

Burwash Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting

Held on the 13th February 2018, at 7.00pm in the Pavilion, Burwash Common

Present

Chair – Cllr David Vereker, Cllr Caulkin, Cllr Crabtree, Cllr Dixon, Cllr Durrant, Cllr Elmslie, Cllr Jenner, Cllr McBride, Cllr Moore and Cllr Pope. Also District & County Cllr John Barnes and District Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received and noted from - Cllrs. Chalk, Kenny and Mann

Public Time

A member of the public asked when the village website would be updated, assurances were given that new arrangements are in place and a full review of the website is being undertaken.

2. Disclosures of Interest

No declarations made.

3. Report from County and District Councillor

Cllr Barnes reported a rise of just under 6% in ESCC Council Tax, most required for adult care in the face of a saving of £17M needed – a further 40% is needed over the next few years. RDC is losing the Government Grant but there is still no decision re the sharing of Business Rates intended to ameliorate the change-over. ESCC Highways has been told that the current state of the High Street is unacceptable and cannot wait for the scheduled resurfacing before repairs are made. BPC **resolved** to write to Highways in support of the County Cllr's efforts.

RDC Planning has an issue with the blanket objection to new development on behalf of Natural England being made by Wealden DC, however this does create a little breathing space for the Neighbourhood Plans. The RDC Housing Committee will report in July and the consultations on CPE are also coming to an end.

Cllr Kirby-Green made assurance that there would not be paid-for parking introduced to Burwash. Also reported that a recent planning appeal in Ticehurst failed because the AONB superseded housing need.

4. Accuracy of the minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED – minutes of the Council Meeting held on 9th January 2018 are a correct record of that meeting.

5. Correspondence to the Clerk

A request has been received to record Council meetings which was **RESOLVED** as approved with a request to provide a copy to the Council.

A request to source a handyman to fix the commemorative plaque to the bench in the High Street will be organised by Cllr Moore.

A quote of £200 to make a concrete base for the grit bin has been received, another quote to come so final decision can be made.

A letter complaining about the new flood lighting at Batemans will be progressed by Cllr Barnes. Concern was raised regarding the number of accidents and near misses involving deer around the Witherenden Hill area. Possible action to be investigated.

Concern was raised regarding dog fouling both on pavements and public green spaces. Possible action to be investigated.

No other correspondence had been received that did not concern items already on the agenda.

6. Finance (standing item)

- a. Bank balances at 31/01/18 are £51,110.71 in current account and £10,667.03 in the savings account.
- b. **RESOLVED** – to approve the following payments. The voting was unanimous. The Chairman signed the approved payment schedule.

Payment Schedule	Cheq No.	Amount	
EDF	D/D	£68.00	
Pet Waste Solutions	S/O	£93.55	
Adam Watts	S/O	£15.00	
HMRC	102212	£141.00	HMRC mth end 5/02/18
Jane Cheshire	102213	£619.35	Statutory Maternity Pay - month 7
Paulette Barton	102214	£563.17	Locum clerk hours for January
Rother District Council	102215	£50.00	Hut rental
Surrey Hills Solicitors LLP	102216	£248.00	Re possible acquisition of the car park and other facilities
Surrey Hills Solicitors LLP	102217	£702.00	Re Down Meadow advice
Poppy Appeal (2017)	102218	£150.00	Annual (2017) donation for wreaths x 2, for War Memorials

Total of unpaid cheques £2,473.92

- c. Budget monitor was received; earmarked reserves are at £ 37,125.59; Cllr Dixon checked and signed the bank reconciliations. A Finance Committee meeting to be called for 7pm 22/02/2018 in the Paish Room.
- d. Clerk to progress checking alternative suppliers to EDF, including obtaining a better offer from EDF. **RESOLVED.**
- e. **RESOLVED** to appoint Peter J Associates as internal auditors for 2017-2018 end of year accounts.

7. Key Holders

The insurers have no objection to a code protected key box being affixed to the exterior of the Parish Room. A final check re BS required being undertaken by brokers/insurers.

