



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

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ROTHERFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 31ST MAY 2022
IN THE PARISH COUNCIL ROOM AT ROTHERFIELD VILLAGE HALL AT 19:30**

PRESENT

Cllr R Harris (Chair)	Cllr D Hiles	Cllr J Richardson
Cllr B Johnstone (Vice-Chair)	Cllr N Wickenden	Cllr P Beach
Cllr G Watson-Smith	Cllr J Kitchenham	Cllr P Kember
Cllr L Buck	Cllr A Martin	

COUNCILLORS ABSENT

Cllr J Cahan

ALSO PRESENT

Adam Hardy (Parish Clerk)

1. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING: -

a) Public Forum:

None

b) Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85):

Apologies had been received from: Cllr L Henrick

It was **RESOLVED** that their reasons for absence be accepted.

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

None

The Clerk informed the Council that he had begun a process of updating Councillor's declaration of interest forms.

Peter Thompson of Rotherfield Memorial Institute had also sent apologies for this meeting.

d) To resolve that the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 26th May 2022 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chair.

- Clerk reported that the minutes were not ready yet for signing and would be presented at the 30th June 2022 Parish Council Meeting.

2. TO DISCUSS REQUEST FROM ROTHERFIELD MEMORIAL INSTITUTE FOR ROTHERFIELD PARISH COUNCIL TO BECOME SOLE TRUSTEE OF ROTHERFIELD MEMORIAL INSTITUTE.

Clerk: Adam J Hardy, 3 Trinity Mews, Mill Crescent, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 2QU

Tel: 07969512099. Email: clerk@rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk

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

Documents had been circulated ahead of the meeting for councillors to review. A general discussion around the proposed motion took place and covered the following points:

- The historical significance of the building to the parish.
- The loss of a home in the village centre for Rotherfield St Martin
- The expectation of the Parish in looking to the council to protect community buildings.
- The cost of repairs and if these can be recovered at all from rental income or future use.
- The possibility of a Parish Office and home for Rotherfield Parish Council.
- If refurbishments require a Public Works Loan from Department for Local Government and Levelling Up, we must be guided by a referendum of the parish.
- If the council does not act the building will almost certainly be sold as the current trustees and management committee cannot continue.
- The risk to the council would seem to indicate the council should not take on this role.
- The council has a duty to try and make this building great again for the use of the whole community.
- The cost of the works is a big ask for the council and we are unsure it is fair to land the parishioners with these by potential increases to the precept.
- Any proposed solution by the council should include the provision of a Parish Office for the Clerk and Deputy.
- The council need to take this on and get fundraising.
- Control measures should be put in place as to how long the council tries to save the building before consideration of selling it if necessary

The council wished to record its continued support for Rotherfield St Martins and the value it brings in having a home in the centre of the village.

It was **RESOLVED** on a vote of 10/1 that the Council accept the request from Rotherfield Memorial Institute to take over as sole trustee. **Clerk** to write to Peter Thompson accepting the request and to agree next steps.

The Chair thanked all Councillors for their comments and reflections on this matter.

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

- a) **WD/2022/0635/LBR** - Rose Cottage, South Street, Rotherfield, TN6 3LP
Retention of internal alterations which include relocation of kitchen & living room together with alterations to existing door openings.

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Wealden District Council that this application be **APPROVED**. The Council had no further comments on this application.

- b) **WD/2021/2739/MRM** - Land North of Walshes Road, Crowborough, TN6 3RE
Reserved matters (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) pursuant to WD/2020/0369/MFA (removal of condition 4 of planning permission WD/2017/0615/MAO (outline application for up to 100 residential dwellings including demolition of existing redundant agricultural buildings, provision of new internal access roads and footways, open space, sustainable urban drainage systems and associated landscaping) to enable the site to deliver up to 100 dwellings as proposed in the original outline submission)

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alongside the discharge of conditions 20 (arboricultural method statement) and 21 (tree works) of WD/2020/0369/MFA. New block and general plans publicised.

It was **RESOLVED** to send a **NO COMMENT** response to Wealden District Council.

- c) **WD/2022/1278/OH** - Land on The South-East Side of Western Road, Crowborough
To install a new pole and stay wire and an additional stay wire to pole 266324. Pole 266323 will be removed.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the application and make **NO COMMENT** to Wealden District Council.

- d) **WD/2022/0775/MRM** - Orchid Riding Centre, Walshes Road, Crowborough, TN6 3RE
Reserved matters pursuant to outline permission WD/2020/0734/MAO (outline planning application (all matters reserved except for means of access) for the redevelopment of land for the erection of up to 150 homes (including 35% affordable homes) and formal and informal open space, including play areas).

It was **RESOLVED** to send a **NO COMMENT** response to Wealden District Council.

4. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING FROM WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

i. Decision notices.

- **WD/2021/3085/F** – Chestnut Cottage, Bicycle Arms Road, High Cross, Rotherfield, TN6 3QE
Erection of agricultural machinery, feed & bedding storage barn.

A **COMMENT** was made by this committee and the application **APPROVED** by Wealden District Council.

- **WD/2022/0628/F** - Parklands, Yew Tree Lane, Rotherfield, TN6 3QP
Single storey rear extension, new porch to front facade, rendering of existing exterior walls and minor reconfiguration of some existing windows and doors.

Recommended for **APPROVAL** by this committee and **APPROVED** by Wealden District Council.

ii. Planning correspondence.

- Clerk reported that the council had been copied into correspondence regarding enforcement issues at Court Farm.

The council felt the response continued to ignore the key enforcement matters and can see no excuse for enforcement action not to be taken by Wealden District Council.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr P Kember & Cllr B Johnstone would draft a reply to Wealden Planning in conjunction with the **Clerk**. If a satisfactory response was not received then the council would elevate the matter to the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman.

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

None

4. TO RECEIVE NOTICE OF DATE OF NEXT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

Parish Council Meeting: Thursday 30th June 2022 in the Parish Council Room at Rotherfield Village Hall

Planning & Building Meeting: Tuesday 21st June 2022 in the Parish Council Room at Rotherfield Village Hall.

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

- **Clerk** informed councillors that extra bunting was required to decorate the village for the Platinum Jubilee. **Cllr Johnstone** offered to source more bunting for decoration.
- **Cllr Martin** asked if another councillor could be trained up on SID as he is the only one who currently has access and it would be good to have another councillor with this ability. **Deputy Clerk** to add item to the next Highways, Lighting & Transport Committee agenda.
- **Cllr Harris** reminded councillors about the set up required for the Platinum Jubilee Street Party – please could as many councillors as possible attend at 11:30am on Sunday 5th June to assist with the setting up.
- **Cllr Richardson** also appealed for assistance to give out the flowers for Blooming Rotherfield at the Jubilee celebrations on Sunday 5th June.

Chair declared the formal business of the meeting closed at: **20:50**

.....Chair.....Date