

# FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Gabriella Paterson-Griggs

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**MINUTES** of the Meeting of **FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL** held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025 in the Village Hall, High Street, Fletching from 6.30 – 7.45pm

PRESENT: Councillors D Greenish (Vice-Chairman in the Chair), R Borton, N Collum, L Schofield and D Woollven.

Also in attendance: Gabriella Paterson-Griggs (Clerk and RFO) and Councillors C Coleman (WDC) and R Galley (ESCC) and PCSO Zachary Mussell.

Members of the Public in Attendance: 0

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Abraham, W Constantinou and R Hannay. Note: the apology from Cllr Constantinou was not seen by the Clerk until after the meeting had finished so was not given at the meeting.

## 25/121. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

## 25/122. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the last meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025 were a correct record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

## 25/123. MATTERS ARISING

The Actions List as prepared and circulated by the Clerk was noted. It was reported that the Resilience Plan would be on the agenda for the September 2025 Parish Council meeting.

## 25/124. PCSO

The new PCSO for Fletching, Zachary Mussell, attended the meeting to introduce himself to the Councillors. He confirmed that Fletching was a quiet parish in respect of policing and that there were no priorities for the area from a Police perspective. It was noted that there was a potential for burglaries which were likely to be machinery from garages and outbuildings and that in Piltdown along the A272 there could be vehicle offences. Cllr Greenish thanked him for coming to the meeting and suggested that he attend a village meeting, possibly in the autumn, so that parishioners could meet him in person which he was more than happy to do.

## 25/125. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Councillor Galley's monthly report had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. He highlighted that there had been a motion at ESCC Full Council that had been supported in respect of concern about the Planning and Infrastructure Bill allowing local authorities to bypass current protections of environmentally sensitive areas.

He also reported that there was some drainage work to be carried out in Church Street in August and that he was continually fighting to get the patching work carried out on the roads in the Parish. IN respect of the Local Government Re-organisation, it was noted that the next stage would be reported on in September 2025.

## 25/126. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Councillor Coleman gave a report that covered the following areas:

- *Devolution and LGR*: 3000 responses were received to the LGR survey which were currently being analysed. £300k had been received from the government to be used to fund the work required to prepare the proposal for submission in September. It was noted that Surrey had submitted proposals that state that the re-organisation would cost £85m in the first instance.
- *Additional Funding*: Councillor Ward Funds – details were still awaited in respect of this fund. There is also to be a Community Led Infrastructure Fund (CLIF) where £2m would be available for community led projects across the District – further details were still awaited.

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- *Full Council Motion:* a motion was to be put to Full Council on 16 July in respect of supporting the introduction in law the rights of rivers.

- *Planning*

*Consultation:* the Draft Statement of Community Involvement was out for a statutory consultation.

Appeals – unfortunately, an appeal had been allowed for a housing development on the outskirts of Buxted within the vicinity of a significant listed building.

Owlsbury – the Planning Performance Agreement (paid for by the applicant) was now in place and the application was likely to be discussed at committee in the autumn.

## 25/127. WORKING GROUPS / EXTERNAL GROUPS

- Neighbourhood Plan:* there was nothing further to report at this time.
- Fletching Recreation Ground Committee (FRGC):* The Clerk reported that the ground was being well used by the Cricket and Stoolball teams and that the school had also been using the recreation ground for weekly PE lessons. A report on the playground was awaited which would identify any equipment that would need to be replaced etc with costings.
- Village Hall Committee of Management:* the Clerk reported that the new caretaker for the Village Hall had been appointed and would be taking up the position in mid-August. Refurbishments were required to the cottage so they would not be moving in until September at the earliest.
- Ashdown Forest Parish Liaison Group:* Cllr Minch reported that she had attended the meeting and met the new team. The notes of the meeting would be circulated to all councillors once received.

