

EAST WITTERING & BRACKLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 7.00PM AT BRACKLESHAM BARN

<u>EWBPC COUNCILLORS</u>	Brian Reeves (BR)
<u>PRESENT</u>	Pam Kensington (PM) Doug Holden (DH) Joanna El Batal (JEB) Joe O'Sullivan (JOS) Deborah Picken (DP) Richard Ford (RF) Emma Cox (EC) Iain Ballantyne CDC Councillor (IB) Pieter Montyn WSCC Councillor (PM) Elizabeth Hamilton CDC Councillor (EH)
<u>APOLOGIES</u>	James Salamon (JS) Danny Grigg (DG)

ABSENT

IN ATTENDANCE Parish Clerk, Deputy Parish Clerk, 15 members of the public (MoP)

- 23.116** **Apologies** Had been received from James Salamon and Danny Grigg
- 23.117** **Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Requests**
None
- 23.118** **To consider the Cooption of a new Councillor**
Beverley Ford and Edward Baker-Moore addressed the meeting
A vote was taken with 2 votes for Edward Moore and 6 votes for Beverley Ford.
Beverley Ford was co-opted onto EWBPC and signed her Declaration of Acceptance to Office.
- 23.119** **Public Questions**
None
- 23.120** **Minutes of the Previous Meeting Held on 13th July 2023** ([appendix 1](#))
The minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 2023 were agreed as a true record and signed by The Chair. **Proposed JEB Seconder DH.** The Chair signed the minutes.
- 23.121** **Chairman's Announcements**
The Chair advised this would be the last meeting attended by Councillor Emma Cox as she has resigned from her position as Councillor and thank her for all her hard work.
- 23.122** **Update on Actions from Previous Meeting**
All completed except:
23.78 – Disabled Parking Bay on Oakfield Road - The Clerk is waiting for response from WSCC Highways
23.92 – Set up a working party to raise funds to build a long term solution to beach access - RF to

arrange

23.96 – To provide a request for quotation form - The Clerk is awaiting a response from DG

23.123 Reports from District & County Councillors

PM – RACC County Council has no schools affected by RACC however in depth surveys will be carried out on all school 114 schools that WSCC are responsible for – if asbestos is found it will delay matters further. The Academy in Horsham is not the responsibility of WSCC.

Birdham appeal PM has registered to speak about flooding on Tuesday with a more robust report. Following recent news coverage of various councils getting in to financial difficulties reassurance was given that WSCC are complaint with all regulations and adequate financial scrutiny is in place.

IB – CDC has set up a special budget sub committee to ensure adequate reserves are being held. IB urged residents to attend the Birdham Planning Appeal.

EH – Has recently attended a presentation on The Southern Gateway Development –Stagecoach could possibly move to the end of Terminus Road giving them more room for extra buses and the ability to electrify the fleet, some bus stops will be moved to be along the Avenue De Chartres. A grant of £120,000 will coming up in the year towards tree planting as part of the Coronation Living Heritage Fund.

JOS – Why is the bus station being disposed of? – IB Stagecoach say the existing workshop they have is not big enough for their fleet. The bus station is only a part of the Southern Gateway Development.

23.124 Reports from Parish Councillors on meetings attended since 13/07/23

Planning Meetings (17/07/23 & 07/08/2023)

13 Applications were considered with no objections to 11 and 1 objection 23/01064/FUL Land South Of Tranjoeen Bracklesham Lane Bracklesham Bay West Sussex PO20 7JE and 1 objection to 23/01389/PLD Proposed lawful development - insertion of 2 no. roof lights 19 Seafield.

Assets & Open Spaces Meeting (07/08/23)

Replace & Repair playground equipment as per recommendations from the ROSPA report.

A meeting was held with West Wittering Football Club regarding the use of portable flood lights and they agreed to carry out a survey to obtain the views of the local residents around Bracklesham Park.

Village Hall meeting – The Village Hall is breaking even and is looking into ways to get more lets.

DH gave an update to the Speedwatch Group – discussion on how to operate a speedwatch group all points to the need for help of local PCSO – has anyone in the room seen one recently? DH has contacted Sussex Police via email 4 times and had no reply. PCSO input is essential, so we have been unable to take the any further at the moment, we are seeking volunteers to be part of the speedwatch group.

