



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 10TH JANUARY 2023
IN THE PARISH COUNCIL ROOM AT ROTHERFIELD VILLAGE HALL AT 19:30**

PRESENT

Cllr R Harris (Chair)	Cllr P Kember	Cllr A Martin
Cllr B Johnstone (Vice-Chair)	Cllr N Wickenden	Cllr L Buck
Cllr J Kitchenham	Cllr D Hiles	Cllr J Fryatt
Cllr P Turner	Cllr P Snelling	

COUNCILLORS ABSENT

None

ALSO PRESENT

Adam Hardy (Parish Clerk) & two members of the public.

1. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING: -

a) Public Forum:

Cllr Georgia Taylor (East Sussex County Council):

A report from Cllr Taylor had been circulated to Councillors ahead of the meeting.

- Cllr Taylor reported that a motion for East Sussex County Council to, 'Say No to Fracking,' was not moved since the Government decided to keep the ban.
- Cllr Taylor confirmed that East Sussex Highways was now only gritting roads in wintery conditions and not pavements. Cllr Kitchenham asked for clarification that in order for Highways to fill parish grit boxes the cost would have to be met by the Parish. This was confirmed.
- Cllr Taylor reported that East Sussex Highways is currently inundated with repair requests following the recent bad weather. It is generally acknowledged that there are worse road surface problems in the north of the county.
- Cllr Kember thanked Cllr Taylor for a most detailed report. He expressed concerns about the condition of Bunny Lane which had recently been featured in the national news for its very poor condition. Cllr Martin reminded all present that Bunny Lane was a designated HGV route as part of the lorry restrictions for the parish.
- Cllr Taylor reported that she was following up on concerns expressed about the shocking communications between South East Water and residents following the latest water outage. Clerk confirmed that he had arranged for Douglas Whitfield and Matthew Dean (Head of Operations for Sussex) & Jo Shippey (Community Engagement Manager) to attend the 31st January Planning & Building Committee meeting.

Cllr Keith Obbard (Wealden District Council)

A report from Cllr Obbard had been circulated to Councillors ahead of the meeting.

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

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- Cllr Obbard reported that the Electoral Commission have selected Wealden for a register survey. This will take place in the form of household interviews for registered electors. Electoral Services will be providing a fuller briefing.
- Cllr Obbard reminded the Council to encourage Village Halls in the parish to apply for the Queens Platinum Jubilee grant scheme.

b) Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85):

Apologies had been received from: Cllr J Richardson & Cllr G Watson-Smith.

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.

Cllrs P Kember, P Turner, A Martin & R Harris declared an interest in item 3)e application WD/2022/3328/F as friends of the applicants.

2. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM MRS DE LANNOY & HAVEN HOMES CROWBOROUGH ALMSHOUSE CHARITY.

Two Trustees from the charity addressed the Council about the history of the charity and what their aims are for the future development of Alms Houses in the area. The charity is looking to find land or build Alms Houses in the surrounding area of Crowborough and has identified Rotherfield as a possible area. Ideally, they would be looking for a piece of land where they could build six housing units.

The Council were asked if they believed there was a need for this type of housing within the parish. Cllr Buck believed there was a requirement for this type of housing in the parish and believed we should support the initiative. Cllrs Hiles and Kember confirmed they would be willing, through the Planning & Building Committee, to support the charity trying to find some land or an existing property that would meet the charity's aims.

Cllr Harris asked if the Charity had funds for this and it was confirmed that they had funds and access to grants to see the project through.

Cllr Kitchenham enquired how many rooms formed part of a unit. It was confirmed that usually, this existed of one bedroom, kitchen, living room and bathroom.

It was **RESOLVED** that in principle the Council supported the desire of the Charity to create some Alms Houses within the parish. It was **AGREED** that a general discussion about possible locations would be placed on the agenda of the 21st February Planning & Building Committee meeting. **Clerk** to add an item to the agenda of the 21st February Planning & Building Committee meeting.

Clerk to share contact details of charity trustees with Cllrs Hiles & Kember.

Cllr Harris asked Cllr Hiles to Chair the Planning & Building Committee part of the meeting.

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

- a) WD/2022/3189/F-** Owlsbury Depot, Hadlow Down Road, Crowborough, TN6 3RG
New building for additional use class E.

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It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Wealden District Council that this application be **REFUSED**.

REASONS:

- It is an overdevelopment of the site with a neighbour objection.
- A lack of appropriate design for situation in a rural area.
- The Council has Highways concerns regarding access and traffic build up in the area.

- b) **WD/2022/3175/FA** - Court Farm, Rotherfield Road, Rotherfield, TN6 3HH
Variation of condition 2 of WD/2021/1805/MFA (minor material amendment to WD/2016/1608/MAJ). To extend the time allowed to complete the works.

