



Sedlescombe Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
on Tuesday 20th April 2021 at 19:00 via zoom

Present:

David Caney (DC). Roy Chapman (RC). Beverley Coupar (BC); Peter Anson (PA). Jackie Saul-Hunt (JSH). Nicola Moore (NM). Sally Sidgwick (SS) Pauline Glew (Vice-Chairman)(PG). Parish and District Cllr. Jonathan Vine-Hall (Chairman of the Parish Council) (JVH). Mrs Jackie Scarff (JS) (Clerk/RFO) County and District Cllr Carl Maynard (CM). There were 2 members of the public.

| Item | Agenda Item (C20.) |
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| 46 | Apologies received and accepted from: There were no apologies. |
| 47. | To receive questions from members on reports from the District and County Councillors There were no questions. Report from JVH <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Decisions by the cabinet are now being circulated to Parish Clerks each month so I am assuming these are being on-sent to each Parish Councillor. This is one of a number of changes being made in the way RDC communicates to give Parish Councils a summary of decisions taken as soon as they happen.2. It was agreed in 2019 that all meetings would be recorded to improve transparency of the Council's decision-making process. At that time, it was envisaged that the Council would move to webcasting of all public meetings. Events overtook the timing of this with virtual meetings being easily webcast via You Tube. This has been a great success as it allows anyone to be able to view a meeting and participate in public speaking parts of the meetings without having to travel to the Town Hall in Bexhill. To emphasise the success of this the last planning meeting which dealt with at least 2 difficult applications was viewed over 720 times. This is a real success in making meetings more accessible to the public and to hear their members speak on key issues. (Carl M spoke on one of these applications)3. Further discretionary grants for reopening Covid affected businesses will be available for those not covered by the national scheme where businesses are business rated. Here is the link https://rother.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=153&Mid=685&Ver=44. A proposal to redevelop the site on which the Town Hall stands and which extends beyond the existing footprint is currently being considered by the Council. This will reduce the office space required by the Council, introduce rental office space and provide a significant number of affordable and possibly market accommodation units in the centre of Bexhill on this brown field site. The project will be self-funding and significantly improve the usage of this site.5. The Blackfriars development of some 220 homes in Battle moves to full planning permission at this week's planning committee (Thursday) being the first major development of the Rother Alliance Housing Company. The proposal will integrate significantly higher buildings standards than those required combined with high levels of energy efficiency and several zero carbon houses. An interesting one to watch on Thursday. Here is the link to the You Tube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeadaXaVPrc <p>If approved then robust timings will be set to get 'spades in the ground' as this development had laid un-progressed for many years and the current administration is determined to move a number of regeneration projects, which had been languishing for a number of years, forward in a timely fashion. (In addition to a number of new projects)</p> |

