

ARLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Arlington Parish Council held on 15th March 2018 at 7.30pm in Arlington Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr J Parsons (Acting Chairman), P Stenning, V Radtke, J Robinson-Sivyer and N Kinghorn.

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor N Bennett and A Stevens (Clerk). There was one member of the public present.

122. PUBLIC SESSION

County Councillor Bennett thanked the Parish Council for its comments on proposals to close two care centres in East Sussex and said ESCC has two more consultations and they are on;

1: Waste and Recycling Centres – the County Council is proposing to close Wadhurst and/or Forest Row Recycling Centres, change the opening hours of other centres and charge for non-business waste.

2: Grass Cutting – the number of urban cuts is to be reduced from six to two a year.

Full details on both consultations can be found on the ESCC website. The Parish Council's response was agreed later on in the meeting.

District Councillor White sent a written report in which he said;

'1: Full Council met on the 22nd February and set the precept which included the £5.00 a year rise on a band D property. By now you will all have received your Council Tax demands and will be aware of how this affects you individually.

2: Upon advice from Natural England Wealden is now undertaking an Appropriate Assessment under the Habitat Regulations as part of the work on the new local plan. The additional work needed has resulted in a delay of a two months and in the publication of the new draft plan which will now take place until the end of June.'

Ms Shippey and Mr Dance from South East Water told everyone about the new Draft South East Water Resources Management Plan. They described the achievements of their previous Plan (water demand fell), how they created the new Plan, what their proposals are and how the new Plan will affect Arlington Reservoir. South East Water is currently in talks with the landowner to build a second reservoir at Arlington which will allow it to take water from the Ouse and the Cuckmere, and provide some different recreational facilities.

In answer to Councillors' questions they confirmed;

- Extending the existing reservoir is not an option because there is not enough water from the Cuckmere to fill it, they need water from the Ouse too.
- Their calculations are based on predicted population increases and they work closely with Local Planning Authorities to stay ahead of the game.
- Desalination is not a highly favoured option because it is too costly, it produces brine as a by-product and power is a problem. Desalination is favoured in the Middle East because there is more sun there.
- A public exhibition is being held on Monday 19th March at Berwick Village Hall from 12am to 8pm.
- Full details on the Plan can be found on the South East Water website. Comments can be sent to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, emailed to DEFRA at water.resources@defra.gsi.gov.uk or sent via the South East Water website at southeastwater.co.uk/yourwateryoursay.

Councillors will send their comments to the Clerk by 22nd March who will then formulate a formal response from the Parish Council.

123. APOLOGES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillor M Garner and were accepted by those present.

District Councillor White also sent apologies for his absence.

124. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND CHANGES TO THE REGISTER OF INTERESTS.

There were no declarations of interests nor were there any changes to the Register of Interests.

125. MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15th February 2018.

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 15th February 2018 were read, approved by all and signed by the Acting Chairman as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

126. PLANNING

a. Planning Applications:

WD/2018/0177/MFA - Land at Wilbees Farm, The Street, Arlington, BN26 6SA - Minor material amendment to application WD/2017/1986/MFA (Variation of Condition 2 of WD/2015/2405/FA. (Construction of a Solar Park to include the installation of solar panels to generate electricity with transformer housings, security fencing and cameras and other associated works)). Amendments to panels, layout, internal access track and structures on site – Councillors have no objections to the amendments. They are however concerned that Condition 11 of the original Decision does not appear to have been discharged yet.

D/2018/0107/F - Littlefield, Wilbees Road, Arlington, BN26 6RU - Demolition of existing outbuildings. Construction of single-storey extension to the side elevation to form garaging and annexe accommodation. proposed detached annexe – Councillors had no objections on any planning grounds to this application. They liked the design and felt the extension blends in nicely with its surroundings.

b. The following Planning Applications have been approved by the District Council;

WD/2017/2782/FR – Land opposite Robin Post, Arlington Road West BN27 3RD – Retrospective application to alter vehicle access.

c. Planning Matters – No other planning matters were discussed at this meeting.

127. FINANCE.

To approve list of payments – Councillors resolved to accept and approve the list of payments to the 15th March 2018 which totalled £2023.81

1854	Dicker Village Hall	£ 136.00
1855	Mass Media	£ 516.00
1856	Recycling Partnership - Bin Emptying	£ 34.61
1857	Wealden – Bin Emptying	£ 72.00
1858	ESCC	£ 202.53
1859	HMRC	£ 475.71
1860	A Stevens – Salary	£ 556.96
1861	T Foreman – Padlock	£ 10.00
1862	Arlington Village Hall	£ 20.00

b. To approve the accounts to date – Members **resolved** to approve the accounts to 28th February 2018.

c. General Data Protection Regulations

The Clerk met with Satswana and has now drafted an Action Plan, two Privacy Policies, a Document Retention Policy and a Data Processor Policy, and is waiting for Satswana to approve them.

