and to take pictures of any uncultivated plots and PPC to then decide whether to give notice. **Clerk to action.**

### 14. Committee/Working Group Reports

#### i. Transport and Environment/Footpaths/Policing

- Response from EA re dredging of the Bevern
- Clerk advised that nothing had been received as yet apart from an acknowledgement. **Clerk to chase.**

#### ii. Update regarding the National Nature Recovery Strategy.

Cllr NB reported that himself and Carole Nicholson met with Racecourse CEO Craig Staddon who is keen to help. Targeting larger landowners first – meeting with Jeremy Kerswell principal Plumpton College this week. Cllr NDS reported she met with Simon from the Wildlife Group and talked about the pocket park and what can be done. It was suggested to replant trees at the front area and take out any invasive species. From the front entrance of Station Road down to Ridden's Lane some form of walkway and seating area. No major management changes proposed. Just trim back thick branches at the entrance. Consider installing nesting boxes for birds (e.g. nightingales, owls) or bats and bug hotels.



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Volunteer tree planting day if the Wildlife Group can get the grants. Riddens Lane pollution - sediment traps need to be installed – Wildlife Group to contact Natural England/Environment Agency. Cllr NB reported an article will be going into the parish magazine and we need an up-to-date parish map. **Clerk to action.**

d. Village Hall

- Cllr JB reported that the gentleman's WC cubicle damaged/vandalised. Cllr JB looking for brackets. Cllr JB will also be fitting the disabled toilet seat after the panto.

i. Update from Cllr JB regarding works behind Kimber Cottages

- JB reported garden at Kimber had flooded due to heavy rain but the pond and stream had overflowed on the green. The garden did then drain and disappear along with the pond and stream.

ii. War Memorial Pediment restoration update

- Nothing to report.

e. Playing Field/Pavilion

i. To note playpark inspection and action where necessary.

- Few items to note – Clerk to meet JB and PA at playpark next week.
- Graffiti – Handyman advised it was easier to keep painting over it in grey paint rather than trying to remove it. Clerk to speak to Grant Dejonge about painting the equipment. **Clerk to action.**

ii. Pavilion update

- Awaiting on dates from capital appeals. Next working group meeting is 21<sup>st</sup> January.

iii. To note the new pavilion expressions of interest application for community infrastructure levy

- Duly approved. **Clerk to action.**

15. Interaction with Plumpton Primary School

- Nothing to report



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### 16. Communications/Website

#### i. New website update

- Clerk reported she had received the login details for the .gov.uk emails and James making a few changes etc to the website. Going live imminently.

### 17. Items to be reported by Parish Councillors and/or to be included in future meetings

- Nothing to report.

Meeting Closed: 20.48

### **Dates of next meetings:**

11<sup>th</sup> February 2025 – Full Council 19:30 (No finance committee).

Anita Emery | Parish Clerk 15/01/2025