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| | <p>6. Elections for the County Council, Police Commissioner, one bi election in Rother (for Sally-Ann Harts ward) and the Bexhill Town Hall are due May the 6th. Two seats for the Bexhill Town Hall have already been decided as they were uncontested.</p> <p>7. My scheme for Ultra-Fast Fibre to Home broadband in Sedlescombe has achieved over 100% pledges during March (it covers about 1/3rd the dwellings in the outer edges of the village) and has now reached over 100% of the next stage which is grant voucher validation and Open Reach are now progressing to implementation stage.</p> <p>8. The review of the planning department has moved to the final report stage so RDC will be looking at some immediate actions and then how the whole service can be made fit for future purpose. RDC are putting on a contract planning service to catch up on the backlog created during Covid. Additional enforcement is also coming online as enforcement complaints doubled during the Covid Lockdown period (no doubt as many residents had time on their hands).</p> | |
| <p>48.</p> | <p>Interests in accordance with 2012 Code of Conduct To receive councillors' declarations of interest regarding matters on the agenda and consider any written requests for dispensation as a result. Any changes to register of interests should be notified. JVH declared an interest in the planning item 57 on the agenda as Chair of the Rother Planning Committee. He continued to chair the meeting but took no part in the discussion on the application. NM declared an interest as the applicant in item 57 and left the meeting during the discussion.</p> | |
| <p>49.</p> | <p>Public participation session re matters on the Agenda at the Chairman's discretion. Members of the public wished to speak on item 58, the chairman suggested that he close the meeting at the time of the agenda item for the residents to speak.</p> | |
| <p>50.</p> | <p>To consider for approval the minutes of the full council meeting 16th March 2021. RESOLVED: That the Chairman is authorised to sign the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 16th March 2021 as a true record of the meeting.</p> | |
| <p>51.</p> | <p>If the committee wishes to exclude the public for a particular agenda item, the following resolution must be passed: ‘That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.’ There were no requirements to pass this resolution.</p> | |
| <p>52.</p> | <p>To receive an update on CCTV matters at The Clockhouse and agree any actions required. DC reported that the new owner of the Clockhouse has moved in. He plans to add an additional camera to the CCTV system. The PC agreed that he be approved to access the system in link with the PC policy and Data Protection Act.</p> | |
| | <p>53. Sedlescombe Sports Pavilion and associated grounds. To receive an update for the sports pavilion and agree any actions required.</p> <p>i)Project to alter the interior - JVH explained that there was an idea approved for relocating the kitchen within the pavilion. PA has made a suggestion for an alternative scheme that he would like to draw up plans for. Which will come back to the next meeting. All agreed.</p> <p>ii) Football - The clerk confirmed that SRFC have signed the user agreement and are now in the process of submitting final readings for the utility bills which will transfer to the Parish Council.</p> <p>iii) Botanical Survey -The clerk explained that she had been contacted by the Local Wildlife Sites Initiative, working on behalf of Rother District Council, asking if they could do a botanical survey on the sports field as it is part of the Brede Valley Local Wildlife Site. The survey is non-invasive, consisting of a walkover the site by an ecologist. All agreed</p> | |

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| | <p>iv) New Board for the fence- RC reported that there are no signs at the front of the pavilion indicating what it is. RC reported that people aren't aware of where the football pitch. There is a sign in the tree. RC offered to retrieve it. DC suggested asking highways if they would put a brown sign up. This may need to be paid for. There was not considered to be a need for this.</p> <p>v) Signs for the decking- RC also asked whether there should be more signs highlighting the facilities and where the PC should seek some Health and Safety advice to see if there are signs we should have in place. RC highlighted concerns regarding COSHH items in the storage shed which should be locked in the container. The clerk was asked to speak to SRFC and asked for them to be locked safely in the container. PA highlighted that he has a contractor at work who visits twice a year to assess that all Health and Safety matters are in order. PA offered to find out the charge for doing this.</p> <p>vi) Clearance of the Ditches - RC highlighted it would be a good time of year to organise the clearance. JVH agreed that it would be good to get a group of volunteers to help as the weather gets better. It maybe something that the probation service would be willing to help with if they still send groups of volunteers for community service. RC offered to try and get some volunteers together. Some cllrs offered to help. RC to let the cllrs know when the clear up is organised.</p> | |
| 54. | <p>Highway Matters To receive and update and agree any actions required. DC reported that STAG had reconvened and the project to install traffic calming in the village would be progressed. The two outstanding traffic surveys will be conducted from 26th April for 7 days. The next step for the project team will be to resent the complete plan to highways.</p> | |
| 55. | <p>To discuss previous resolutions outstanding and agree any actions required. The clerk reported that she will need to reapply for the highways licence for the Blackcat Radar box. The next STG meeting is due to identify exactly where it will be used.</p> | |
| 56. | <p>To receive an update on the Playground project and agree any actions required. Beverley has held a consultation, results appended to the end of the minutes, and a competition for the children at the school. 146 people responded to the survey. From the children at the school there were a variety of designs and some children made models. A local toy company were generous in donating prizes for the top three designs. BC provided certificates for all the children that took part. One of the designs came up with the idea of having environmental messages on signs and a local design company have offered their services for bringing the designs to life and BC will look for a signage company to work with. 28th April BC is attending a workshop to help with a national lottery funding application. SS and DC asked about whether the plan would be to move the playground. BC explained that the accessibility comments were about the equipment rather than the location of the playground, although there was some evidence that the playground is not easy to find. There was a discussion about the area in front of the tennis courts which could be incorporated in future. PA asked if the application could be circulated to cllrs. JVH asked if the team will apply for the BIFFA grant. The clerk explained that having spoken to the people at BIFFA it was not possible to apply. RC commented that in his playground report the previous afternoon he had highlighted that a bench had been damaged, and he would remove it. All agreed</p> | |
| 57. | <p>Planning. To consider a response to Rother District Council on the following application. <u>RR/2021/283/P</u> 1 Oaklands Park, Sedlescombe TN33 0FB Erection of storage shed. NM went to the virtual waiting room during the discussion at 1937 The cllrs had no planning objections and supported the application. NM rejoined the meeting at 1939.</p> | |
| 58. | <p>To discuss the proposed campsite and agree any actions required. RC highlighted that residents were getting in touch expressing concern about the proposed summer of weekend camping. JVH explained that he had been in touch and the owner of the field has registered with the camping and caravanning club. They weren't able to give permission for the shower and toilet block.</p> | |

