



**Meeting of the Parish Council to be held
in the Village Hall, Northiam at 7.00pm,
Thursday 9th February 2023**

MINUTES

Present: Carolyn Pierce, Bob Russell, Penny Farmer, Anthony Wontner-Smith, Dean Johnson, Jon Streatfeild, Ben Dallimore

Georgina Jackson, Locum Clerk, Cllr Redstone, Cllr Mooney, Cllr Ganly and 35 Members of the Public

Date: 18th February 2023

In the absence of a Chairman or Vice Chairman a vote was taken on who would chair the meeting it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Farmer would chair the meeting.

Cllr Dallimore declared that he would be recording the meeting.

1) Apologies for Absence:

No apologies of absence were received.

The meeting closed at 19.04

2) Public Questions (Maximum of 15 minutes)

A member of the public stated that the Village Hall Committee would be holding a Coronation Event and asked if the parish council would be able to donate some money to this.

A member of the public asked for the monthly expenditure sheets to be placed on the website.

A member of the public asked which funds any legal costs for the stables would be spent from.

A member of the public requested that election information be advertised in the village by the parish council.

A member of the public asked if the October Minutes had been signed.

The meeting reopened at 19.11

3) Declarations of Interests and Lobbying

Cllr Pierce declared an interest in item 12.

Cllr Dallimore declared an interest in item 10.

4) Minutes of the Previous Meeting

To approve and sign the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 10th November 2022 and 12th January 2023.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 10th November 2022 and 12th January 2023 be approved and the Minutes were duly signed.

5) Motions from Councillors

(a) Cllr Dallimore; To consider the position of Vice Chair.

Nominations were received, seconded and majority vote taken. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Farmer be appointed as Vice Chairman.

(b) Cllr Russell; to consider and note highway issues in front of Jempson's store.

Cllr Russell reported that bollards can be placed on the grass verge and that he has been liaising with Jempsons who have agreed to pay for the works. The parish council and members of the public were all very thankful.

6) To consider the appointment of a Responsible Financial Officer for 5 hours a week.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Julie Miller as the S151 Responsible Financial Office for 5 hours a week.

7) To agree a representative to attend the Summer Road Safety Virtual Briefing on 13th March 2023 at 18.00.

It was **AGREED** to appoint Cllr Russell as the representative to attend the Summer Road Safety Virtual Briefing.

8) Finances

i) To receive & approve the payment report January 2023.

The payments of £4,363.96 for January 2023 were circulated and **AGREED**.

ii) To receive the most recent bank reconciliation and financial report.

It was **RESOLVED** to defer signing the bank reconciliation to the next meeting to be held in March 2023, this was due to not having enough information.

The bank reports were **noted**.

iii) To approve the time-sheet of the Locum Clerk for the period 07/01/2023 – 03/02/2023

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the time sheet.

iv) To approve the time sheet of Finance consultant.

No time sheet was circulated.

v) To approve the expenditure of approximately £300 for the purchase of more stones and an angle grinder for the cemetery volunteers. This money will be paid from the £500 donation that was received.

It was **RESOLVED** to agree the expenditure.

9) Bank Mandate

(a) To approve three councillors to be authorised signatories on the Barclays and Coop account.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllrs Johnson, Pierce and Stretfeild would be placed as bank signatories.

(b) To approve the removal of Cllr Biggs from the bank mandate.

It was **RESOLVED** to remove Tony Biggs from the bank mandate due to his resignation.

Cllr Dallimore left the meeting at 19.20

10) St Francis Field

(a) To agree to proceed with the legal work for the Stables Lease up to a cost of £3,000.

It was **RESOLVED** to defer this item to the next meeting to be held in March 2023 due to not receiving all of the information.

(b) To consider request regarding trees on St Francis Field.

It was **RESOLVED** to liaise with the CIC regarding the border of the land and liability.