## 25/128. CORRESPONDENCE / CONSULTATIONS RECEIVED

- Overgrown Garden:* the Clerk explained that there had been a call for help in respect of the encroachment of the very overgrown garden at 1 Quince Cottages in Splaynes Green into the vicinity of no 2 which was causing issues. This had been passed to Wealden DC and Cllr Coleman had been in touch with the relevant officers who were now looking into the issues.
- Wealden DC – Draft Statement of Community Involvement:* It was **AGREED** that this be delegated to the Planning Working Group for consideration and response on behalf of the Parish Council, if appropriate.
- ESCC – Draft East Sussex Housing Partnership Strategy Survey:* It was **AGREED** that this be delegated to the Planning Working Group for consideration and response on behalf of the Parish Council, if appropriate.

## 25/129. FINANCE AND ASSETS

- The invoices and payments for July 2025 were **AUTHORISED** and the Council's current financial position and bank reconciliation were noted.

## 25/130. GRANT APPLICATION

The Grant application from the Wealden Citizens Advice Bureau for £400 towards purchasing replacement computers was considered and it was **RESOLVED** that the grant be awarded in full.

## 25/131. POLICIES

The following policies were **APPROVED**:

- Filming and Recording of Meetings Policy
- Press and Media Policy
- Publicity Protocol
- Privacy Notice

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## 25/132. BURIAL GROUND

- i. The following item was **NOTED**:
  - a. Interment of Ashes – t/l Alan Johnson
- ii. The quote received from the ecologist in respect of works in the burial ground to fill the entrance holes and monitor them was **APPROVED**.

## 25/133. ENFORCEMENT – PLANNING AND DRAINAGE

There were no enforcement or drainage issues reported.

## 25/134. PLANNING APPLICATIONS - RECEIVED

It was **RESOLVED** to make the comments as set out after each application in respect of the following:

- i. **WD/2025/1350/FR Roselands, Goldbridge Road, Piltdown TN22 3XL**

Retrospective consent for a detached single storey storage outbuilding.

*The proposed development would constitute over-development and have a harmful urbanising impact on the rural location contrary to policies EN1 and EN27 of Wealden Local Plan 1998; SPO1, SPO13 and WCS14 of Wealden Core Strategy 2013; and paragraphs 131, 135 and 182 of the National Planning Policy Framework. The Parish Council, therefore, OBJECTS to this application.*

## 25/135. PLANNING APPLICATIONS - DECISIONS

Planning decisions **RECEIVED** from Wealden District Council since the last meeting:

*Applications Approved*

- i. **WD/2025/0692/F Walk Wood Cottage, North Hall Lane, Fletching TN22 3QU**

New single storey glazed porch extension and 2-storey bay window extension. (APPROVED 6 June 2025)

- ii. **WD/2025/0761/LDE Malling Farm, Down Street, Piltdown TN22 3XU**

Non-compliance with agricultural occupancy condition attached to T/1952/10451 erection of farm worker's bungalow. (CERTIFICATE ISSUED 13 June 2025)

*Applications Refused*

- i. **WD/2025/0589/AI The Griffin, High Street, Fletching TN22 3SS**

Externally illuminated swing sign and amenity board affixed to new timber post. (REFUSED 27 June 2025)

- ii. **WD/2025/0698/F Oak Tree Cottage, High Street, Fletching TN22 3TD**

Erection of a single storey side extension, incorporating study, utility ground floor WC and living room. (REFUSED 4 July 2025)

- iii. **WD/2025/0767/F 1 Oak Cottages, High Street, Fletching TN22 3TJ**

Removal of existing single storey projection and construction of two-storey side/rear extension and alterations. (REFUSED 4 July 2025)

- iv. **WD/2025/1074/LDE Woodside, North Hall Lane, Fletching TN22 3TJ**

Change of use of land from agricultural to residential garden. (CERTIFICATE NOT ISSUED 16 June 2025)

*Applications Withdrawn*

- i. **WD/2025/7024/AD Flitteridge Farm, Daleham Lane, Fletching TN22 3TQ**

A TB Isolation Unit (TBIU) Cattle Barn. (WITHDRAWN 12 June 2025)

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## **25/136. ITEMS FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE**

It was agreed that the following items be included for the next edition of the Parish Magazine:

- Works in the Burial Ground
- New PCSO
- Village Hall – new caretaker

## **25/137. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

It was requested that Councillors contact the Clerk with any items they wish to be considered at the next meeting.

## **25/138. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

The next meeting of the Parish Council is due to be held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 6.30pm – venue to be determined.