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| | <p>And so mobile toilet and shower blocks will be provided on site and taken away again. Other issued highlighted regarding pockets of land on the site being owned by other people are private issues. JVH commented that if the site owner stays within her permitted development rights there is nothing that can be done in planning terms.</p> <p>JVH closed the meeting to allow residents to speak on the subject 1944. The residents aired concerns about traffic safety entering and exiting the campsite and asked if the Parish Council would monitor it. JVH explained that it wouldn't be for the Parish Council to monitor business carrying out business that is allowed.</p> <p>JVH reopened the meeting 1948.</p> <p>SS asked who the site owner would apply to for the licence to run the bar. JVH answered that it would be the district council.</p> <p>It was agreed that the only thing that can be done is to wait and see what happens.</p> | |
| <p>59.</p> | <p>Finance and Audit</p> <p>To receive the financial reports to 31st March 2021</p> <p>The face of bank statement showed a balance in the current account of £14,321.71 as at 31/3/2021. Financial reports received and noted and appended to the minutes.</p> <p>To request permission to book the internal audit.</p> <p>Agreed.</p> <p>RC asked when the football club would pay the Parish Council.</p> <p>The clerk explained that they will pay the beginning of the month following use.</p> | |
| <p>60.</p> | <p>Reports, Correspondence, Questions and Future agenda items not requiring decisions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Red Barn Field – PG explained that the siting of a bench on RBF will take place in May. The same family have offered to help refurbish the path in RBF b) PG reported that she has found someone who is willing to be the footpath warden. PG requested that 4 more litter pickers be bought to give to the footpath warden. c) Monthly Meeting with the PCSOs – BC (RC had technical issues) attended the PCSO meeting in March. Key theme was about motorbikes and cars with modified exhausts racing along the A21. The police will be patrolling to target this at the weekend. There is an increase in break ins and thefts in rural areas. The next meeting is set for 30th April and the officer in charge of speedwatch will join the meeting to discuss seeding in the villages. d) Sedlescombe Jobs Network – Nothing to report. e) Any other- JVH updated the meeting about his fibre to home broadband project which has been successful in attracting residents to join and is almost ready to go live. <p>JVH asked if there was any news on training for new councillors. RC mentioned walking around the village and planning training. JVH and the clerk will try and make some arrangements.</p> <p>BC asked CM about the project he has initiated regarding a semi permanent speeding device that would be shared and owned by Parish Councils. CM confirmed that the project has been started with other councils as Sedlescombe was already progressing its own project. He confirmed that Sedlescombe could be involved.</p> <p>RC commented about the damage to the fencing on the bridge. The clerk had reported this having been alerted by residents and was awaiting confirmation that it had been fixed. DC suggested that it may be worth considering fitting CCTV cameras on the pavilion as that area is not currently covered. JVH commented that it is worth considering. The PC would need to put a phone line in the pavilion. The clerk commented that it would be useful to have broadband in the pavilion.</p> | |
| | <p>There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:10pm</p> | |

Chairman.....

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