128. HIGHWAYS –

The Parish Council has been told that a group of concerned residents is meeting to try and make the situation safer in Coldharbour Road where there has been a marked increase in the damage to parked cars. It is thought the damage is caused by speeding cars, vans and lorries.

The Acting Chairman advised that Arlington Parish Council is aware of the concern among Upper Dicker residents at the growing problem of vehicle speed and parking congestion through the village. This first became seriously evident in 2009/10 and the situation has deteriorated over the decade following, broadly as follows;

2009/10: Arlington Parish Council accepted the Parish Plan Action Group's recommendation to adopt the residents' concept of a Traffic Management Plan.

2011/12: With the assistance of our County Councillor, Highways Department, Bede's School, residents' groups and the Parish Plan Action Group, an in-depth survey took place over several days to confirm the problems, and identify the cause.

2012: Bede's School closed the previous 'Wise Coaches' site to develop it (now Forge Close), which displaced onto Coldharbour Road, a number of residents' cars that had enjoyed consent to park there.

2013/14: To alleviate the growing problem, Arlington Parish Council undertook a survey of how other villages dealt with parking, and considered off-road parking in the recreation ground, but no finance was available from any source to enable this to go ahead. In common with most similar villages it was decided that on-street parking is the most effective speed control measure.

2015: Bede's School announced their intention of funding safety improvements at the crossroads, and engaged consultants to create a scheme. Arlington Parish Council was strongly in favour of this, and liaised with Bede's and Highways. Bede's consultants submitted two proposals to Highways for consideration.

2016/17: Highways was not satisfied with either of the schemes. Bede's consultants then experienced difficulty through illness of their senior staff, resulting in Bede's having to make two late changes of consultants.

2017/18: Bede's new consultants were appointed and submitted a further scheme to Highways, which is currently under examination by the consultants and Highways. Once a scheme is accepted by ESCC Highways, then Bede's and their consultants will consult with village residents on the matter in the normal way.

Residents should remain mindful that Arlington Parish Council has been closely involved with this matter for the last decade, and will always assist with this or any problem within their remit providing it is raised at a meeting, or represented to our Clerk under correspondence.

Councillor Parsons also asked that all collisions are reported to the Parish Council so Councillors can build up a record which can then be used as evidence to support their case.

Councillors also;

- agreed that Councillor Parsons will meet the Police to see what else can be done
- suggested residents could leave gaps in the parking to allow cars room to pass.
- suggested fluorescent cones could help. Councillor Parson will ask the Police for their opinion first.

129. RISK ASSESSMENTS – There was nothing new to add on this occasion.

130. ALLOTMENTS – The allotment letters have been sent out. The Clerk will chase up those who have still yet to pay. A new padlock has been fitted to the pedestrian gate.

131. VILLAGE GREEN PROJECT – Councillor Radtke has notified the contractor of the changes councillors agreed at the last meeting and the Clerk will ask him for a start date. Groundworks has offered the Parish Council a six to eight week extension to complete the project and the Parish Council has accepted its offer.

132. VERGE CUTTING IN THE PARISH – Following the decision by ESCC to reduce the number of urban cuts it carries out in the Parish from 6 to 2, Councillors resolved to monitor the situation and see if additional cuts are needed.

133. REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS – Councillors considered the proposals made in the consultation on Recycling Sites and agreed the plans to charge for business waste will lead to an increase in the amount of fly tipping.

Councillors had no comments to make on the Sensitive Roads consultation.

Councillor Stenning reported that along with a team of volunteers he regularly litter picks the road from Berwick crossroads to Arlington Road West. In February they collected 50 bags of litter and 100 in November. Councillor Kinghorn said she would like to help clear up the litter in Upper Dicker.

134. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA -

- Tree Preservation Order request for the oaks behind the village shop.
- General Data Protection Regulations.

The Chairman thanked Ms Becky Coode who set up the laptop and downloaded and displayed tonight's planning applications on a screen for everyone to see.

- 135. DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - The next meeting will be the Parish Assembly and Full Council Meeting which will take place on Thursday 19th April 2018 at 7.30pm at Upper Dicker Village Hall. Councillor Parsons sent his apologies for the April Meeting.

There being no further business, this meeting closed at 9:10pm.