DP – Had recently attended a **GLaM meeting** and will be meeting with Jane Cuningham to discuss MPP, GLaM and Swish – bridleways were discussed as well as the joining up Bill and Ben Cycle Routeway.

23.125 Budget Update

1. Bank reconciliation approval ([appendix 3.1, 3.1.1](#))
2. Statement of current financial position and budget monitor ([appendix 3.2, 3.2.1](#))
3. Summary of payments made between 01/07/23 and 31/07/23 totalling £37,159.84 ([appendix 3.3](#))

Council **APPROVED** the list of payments from 01/08/23 to 31/08/23 totalling £25,262.35 ([appendix 3.3.1](#))

Proposed JEI Secunder PK

23.126 To consider a response to the amendments to planning application

Ref. No: 22/02214/FULEIA Stubcroft Farm Stubcroft Lane East Wittering Chichester West Sussex PO20 8PJ Erection of 280 no. residential dwellings (including affordable housing), associated highway and landscape works, open space and flexible retail and community floorspace (Use Classes E and F).

BR – had brought this to Full Council as he felt it was too big to be decided by a small planning committee and opened the floor to MOP to gauge the wishes of local residents.

Discussion on the subject followed resulting in an overwhelming decision to OBJECT.

East Wittering and Bracklesham Parish Council **OBJECT** to this application.

National Highways formal recommendation that the application should not be determined for a period of 6 months (13th March 2024). We await the results of the remodelling regarding the congestion at the Stockbridge Roundabout.

WSCC Highways Authority's requirements for pedestrian improvements to be made and a revised junction modelling

Conclusion Given the lack of information available at this time the LHA would not be in a position to support the proposals at this stage. Therefore, the following reasons for Refusal should be applied: • It has not been demonstrated that safe and suitable access onto the highway to the site can be achieved for pedestrians and cyclists, nor that the opportunities for sustainable access has been taken up in accordance with paragraph 110 of the National Planning Policy Framework and contrary to policies 8 Transport and Accessibility and 39 Transport, Accessibility and Parking of the Chichester District Council Local Plan.

West Sussex County Council Lead Local Flood Authority objected due to the absence of an acceptable Flood Risk Assessment and drainage strategy. The application is not in accordance with NPPF paragraph 167 or 169, PPG Flood risk and coastal change or Policy 42 in the Chichester Local Plan: key Policies 2014-2029.

Chichester District Council Environmental Officers requirements for a mitigation strategy due to the site being re-categorised as a secondary habitat with the Solent Waders and Brent Geese Strategy. Provision of an onsite dog walk, infill planting of native species be incorporated into the landscaping plans, a 10 meter not 8 meter buffer between the bank of the water vole habitat and construction work and CEMP be produced for the ditch so controls are put in place to ensure no pollutants and sediments are able to enter the water course. A mitigation survey be produced due to the presence of reptiles within the field margins. A badger survey be undertaken and details of how biodiversity net gain will be achieved and a sustainability statement be submitted to meet the requirements of Local Plan Policy 40.

Insufficient Gap Boundary – the proposed development does not maintain an adequate gap boundary between the proposed site and neighbouring properties, a cramped boundary gap may contribute to a sense of overcrowding in the area which could impact the comfort and tranquillity of the neighbourhood. Overcrowding can also strain local infrastructure and services.

The significant loss of Grade 2 farmland that would result from this development. Preserving and protecting our agricultural land is crucial for the sustainable future of our community. Grade 2 farmland is a valuable and limited resource that plays a vital role in supporting local food production and ensuring food security. The UK's grading system categorizes farmland based on its quality and suitability for agricultural purposes, and Grade 2 land is characterized by its moderate limitations, making it well-suited for a wide range of crops. It is essential to maintain and protect Grade 2 farmland to support local agriculture and maintain a stable food supply.

The proposed development would result in the irreversible conversion of Grade 2 farmland into non-agricultural use, effectively diminishing our ability to produce food locally. This loss is concerning for several reasons:

1. **Food Security:** Our community relies on local agriculture to provide fresh, sustainable food. The loss of Grade 2 farmland would reduce our ability to produce food locally, increasing our dependence on external sources and potentially affecting food security.
2. **Environmental Impact:** Farmland plays a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance and mitigating climate change. The conversion of Grade 2 farmland into developed areas can lead to habitat destruction, increased carbon emissions, and reduced biodiversity.
3. **Agricultural Sustainability:** Preserving Grade 2 farmland is essential for the long-term sustainability of our agricultural sector. A reduction in high-quality agricultural land could hinder the productivity and competitiveness of our local farmers.
4. **Community Resilience:** Local agriculture contributes to the economic well-being of our community. The loss of Grade 2 farmland could have adverse economic effects on local farmers, leading to job losses and decreased economic resilience.

