

ARLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Arlington Parish Council held on 18th July 2019 in Arlington Village Hall.

PRESENT: Cllr N Kinghorn (Acting Chairman), P Stenning, J Sellars and V Radtke.

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

36. PUBLIC SESSION

Mr Parsons read from his report which said;

'Further to the scheme to replace the staggered cross-roads in Coldharbour Road with two adjacent mini-roundabouts, the Consulting Engineer's Transport Planner acting for Bede's School has just approached the Council with a reminder that two illuminated signs will be erected at the site, one at the entrance from Michelham Priory Road and one at the entrance from Camberlot Road, these in addition to retention of the existing illumination on the pedestrian crossing between the two roundabouts. These illuminated signs are a road Traffic Act requirement, an integral part of the scheme without which it cannot go ahead.

While street lighting is not favoured within the village, the 'roundabout' signs will not be in that category and should create minimal peripheral illumination. When APC discussed the application several months ago the scheme was agreed in its entirety by Council, which of course included all required signage and associated lighting.

However, to be quite clear on what is involved I wonder would it be helpful to explore signage/lighting aspects with the school's contracted transport planner, to avoid any possible dubiety or misunderstanding as the scheme progresses. In this connection, I would confirm my own position to be firmly in line with Council's decision in favour of the scheme, which over the past ten years has required the investment of a great deal of time and resource primarily by Bede's School, (which will be funding the work) along with the Council and other local organisations. This represents the only realistic opportunity for funding not only the necessary road safety improvements but by implication a measure of traffic calming also, and I consider it very important that what will almost certainly be the only opportunity in the foreseeable future to address these problems is not permitted to slip through our fingers'.

County Councillor Bennett said;

- ESCC has to find another £34m worth of cuts over the next three years so it is continuing to lobby Ministers.
- An opportunity has arisen for ESCC to suggest improvements to railway stations following the disruption faced last summer. Berwick Station has been awarded £30000. Full details can be found on www.passengerbenefitfund.co.uk. Please contact County Councillor Nick Bennett on Cllr.Nick.Bennett@eastsussex.gov.uk with any suggestions.
- He has established an Environment Board, comprising of energy and other utility and infrastructure companies, Chaired by the Environment Agency. The Board is a function of SELEP. Its priority work areas are food waste, and renewable energy. The Board will shortly publish its new Environment Strategy.

In answer to Councillor's questions, County Councillor Bennett;

- Confirmed ESCC is consulting on proposed changes to parking and permit charges and is inviting our comments on these. It may be that these proposals will not directly affect the parish but our comments are still invited to help inform the consultation. As part of their commitment to reduce harmful vehicle emissions across the county and encourage the use of more sustainable modes of transport, the proposed permit prices will take into consideration engine sizes and the vehicle's CO2 emissions. Some permit prices will reduce, some will stay the same and some will increase. The rise in permit prices would be the first increase for more than a decade. ESCC is also consulting on proposed changes to the on street pay and display parking charges in Lewes, Eastbourne and Hastings. Off street parking charges are not affected by this consultation. Details of the proposed East Sussex Parking Charges changes are published on their consultation hub, please visit: <https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/economy-transport-environment/parking-charges>.

The consultation opens on 1 July and closes on 17 August. If the proposals are agreed, the changes are planned to come into effect in early 2020.

37. APOLOGES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Robinson-Sivyer and Garner sent apologies for their absence which were duly accepted by the Parish Council.

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

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

39. MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 20th JUNE 2019.

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 20th June 2019 were read, approved by all and signed by the Acting Chairman as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

40. PLANNING

a. Planning Applications:

WD/2019/1282/FR - The Village Shop, Coldharbour Road, Upper Dicker, BN27 3QE - Continued use of premises as both shop and cafe - A1 and A3 use. Installation of new extractor fan, duct and flue to rear of building – Arlington Parish Council has no objections to this application on any planning grounds. Councillors agreed that the shop is a great community asset.

Approved Planning Applications –

WD/2019/0849/F - 1 Copyhold Cottages, The Street, Arlington, BN26 6RY - New Access For Tractor

c. Planning Matters – No other planning matters were discussed on this occasion.