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Wealden District Council that this application be **REFUSED**.

REASONS:

- The Council consider that the development should have been carried out as per condition 2 of the permission and there is no valid reason for further delay.

- c) **WD/2022/3276/F** -Old Tiles, Catts Hill, Mark Cross, TN6 3NH
Demolition of existing garage. New detached double garage and detached garden studio/gym.

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

- d) **WD/2022/3102/F** - Highline, Hosmers Field, Rotherfield, TN6 3JD
Demolition of existing conservatory and construction of new lounge extension.

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

- e) **WD/2022/3328/F** - Rother House, Station Road, Town Row, Rotherfield, TN6 3HU
Replacement garage with ancillary accommodation to first floor and access steps.

Clerk reported that a neighbour objection had been circulated to all Councillors ahead of the meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Wealden District Council that this application be **APPROVED** with a **CONDITION** that adequate screen is retained between the site and the neighbouring property.

- f) **WD/2022/3273/F** - Gillridge, Gillridge Lane, Crowborough, TN6 1UR
New agricultural storage barn.

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Wealden District Council that this application be **REFUSED**.

REASONS:

- The drawings and plans submitted with the application do not adequately show access to the barn for the purposes proposed.

Cllr Harris chaired the meeting from this point onwards.

4. TO APPOINT A VICE-CHAIR OF THE HIGHWAYS, LIGHTING & TRANSPORT COMMITTEE.

Nominations:

- Cllr Adrian Martin (Withdrew)
- Cllr Peter Kember

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Peter Kember be appointed Vice-Chair of the Highways, Lighting & Transport Committee.

5. TO APPOINT MRS LOUISE HENRICK TO THE ROTHERFIELD SURGERY SUB-COMMITTEE.

It was **RESOLVED** that Mrs Louise Henrick be appointed to the Rotherfield Surgery Sub-Committee.

6. TO ELECT A NEW CHAIR TO THE ROTHERFIELD MEMORIAL INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE.

Nominations:

- Cllr Robert Harris (Withdrew)
- Cllr Beverley Johnstone
- Cllr David Hiles (Withdrew)

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Beverley Johnstone be appointed Chair of the Rotherfield Memorial Institute Management Committee (Sub-Committee of Rotherfield Parish Council).

Cllr Martin abstained from voting on this motion.

7. TO ELECT A NEW VICE-CHAIR TO THE ROTHERFIELD MEMORIAL INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE.

Nominations:

- Cllr Janice Richardson
- Cllr Adrian Martin (Withdrew)
- Cllr Peter Kember
- Cllr Robert Harris (Withdrew)

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It was **RESOLVED** by ballot that Cllr Peter Kember be appointed Vice-Chair of the Rotherfield Memorial Institute Management Committee (Sub-Committee of Rotherfield Parish Council).

8. TO APPOINT ADDITIONAL MEMBERS TO THE MEMORIAL INSTITUTE SUB-COMMITTEE IF REQUIRED.

This item was not moved as the Councillor vacancy was filled by the appointment of Cllr Peter Kember as Vice-Chair of the Rotherfield Memorial Institute Management Committee.

9. TO RECEIVE NOTICE OF DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Parish Council Meeting: Thursday 26th January 2023
Planning & Building Committee: Tuesday 31st January 2023

10. TO RECEIVE DETAILS OF ANY URGENT ISSUES FOR NOTING OR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS.

- Cllr Turner asked if a discussion could be held on the condition of the road junction with Station Road and Chant Lane. Clerk confirmed this would be on the agenda of the next Highways, Lighting & Transport Committee.
- Cllr Fryatt asked if a discussion could be held on the unacceptable parking situation around Eridge Station. Clerk confirmed this would be on the agenda of the next Highways, Lighting & Transport Committee.
- Cllr Snelling asked if the Council could make representation to East Sussex Highways about the inappropriateness of the new Zebra Crossing on the parish border. **Deputy Clerk** to add an item to the 17th January 2023 Highways, Lighting & Transport Committee meeting.
- Cllr Buck asked if the Eridge Station Lighting problem could be followed up with the parties concerned. **Deputy Clerk** to report back at next Highways, Lighting & Transport Committee meeting.
- Cllr Kember asked if the Council had any recycling bins at the Recreation Ground site. **Clerk** to investigate and feedback.
- Cllr Wickenden reported that he had cleared the cut trees from the bridge at the bottom of Station Road.
- Clerk reported that the Rotherfield Primary School had received an Ofsted inspection over the last 48 hours. It was **AGREED** the Clerk would send a letter of support and some chocolates for the staff. **Clerk** to arrange.

Chair declared the formal business of the meeting closed at: **21:12**

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