Loss of Open Space – the proposed development would alter the character of the community by introducing housing that does not align with the existing aesthetic standards of the area.

23.127 To consider the publication of a Parish Council Newsletter

Council **RESOLVED** to go ahead and publish a Parish Council Newsletter.

23.128 To receive suggestions for projects to be grant funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Funds

Suggestions had already been emailed from JOS. Other suggestions should be emailed to The Clerk.

23.129 To consider a request from Pageant master to light a beacon to commemorate 80th D Day on 26th June 2024

Council **RESOLVED** to light our beacon to commemorate the event. This will be held in the grounds of St. Annes Church East Wittering with an event afterwards to be held in the Village Hall. Heather Brooks agreed to host a D Day exhibition in the Village Hall.

- 23.130** **To consider a request from Witterings United Football Club the use of portable flood lights – Survey Results**
The survey resulted in a majority of local residents being in favour of the use of portable floodlights. Council **RESOLVED** to allow West Wittering Football Club the use of portable flood lights at Bracklesham Park.
- 23.131** **To consider a request from Witterings Netball to upgrade the MUGA**
Witterings Netball had asked for this item to be removed from the agenda.
- 23.132** **To consider a Community Grant request from Heartspace**
Council **RESOLVED** grant Heartspace £540.00 from the Community Grant Fund.
- 23.133** **To approve the content of the updated General retainer Letter from Hampshire Legal Services**
Council **APPROVED** the continued use of Hampshire Legal Services.
- 23.134** **To receive an update on the Skatepark**
RF - The consultation was split into two halves.
The first half was more of a general update to present the “in-scope design” to the public. The Parish Council received three emails that were not in support of the skatepark on grounds of loosing green space to concrete and stating that we are in a “cost of living crisis” and that we should not be spending public money on a skatepark. These emails were passed to CANVAS Spaces for their consideration. I would like to remind Councillors that the Skatepark Group has never asked for any public money and the intention is to raise all of the money privately. The skatepark will then be “given” to the Parish Council.
In attendance was Jon from CANVAS Spaces and two Parish Councillors RF, DG.
One member of the public joined the first half of the consultation and we were able to present the new design to them. They were happy with its new smaller size and that it is further away from Downview Hall.
The second half of the of the consultation was to discuss the features in the skatepark. There was an excellent turnout with new faces that I had not seen at the riders meetings previously. In total there were 3 Parish Councillors BR, RF, DG, 18 riders in attendance. Spanning skateboarders, in-line skaters, scooters, snakeboarder, BMX, and a lady from the local roller boot club. There was an excellent feedback session where a totally new design from CANVAS SPACES was developed. It utilises a design they had on file already and the riders added their feedback and alterations. Everyone loved the design.
CANVAS Spaces will make the amends that were requested by the riders and they will present the new design to the Parish Council in time to be considered at the October Parish Council Meeting to be submitted to CDC planning.
- 23.135** **To request volunteers to help with the Christmas Tree**
By joining forces with Selsey Town Council we are able to get a better price from a local Christmas Tree supplier. RF volunteered himself and DG to help with the placing of the tree when it is delivered. A mop also volunteered to help.
- 23.136** **To receive an update on The Vision**
The Clerk and Deputy Clerk had delivered the questionnaires to the local business, has collected some and were in the process of collecting the remaining.
- 23.137** **To receive an update on The Changing Places Toilet**
Work will commence on 25th September 2023. A photo completion was held for the feature wall which Council had previously voted on with the photo by Chloe Munday declared the winner.

23.138 * To consider the recommendations of the Staffing Committee Report

Council noted the recommendation of the Staffing Committee and RESOLVED that the pay award be adopted.

The Meeting closed at 20.27

Minute ref	Action	Responsible
23.127	Publish Parish Newsletter	The Clerk
23.132	Issue £540.00 Grant to Heartspace	The Clerk

The date of the next meeting is Thursday 12th October 2023 at 7.00pm, Bracklesham Barn

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T Glithero, Parish Clerk, 18th September 2023