The February 2018 list of keyholder/and code holders follows:

13th Feb 2018	Keys			Alarm Codes		Key Box Code
	I-Café	Office	Notice Board	I-Café	Office	
Clerk	√	√	√	√	√	
Betty McBride	√	√	X	√	√	
Ijon Jenner	√	√	X	√	√	
Leslie Emslie	√	√	X	√	√	
Int C volunteers						
Peter Skipwith	√	√	X	√	√	
Ann Ashton	√	√	X	√	√	

8. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Moore reported that 2 of the sub-groups had been amalgamated, i.e. there are now 3 sub-groups. Good balance between councillors (in the minority) and residents. The consultant has said that if the timetable is maintained should be out to Inspectors by end of year. Special attention is being paid to housing numbers.

244 returns received for the Traffic and Transport Survey. Recurring issues requiring future BPC involvement – to be deferred.

Cllr Emslie reported that at the Rother Neighbourhood Plans Forum, David Marlow outlined the issue regarding applications and possible impact on Ashdown Forest – outcomes awaited – he also confirmed that housing numbers had to remain as set as a minimum.

9. Planning Update

Cllr Jenner reported a good continuing relationship with Optivo regarding communication over Rectory Court. The issues regarding Ashdown Forest may be the reason that there is no activity from Denton Homes at present.

Cllr Moore reported 8 units let in Morris Close within local criteria (mostly Category A). There will be no 'opening ceremony'. Section 106 has been successful.

Ice forming on water draining across Shrub Lane from the Hastoe development will be reported via County Cllr Barnes.

Cllr Emslie reported that the RALC meeting had also addressed the Ashdown Forest effect on planning, also that CPE is still in consultation and as there is still work to be done there is still no contract for Broadband.

10. Update on the Lime Trees

Cllr Durrant reported that work scheduled to start on the trees w/c 20th February – with secateurs.

11. Update on Down Meadow

Cllrs Emslie/Durrant and Moore to liaise on final wording of notices – to be cleared with Solicitor before display. **RESOLVED**, Cllr Durrant to create final artwork and arrange print onto suitable board locally.

12. Update on Surgery Handrail

Cllr McBride has 2 quotes but as likely to cost over £500 will get a third. Simple structure but 8m length and proving difficult to secure quotes especially locally.

13. Update on The Bear Car Park

The Car Park Working Party has met and taken advice from the Solicitor. Will proceed to seek advice from other Parishes that have completed this process.

14. Update of traffic management scheme proposed by ESCC

On-site meeting with ESCC shortly. Lining must be confirmed before resurfacing can be done, possibility of minor adjustments later (burning off outside Forge for instance). Cllr Barnes reminded the meeting that there will be a full review of all parking restrictions following any introduction of CPE – i.e. anticipated to be summer 2019.

15. War Memorial

Cllr Vereker reported that there is interest in cleaning the War Memorial this year (for 100th Anniversary of the Armistice) instead of waiting until 2020 as originally envisaged. There is an earmarked reserve but insufficient, working with Sir Frank Sanderson, up to dates quotes to be sought and the possibility of obtaining grants investigated. **RESOLVED** to proceed thus.

This work is unlikely to make any difference to the attempt to achieve Grade I status.

16. Forthcoming Events

a) Battle's Over 2018

Cllr Dixon will be meeting with the British Legion branch shortly and will report to the next meeting.

b) Annual Parish Meeting

Date of Thursday 24th May in the Village Hall decided. Cllr Crabtree offered to take over this portfolio – but will require help or passing over an existing responsibility in order to accomplish. Cllr Crabtree was thanked for volunteering.

c) Love Burwash Day

Cllr Crabtree to continue this extra portfolio – begun last year – date decided 28th April.

d) Information for noting or including on a future agenda

Cllr McBride agreed to take over responsibility for the Parish Council website from Cllr Caulkin. She said she would update the site by the next meeting and report back. Also for future inclusion - Pavements : Royal Wedding, grants and events : Traffic Survey : portfolios : ESCC grass cutting : Kipling statue.

Date of Next Meeting – Burwash Parish Full Council 13/03/2018 at 7.00pm in the Parish Room, Bear Car Park.