Cllr Dallimore re-entered the meeting at 19.22

11) Cemetery Footpath to be paid for by CIL Monies

Items of expenditure to consider outside budget limit

Councillors to consider spend costs outside of the approved annual budget.

(a) To consider and agree the cemetery footpath works.

It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with Hallwood Solutions for the resurfacing path works at a cost of £12,312.00 with the monies being paid out of the CIL budget.

Cllr Wontner-Smith entered the meeting at 19.26

Cllr Pierce left the meeting at 19.26

12) Hedge Cutting – Border of St Francis Field

(Road side & tops of the hedges on Beales Lane)

Items of expenditure to consider outside budget limit, monies to be taken from the Kickstart Fund.

Councillors to consider spend costs outside of the approved annual budget.

(a) To consider the cost of hedge cutting for St Francis Field.

It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with Derek Pierce to undertake the hedge cutting at a cost of £270.00 with the monies being taken from the Kickstart Fund.

Cllr Pierce re-entered the meeting at 19.28

13) Replacement of Fence – Play Area

Items of expenditure to consider outside budget limit, monies to be taken from the CIL Fund.

Councillors to consider spend costs outside of the approved annual budget.

(a) To consider the cost of replacing the fence at the play area.

It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with Hallwood Solutions to supply and put in posts to strengthen the existing fence at a cost of £1,056.00 with the monies being taken from the CIL budget.

14) To consider allowing a resident to remove some trees from behind Goddens Green.

After consideration it was **RESOLVED** to grant permission to remove the trees but the clerk would check the legal and insurance position on doing so before granting permission.

15) To note that the village hall committee will be organising an event for the King's Coronation.

This was **noted**.

16) To consider receiving independent legal advice in relation to the Lease for Ground Floor Office, Village Club, Main Street, Northiam.

It was **RESOLVED** to obtain independent legal advice on the lease for completeness.

17) Terms of Reference

To agree two councillors to join the St Francis Field Committee.

After a vote it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Pierce and Stretfeild would join the St Francis Field Committee.

18) The Paddocks Development

To consider supporting signage at the entrance to the Godden's Gill development.

It was **AGREED** that the parish council is happy to give support to the signage subject to better performance on contractor parking and possible a second sign to direct contractors to the Scout Hut for parking.

19) To note the closure of the Northiam Level Crossing on 3rd to 5th March 2023.

This was **noted**.

20) The Paddocks.

To agree contractor to carry out assessment of the drain diversion. (Costs to be borne by Greymoor).

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend Odyssey to Greymoor to undertake the assessment of the drain diversion.

21) To note the appeal to the Secretary of State in relation to the planning application at Ghyllside - Land adjacent to, Station Road, Northiam - RR/2022/1097/P.

This was **noted**.

22) Reports by County and District Councillors

i) District Councillor Martin Mooney.

Cllr Mooney reported on the following:

- Draft revenue budget for Rother 2023/2024.
- Public Space Protection Order.
- Duncan Ellis is designated as the Council's Interim Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) with effect from 20 February 2023.

ii) District Councillor Tony Ganly. Cllr Ganly had nothing further to add.

- iii) County Councillor Paul Redstone
Cllr Redstone reported on the following:-
- East Sussex County Council has passed their budget with a 3% rise for the council tax element and a 1.99% rise in relation to the social care levy.
 - Potholes – there has been approximately 6000 reports of potholes since the start of January, this is significantly higher than normal, members of the public are encouraged to report any potholes.

23)VILLAGE MATTERS

- i) Correspondence
Noted.

- ii) Councillors' Reports

Cllr Dallimore asked for an update on his question from the last meeting regarding the relationship between the CIC and the parish council, it was reiterated that this would be discussed at the next CIC meeting.

Cllr Streatfeild reported on the emergency response plan and stated that due to data protection he could not publish all the telephone numbers, he asked members of the public to contact him should the emergency response plan be activated.