41. FINANCE.

To approve list of payments – Councillors resolved to accept and approve the list of payments to the 19th July 2019 which totalled £2783.81

101986	M Garner – Various expenses	74.98
101987	Mass Media - Website	151.20
101988	Play Safety – ROSPA Report	103.20
101989	Recycling Partnership - Bin Emptying	34.61
101990	Stripes - Grass Cutting	180.00
101991	A Stevens - Salary	580.80
101992	ESCC - Pension	437.02
101993	Dicker Cricket Club - Grants	1200.00
101994	Arlington Village Hall	22.00

To approve the accounts to date – Councillors **resolved** to approve the accounts to 30th June 2019.

42. HIGHWAYS –

At the last meeting UDDERS (Upper Dicker Drive to Enforce Road Safety) asked the Parish Council to contribute or part contribute towards the cost of white gates at the entrances to Upper Dicker.

The Parish Council contacted the Senior Road Safety Officer at ESCC to find out the process and costs would be. He said;

'I would agree that ideally you would need 8 gates for Upper Dicker. However, to spread the cost you could consider providing 4 gates initially (1 on each entrance) and then look to provide the 4 gates opposite at a later stage, or a similar approach like placing a pair of gates at each side of Coldharbour Road and then revisiting Camberlot Road and Michelham Priory Road later.

I would suggest that I meet with a couple of representatives to agree some preliminary locations, take some photographs and measure the verge widths. Once we have agreed the most appropriate locations you would

need to contact communities@eastsussexhighways.com to discuss the design and licences for the proposed gateways.

The gateways will need to be designed so that they are passively safe and subject to a formal Road Safety Audit procedure, or a low impact safety assessment.'

Councillors questioned whether gates would actually slow drivers down but agreed Councillors Radtke and Stenning will meet the Road Safety Officer and see what options are.

Councillors also discussed the design for the proposed mini roundabout on the junctions of Coldharbour Road, Michelham Priory Road and Coldharbour Road. The design will require lighting and illuminated signage and the Transport Planner is asking whether the Parish Council has any objections.

Councillors agreed they are concerned;

- About the extra light pollution and would like to know what steps are being taken to mitigate for it
- That the lights might not match the existing, and
- That the new lighting may change the existing character of the village.

They felt they have not been given enough information and asked the Clerk to go back to the Planner, ask for more detail and a better map, and site up a site meeting with him.

- 43. BT CONSULTATION** - In the past British Telecom has carried out consultation exercises to remove public payphones within Wealden District and another such exercise is now being carried out. The telephone kiosk in Upper Dicker (01323 843500) is on the list for removal. Wealden District Council (WDC) have asked –

- *If we agree to the telephone box being removed.*
- *If we object to the telephone box being removed.*
- *If we wish to adopt the telephone box.*

Arlington Parish Council understands no calls have been made from this number in the last twelve months. Councillor Kinghorn has been to look and said it has a card operated handset and doesn't accept coins. It does ring on incoming calls, although it doesn't work well enough to hear what the caller is saying and it is very dirty.

Councillors therefore resolved that we ask BT to give it a bit of maintenance so that it works properly and keep it there. It is next to the Recreation Ground and could be useful in an emergency.

44. RISK ASSESSMENTS –

Councillors considered and noted the risk assessment of the telephone kiosk, defibrillator, fingerpost and noticeboard (in Arlington) for June 2019.

Councillors also considered the ROSPA Report for 2019. Councillors Radtke said she will check out the recommendations and draft a list of repairs needed. The Clerk will then get a price from a suitably qualified expert.

- 45. ALLOTMENTS** – There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

- 46. VILLAGE GREEN PROJECT** – Councillors discussed the practicalities of employing someone to look after the Village Green and decided to see if there are any schemes available to help a local unemployed person.

- 47. REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS** – Councillor Kinghorn asked if the Parish Council would like to help set up a Good Neighbour Scheme in the Parish. The Scheme is being promoted by Action in Rural Sussex (AiRS). Councillors agreed they would like to invite AiRS to their next meeting and find out more.

The Clerk said East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service has recently published its Annual Plan 2019/20 and wanted to share this with us. The Annual Plan includes information on the strategic direction of the ESFRS, outlines their key priorities for the next few years and provides information on what they have achieved and their plans for the year ahead. This Plan will be published on their website at www.esfrs.org. Councillors were invited to comment on these plans individually.

Councillors asked the Clerk to see if the temporary TPO on the trees at Bede's can now be made permanent.

48. **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA** – Please let the Clerk have any items for the agenda by 22nd August 2019.
49. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - The next meeting will be the Full Council Meeting and it will take place on Thursday 5th September 2019 at 7.30pm at Arlington Village Hall.

There being no further business, this meeting closed at 8:40pm.