



Working for the Community in Rotherfield, Mark Cross,  
Eridge Green, Boarshead and surrounding areas

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ROTHERFIELD PARISH COUNCIL, INCORPORATING  
PLANNING AND BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING BUSINESS  
HELD ON TUESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2020 AT 19:30  
IN THE PARISH COUNCIL ROOM, ROTHERFIELD VILLAGE HALL TN6 3LX**

**COUNCILLORS PRESENT**

Cllr. R. Harris (Chair)  
Cllr. Henrick (Vice Chair)  
Cllr. N. Glynn  
Cllr. D. Hiles

Cllr. P. Kember  
Cllr. J. Kitchenham  
Cllr. A. Martin  
Cllr. A. Moore

Cllr. J. Richardson  
Cllr. G. Watson-Smith  
Cllr. N. Wickenden

**COUNCILLORS ABSENT**

Cllr. K. Rignall.

**ALSO PRESENT**

Trevor Thorpe (Parish Clerk).

**1. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING: -**

**a) Public Forum.**

None.

**b) Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85)**

An apology was submitted on behalf of Cllr. L. Buck and it was **RESOLVED** that the reason be accepted.

**c) Declaration of personal, prejudicial and disclosable pecuniary interests on items on the agenda, and updates to members' register of interests.**

None.

**d) To resolve that the Minutes of the meeting of the meeting of the Planning and Building Committee held on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair of the Committee.**

It was **RESOLVED** that these minutes be adopted as a true record of the meeting and they were signed by the Committee Chair.

**2. TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2020/21.**

Papers relating to the budget and precept had been made available to the Councillors prior to the meeting. It was **RESOLVED** that the budget and precept of £120600, as discussed and recommended at the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019 meeting of the Council's Finance and General Purpose Committee, be adopted by the Full Council. **CLERK** to update accounting software to reflect the figures. Clerk and Council Chair completed and signed the Precept document to be forwarded to Wealden District Council.

It was noted that the 2020/21 precept figure will result in a modest reduction in the Parish element of the Council Tax with the "Band D" rate reducing from £75.60 for 2019/20 to £73.59 for 2020/21.

**Clerk:** Trevor Thorpe, 82 Fernor Way, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 3BJ

**Tel:** 01892 664245. Email: [Clerk@rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:Clerk@rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk)

**Parish Council Website:** [www.rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk) **Twitter** @rotherfieldpc and on Facebook

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**TO CONSIDER AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS AND OTHER PLANNING MATTERS.**

**a) WD/2019/2613/F - Biddenden Farm, Station Road, Rotherfield, TN6 3HP.**

Double height extension to rear of property. New double bay timber frame garage.

It was **RESOLVED** that the meeting recommended that this application be **APPROVED**.

**REASON.** It is an improvement to the existing building.

Cllr. Martin wished it recorded that he had abstained from voting.

**b) WD/2019/2614/LB - Biddenden Farm, Station Road, Rotherfield, TN6 3HP.**

Double height extension to rear of property. New double bay timber frame garage.

It was **RESOLVED** that the meeting recommended that this application be **APPROVED**.

**REASON.** It is an improvement to the existing building.

Cllr. Martin wished it recorded that he had abstained from voting.

**3. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING FROM WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

**i. Decision notices.**

None.

**ii. Planning correspondence.**

The Council have been contacted by a Parishioner raising concerns that the shared driveway to his property was being damaged due to heavy use for access to another property served by it. He considered that there was a condition in the planning consent that set restrictions on traffic movements. As the Parish Council has no powers in this respect it was recommended that they contact the Wealden District Council Planning team regarding the matter and to clarify any conditions imposed by the original consent.

**iii. Any Enforcement, Conservation or appeal matters.**

Cllr. Dixon has sent a report regarding the current position regarding a caravan on a property in the Parish which was considered as being used for residential purposes. Wealden District Council Enforcement Officers have concluded that the caravan is not being used for residential purposes and, as it is only being used for purposes ancillary to the current planning use for the land, does not require planning permission. No further enforcement action is being taken.

**iv. Tree Notices and applications from Wealden District Council.**

None.

**4. TO RECEIVE NOTICE OF DATE OF NEXT MEETING OF THE PLANNING AND BUILDING COMMITTEE.**

28<sup>TH</sup> January 2020 at 19:30 in the Parish Council Room, Rotherfield Village Hall, starting at 19:30.

**5. TO RECEIVE DETAILS OF ANY URGENT ISSUES FOR NOTING OR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDA.**

- Cllr. Kitchenham commented on the much improved tidy appearance of the verges in Station Road. These have recently received attention from our grass cutting contractor.
- Cllr. Hiles noted that there was some subsidence on the B2101 approximately 100m from the Bicycle Arms junction if approaching from Rotherfield. **CLERK** to raise report with East Sussex Highways.
- Cllr. Kember raised concerns regarding the recent decision of the Planning Inspector that the submitted Wealden Local Plan cannot be taken forward to adoption. Council Chair has asked for an item to be added to the agenda of the January Council meeting to consider this, also that a Freedom of Information Request be submitted to Wealden for details of the cost of the work undertaken on the Plan to date. **CLERK** to action.

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- Cllr. Kember enquired when the suggestions made by a Parishioner at the 17<sup>th</sup> September meeting of the Council's Highways Committee in respect of the North Street and High Street junction would be investigated by East Sussex Highways. Clerk advised that this will be raised at the forthcoming Strengthening Local Relationships meeting with Highways Officers. They will be asked to view the site, also the area of Rotherfield Hill for which an adjoining footpath has been suggested on Highways owned land near Palesgate Lane.
- Cllr. Wickenden raised concerns regarding the placing of the "Town Row" sign in Station Road. Clerk advised that East Sussex Highways had confirmed that the contractors had installed it in the wrong location, **CLERK** to add item to the agenda of the forthcoming Highways Committee meeting to agree correct location, and to contact Highways for an update regarding the issue with the placing of a similar sign on Catt's Hill.
- **CLERK** to investigate obscured direction sign at the foot of Spout Hill approaching the B2100 junction.
- Concerns raised that waste bins were obstructing the Church Path right of way 22c/22d near the Surgery. It is considered that these were a hazard, particularly at night. **CLERK** to investigate and report to the ESCC rights of way team.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:10.

**Adopted and signed as a true record at the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020 meeting of the Council**

.....Parish Clerk.....Date

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