24)Planning

New Applications/Amendments to current applications:

- i) RR/2022/3002/P
Crockers End, Crockers Lane, Northiam TN31 6PY

A modest extension providing a new entrance hall to the south-east side of Crockers End, additional accommodation and direct access to the Annex Building.

<https://planweb01.rother.gov.uk/OcellaWeb/planningDetails?reference=RR/2022/3002/P>

It was **RESOLVED** that Northiam Parish Council supports this application.

Cllr Dallimore abstained from voting.

- ii) RR/2022/2352/P – **date passed for response**
Mill Corner Stables, New Road, Northiam TN31 6HR

Erection of Earth House comprising an Eco-Dwelling in accordance with NPPF Para 80, with a Permaculture/Smallholding Business and conversion of former stables to an eco tourism/holiday let, retention and conversion of outbuilding for use as shower block.

<https://planweb01.rother.gov.uk/OcellaWeb/planningDetails?reference=RR/2022/2352/P&from=planningSearch>

It was **RESOLVED** that Northiam Parish Council objects to this application on the following grounds:-

- The original status of the land was “agricultural” and acquired a change of use, by the previous owner, to a private equestrian facility to allow stables to be built, but not as a business and not permitting a residential dwelling.
- The land is within the AONB and as such is awarded the highest status of protection in law. It is also outside the development boundary of Northiam and as such has never proposed for development.
- Only under exceptional circumstances a “modest dwelling” might be allowed on agricultural land and it must be demonstrated that the family’s whole income is derived from the agricultural business on the land i.e. farming. Policy RA3.
- The entrance is almost opposite the quiet junction to Mill Corner and despite the applicant stating that the traffic flow would be staggered this would still represent a substantial increase in the use of the motor vehicle to the quiet hamlet of Mill Corner.

Cllr Dallimore abstained from voting.

- iii) RR/2022/2807/L – **date passed for response**
Frewen College, Rye Road, Northiam TN31 6NL

Two new openings within the existing wall between the kitchen and the wash up room in the service wing (alternative scheme to RR/2022/997/L).

<https://planweb01.rother.gov.uk/OcellaWeb/planningDetails?reference=RR/2022/2807/L&from=planningSearch>

It was **RESOLVED** that Northiam Parish Council supports this application.

- iv) RR/2022/2882/P
3 Oak Terrace, Main Street, Northiam TN31 6LX

Replace 5 windows to the rear of dwelling.

<https://planweb01.rother.gov.uk/OcellaWeb/planningDetails?reference=RR/2022/2882/P&from=planningSearch>

It was **RESOLVED** that Northiam Parish Council supports this application.

- v) RR/2023/191/FN
Cooks Yard Farm, New Road, Northiam TN31 6HS

Application to determine if prior approval is required for an extension to the barn on the south facing side of the building.

<https://planweb01.rother.gov.uk/OcellaWeb/planningDetails?reference=RR/2023/191/FN&from=planningSearch>

It was **RESOLVED** that Northiam Parish Council cannot support this application as there is currently not enough information to make an informed decision.

- vi) RR/2023/2809/O
Haytor, Mill Corner, Northiam TN31 6HU

Certificate of Lawfulness for the proposed demolition of existing single storey side extension and replacement with new single storey side extension, comprising of store, shower room and utility room.

This application is **noted**.

All appeals, enforcements and decision notices have been previously circulated to Councillors.

25) To agree the public’s exclusion from the confidential part of the meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** to exclude the public from the meeting and move into confidential session.

The meeting moved into confidential session at 20.12

That in view of the confidential nature of the business (employment/legal issues) about to be transacted it was resolved under the provisions of Public Bodies admissions to meetings Act 1960 s.1 that the press and public be temporarily excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw.

Human Resources

Legal

26) To note legal case update from Keoghs Solicitors.

The clerk gave an update from the solicitors and it was **noted** that this case has now been settled by the insurance company.

The meeting ended at 20.25

Chairman