

ARLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Arlington Parish Council held on 21st June 2018 at 7.30pm in Upper Dicker Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr J Parsons (Acting Chairman), P Stenning and N Kinghorn.

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor N Bennett, District Councillor D White and A Stevens (Clerk). Mrs H Wheeler (Agent for Planning Application WD/2018/1087/F) and one member of the public were also present.

22. PUBLIC SESSION

Councillor Parsons said he has received complaints about the following hedges;

- 1: The recreation ground hedge opposite Old School House – there is a gap immediately behind the 30mph sign where a chunk was cut out by the drainage engineers to allow them get at the grill when the culvert was blocked. It now needs filling in to make it safe, ideally with fencing. The Clerk will ask them to fill it in.
- 2: The hedge to the recreation ground because it is growing out at the west end pedestrian gate. The Clerk will ask the contractors to cut it back.
- 3: The hedge by the Old School House, the hedge by Cricket Field House and the hedge by 2 Devon Cottages are growing out forcing pedestrians to walk into the road. The Clerk will write an article for Dicker Links asking all residents who have hedges overhanging footpaths, to keep their hedges cut back.

County Councillor Bennett reported that the County Council is looking at more ways to save money and there will be more cuts. He will continue to lobby the MP.

District Councillor White said;

- the Local Plan is expected to be submitted to Wealden Full Council in July for approval.
- Wealden is to spend £15m each year between 2024 and 2048 to provide more council houses. It hopes to circumvent the right to buy by using its housing company.
- Charles Lant Chief Executive, Nigel Hannam Director of Corporate Services and Kelvin Williams Head of Planning are all leaving this year. Chris Bending will be the new Chief Planning Officer.

23. APOLOGES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillor M Garner, V Radtke, J Robinson-Sivyer and J Sellars. These were accepted by those present.

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

Councillor P Stenning declared a prejudicial pecuniary interest in planning application WD/2018/1087/F and left the room whilst discussions and the vote took place.

25. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 17th MAY 2018.

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 17th May 2018 were read, approved by all and signed by the Acting Chairman as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

26. PLANNING

a. Planning Applications:

WD/2018/1087/F - Benedicts, The Street, Arlington, BN26 6SE - Replacement of existing garage – Councillors present said they felt the proposal was an improvement to the existing garage and agreed it was in keeping with its surroundings.

WD/2018/1125/FR - 9 Old Forge Close, Upper Dicker, BN27 3YJ - Retrospective formation of two single storey conservatories to the side and rear of the proper – Arlington Parish Council objects to this application because;

- of the adverse impact it has on the neighbouring property
 - the plans do not appear to be to scale
 - the conservatories are an overdevelopment because they are out of proportion with the size of the house.
- b. Approved Planning Applications - No Planning Applications have been approved by the District Council since the last meeting.
- c. Planning Matters – No other planning matters were discussed at this meeting.

27. FINANCE.

To approve list of payments – Councillors resolved to accept and approve the list of payments to the 21st June 2018 which totalled £4704.03

1883	T Hoad - Grass cutting	£ 54.00
1884	Jakk - Village Green	£2813.40
1885	N Kinghorn -Village Green	£ 189.39
1886	Recycling Partnership – Bin Emptying	£ 34.61
1887	Stripes - Grass cutting	£ 270.00
1888	A Stevens - Salary	£ 578.61
1889	ESCC Pension	£ 210.39
1890	HMRC PAYE	£ 478.63
1891	Wealden - Bin Emptying	£ 75.00

- b. To approve the accounts to date – Councillors **resolved** to approve the accounts to 31st May 2018.
- c. To approve the Code of Conduct - Councillors **resolved** to approve the Wealden District Council 2012 Code of Conduct for Members.
- d. General Data Protection Regulations

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

28. HIGHWAYS –

Councillor Parsons said the agenda for the July SLR Meeting will include an update on the Bede's School Crossroads Scheme and he will also be asking ESCC to look at the damaged verges in The Street, Wilbees, Caneheath and Camberlot Road.

Councillor Stenning said the equipment covers in The Street have still not been repaired by Virgin Media and the hedges in Tye Hill Lane are so overgrown the lane is now very narrow. The Clerk will ask Highways to chase up Virgin Media and she will also ask them (Highways) to cut back the hedges in Tye Hill Lane.

29. **RISK ASSESSMENTS** – Councillor Stenning risk assessed the defibrillator in Arlington at the end of May and will repeat the exercise at the end of June.
30. **ALLOTMENTS** – The padlock to the main gate has been cut by vandals and Councillor Parsons has replaced it with a heavy chain and key padlock. It will be swapped for a combination one in due course. In the meantime Maintenance Contractors and those who empty the bins have been asked to use the pedestrian gate.

The Clerk has arranged with Wealden that they will empty the bin by the play equipment on a weekly basis.

31. **VILLAGE GREEN PROJECT** – There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

32. **REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS** – It was noted that the 22.46 service from London Victoria has been reinstated which is the last service from London and Charles Horton CEO of Govia Thameslink has resigned.

The Govia 2018 Timetable Consultation Project Manager's response to the Parish Council's letter was as follows;

'Thank you for getting in touch with our Chief Executive, Charles Horton regarding the May 2018 timetable change and how it affects passengers from Berwick. Charles has read your email and has asked me to respond directly.

