

**MINUTES OF WHATLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY
16th March 18, 2023 2023 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30pm**

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

AGENDA

OPEN SESSION / LATE ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

4 local electors attending

The clerk advised an email had been received from a resident who had damaged her car on a pot hole on Woodmans Green Road. The clerk had reported this to National Highways and advised the resident to telephone National Highways if she wished to make a claim for the damage.

Councillor Feld advised East Sussex Highways had repaired 6,000 pot holes since January

1) **APOLOGIES**

None

2) **DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

No disclosure made

MINUTES

3) Minutes of the council meetings held on the 17th November 2022 and 19th January 2023 copies of which had been circulated. The minutes were then confirmed and signed by the Chairman

4) **MATTERS ARISING**

a) **East Sussex County Council** – Problems with buses. Councillor Ratcliffe said this had not been fully resolved with the extra problem of, in the event of Whatlington Road being closed the buses go down the A.2100 leaving the children waiting at the bus stop in Whatlington Road. He has had to take the children many times to school himself. They are now taking the problems up privately with Councillor Field.

b) **Defibrillator** - This has now been serviced, returned and working. The problem seems to be when it is too cold it stops working and needs to be warmed up. The Chairman did this recently by taking the Defibrillator into his home over night.

5) **CORRESPONDENCE**

a) **Society of Local Councils** – They had advised increases in clerks' salary. Councillors agreed to increase salary to scale 24.

b) **East Sussex Highways.- Drains** – The clerk advised there have been numerous emails back and forth resulting in a site meeting on the 13th February with the clerk and a Mark Stapley, Drainage coordinator. They also spoke with the owner of Lilac Cottage. The drains have now been cleared and the Highways Steward reminded he has to keep a regular check on the drains by the village hall. The Highways have also said that they consider soil from the broken down verges as debris and leaves should be cleared by Rother District Council also verge edges could be considered but would be expensive and they may not agree to this, nor would some residents.

6) **REVIEW OF POLICIES**

Asset Register

Risk Assessment and Management

Both agreed by councillors

7) REPORT ON SPEED WATCH – STEVE TURNER

The February 2023 report was available for councillors.

Steve Turner said they were hoping soon to have three extra sites along Whatlington Road., C293.

8) REPORT ON 1ST MARCH 2023 MEETING WITH NATIONAL HIGHWAYS A.21 SAFETY TEAM

Three members of their team attended – Mr. L Hermes - Programme Delivery Manager

Mr. A. Harris - Assistant Project Manager and Mr. K Ramdeen – Project Manager

40 members of the public attended and the meeting raised quite a few items.

- 1- The recent stopping of turning right from the A.21 to B2089 has caused problems to residents, also no consultations on this to parish council or residents.
- 2- Lowering the speed limit from John's Cross to Ricards Lane to possibly 40mph, as now there is a roundabout at John's Cross and the school is well protected from traffic there is no need of a 20mph limit
- 3- As the village has several bends we need road calming, the road calming in Hurst Green was mentioned as their road is straight whereas ours is not
- 4- Road signs in the parish are too large for a small village.
- 5- Flooding of Marley Lane junction with the A.21 and the road having to be closed causes more traffic down Whatlington Road C.293. They did say this is being looked into.
- 6- And finally, walkways for pedestrians along Woodmans Green Road (A.21) this was discussed a few years ago but nothing has been done.

They were asked if they walk the area before implementing changes and they said they do.

We were told they would arrange a meeting in June 2023 to explain what is being proposed to be done.

The clerk will contact them in May for this date.

9) PLANNING

RR/2022/2920/P and L Riccards Springs GRANTED

RR/2023/156/P Springfield. Whatlington Road Parish Council have objected

RR/2023/426/FN Free Range Farm

Erection of agricultural steel framed building. For information only

10) FINANCE

The balance in Barclays Bank as at 1st March 2023 was current account - £0.00

deposit account -£11,853.14 a transfer was made to the current account.

One account paid between meetings 100846 – Averdell-

Willows and bank clearance - £120.00 - Car park surface skimmed - £50.00 £170.00

There are four accounts to pay: -

100845 - V. Bennett - First Strike Computers

for work on councils' computer to regain printer and scanning facility. £40.00

100847 – V. Bennett – Half yearly salary £1,391.83

100848 - V. Bennett – Administration costs 99.40

100849 - Ben Clarkson – Replacing damaged window on bus shelter. Awaiting invoice.

Direct debit to Barclaycard

December - H.P. Instant Ink - £5.98 Fasthost – Email fee - £2.63 £8.61

Hugo Fox – Quarterly website fee £71.97

January - SLCC Clerks membership fee-£80.00 – Fast Host -Email fee £2.63 £82.63
£80.00

February - HP Photocopying - £2.99 Fasthosts Email fee £2.63

Norton - Annual Subscription £64.99 £70.61

A transfer from deposit account to be made to cover all cheques including any grant payments

11) GRANTS

After discussion it was agreed to make a grant of £250.00 to Whatlington Parochial Church Council towards the cost of a strimmer for the churchyard and £250.00 to Holly View Animal Sanctuary towards their running costs

11) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

18th May 2023

The meeting closed at 8.10p.m.

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