The May 2018 timetable change on our network is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create a more reliable service and extra capacity in the morning peak for 40,000 more passengers from across our network, with further expansion to 60,000 by the end of 2019. Prior to this change, we carried out the biggest passenger consultation in UK rail history, we had over 28,000 responses and passengers from the Berwick area fed into this.

I completely understand that the changes we are making to our timetables mean that many people have to alter their daily routines. However, passenger journeys on our network have doubled in the past 16 years and this rapid growth is continuing. We desperately need to provide more capacity to accommodate this increase in passenger numbers and changing our timetables is an essential element of this.

The timetable has been completely rewritten and extra time at stations now needed for additional passengers to board has been added. We have also retimed all the intermediate running times between stations to make sure our new timetable is reliable and realistic. In order for us to accommodate this, changes have been made to many services, including the morning ones into London Victoria and London Bridge. From the 20th May there is now two morning peak services direct into London Victoria departing Berwick at 06:34 and Glynde at 06:40, and then 07:34 from Berwick, which leaves Glynde at 07:40. There is also a direct services into London Bridge departing at Berwick at 06:50 and Glynde at 06:56.

For other connections into London, passengers are encouraged to change at Lewes or Polegate stations, where more frequent services travel into London direct. This also applies for journeys during the day between the two stations.

For services in the evening peak, again there are changes to direct services from both London Victoria and London Bridge, however I can confirm that following the consultation, a stop on the 22:46 service from London Victoria has been reinstated, this is the last direct service from London. I would suggest all passengers to check www.nationalrail.co.uk for up to minute train information and timetables.

If you have any further concerns relating to the changes in the May timetable and specific detailed route information, you can visit our website www.railplan2020.com or alternatively please do not hesitate to contact me directly'.

Councillors Stenning, Parsons and Kinghorn attended the Open Meeting about the A27 held by Cluttons on the 12th June.

The meeting was chaired by David Quysner Chairman of Selmeaton Parish Meeting, with guest speakers Vic lent (Lewes District Councillor), Kia Trainor (Director CPRE Sussex), Derek Coffee (Campaign for Better Transport – East Sussex) and Oliver Harwood a Partner at RH & RW Clutton.

David Quysner opened the meeting with a brief history of the proposals for the A27 which have been continuing for some 30 years or so. He explained that MP Maria Caulfield who chairs the A27 Reference Group had been invited to the meeting but was unable to attend due to Parliamentary duties. David Quysner also explained that Maria Caulfield is on record as supporting the widening of the existing A27 but that the A27 Reference Group as a whole prefer the financing of a new route. The Chairman then introduced the first speaker, Vic lent.

Vic lent explained that he'd been unable to attend the first A27 Stakeholder Reference Group Workshop earlier in the year but had attended the second meeting on 3rd of May, there is to be a third and final meeting in early July where the document for the economic and business case for a new road is expected to be signed off. He also confirmed that Parish Councils are excluded from these meetings. Mr lent then went on to explain that Highways England (HE) had presented a copy of their plans, which shows three offline corridors for a new road and no online widening of the current road. One corridor is shown north of Arlington Reservoir, the

second is just south of the reservoir (effectively along Chilverbridge Road) and the third is just south of the railway line but crosses over it to the north just before Wilmington. Further, Highways England presented no plans to upgrade the Southerham or Ashcombe roundabouts on the Lewes bypass. It is Highways England who will drive the process of a new road or the upgrading of the existing one, and it was felt it was disingenuous of Maria Caulfield to say that her preferred option is a widening of the current road because she cannot guarantee that outcome.

The second speaker, Kia Trainor of CPRE stated that CPRE have looked at whether road building programmes are achieving their objectives and showed a short film to demonstrate the points she wished to make. This film showed that the economic gain from such schemes was slow and uncertain, and concluded that building new by-passes and bigger roads are not the answer because they bring more development which in turn leads to an increase in traffic.

The third speaker, Derek Coffee of Campaign for Better Transport – East Sussex, stated that public transport is a very important component in any plan and that new roads only lead to an increase in car usage. An upgraded A27 would see a 76% overall increase of traffic in the Polegate area. There is also concern that even electric cars will continue to cause congestion. The Campaign for Better Transport is proposing a Hailsham-Polegate-Eastbourne transport corridor with better provision of public transport. They also propose a return to a rail timetable that better serves all communities, both rural and urban.

The fourth speaker, Oliver Harwood of RH & RW Clutton (Agents for the Wooton Manor Estate) stated that an Historic Landscape Specialist has created a study which finds that a host of species will all be at serious risk if this scheme goes ahead. Also, there is a 2000 year old field landscape to the west of Arlington Reservoir which would be irrevocably damaged by a “new road”.

There was a final speaker (not a member of the public), who stated that the WDC plan to build the majority of it's allocated housing in the south east of the district (i.e. Hailsham and Polegate), is reliant on the “new road” being built.

Councillors asked the Clerk to write to Nus Ghani MP, because they would like to know what the collective view of MPs is and what her own personal preference is.

Councillor Kinghorn suggested that the money spent on building a new road, which is believed to be about £500m, would be better spent on improving the public transport system.

33. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA -

- A27 Road Improvements
- Wealden Local Plan

34. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - The next meeting will take place on Thursday 19th July 2018 at 7.30pm at Arlington Village Hall. Councillors Parsons and Kinghorn sent their apologies for this Meeting.

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