

# GUESTLING PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF GUESTLING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 13 SEPTEMBER 2021 7PM AT GUESTLING VILLAGE HALL

**CHAIR:** MARION ROBERTS – GUESTLING PARISH COUNCIL

**GUESTLING PARISH COUNCILLORS PRESENT:**

Cllr GRAHAM FURNESS Cllr ANDREW ELDRIDGE

Cllr PETER KNATCHBULL-HUGESSEN Cllr PETE MUNRO

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR PRESENT:** Cllr ANDREW MIER

**PARISH CLERK :** BRYONY YOUNG

**1 MEMBER PUBLIC**

ITEM	NOTES	ACTION
1	<b>APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE:</b> Cllr Carl Maynard Cllr Jonathan Vine-Hall Cllr Marion Munro Cllr Laurie Brown 6 month absence request for personal reasons accepted	
2	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:</b> Cllr Andrew Eldridge – Bowls Club grant	
3	<b>MINUTES RESOLVED:</b> That the Chair of the Council is authorised to sign the minutes of the last Council Meeting	
4	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING OR UNRESOLVED NOT COVERED SEPARATELY IN AGENDA:</b></p> <p><b>FIBRE OPTIC BROADBAND EXTENSION OF COVERAGE:</b> BY and Cllr VH to speak, grant and cost issue ongoing, local MP aware - <b>ONGOING</b></p> <p><b>GRASS AND VERGE CUTTING:</b> As far as PC aware only had 1 cut of the 4 paid for 2021 (should be 6 in total, 2 paid for by ESCC), email sent to ESCC in reply to this years quote to ask for refund and further information of why not carried out</p> <p><b>GUESTLING PARISH COUNCIL GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS AND PROCEDURE:</b> Details published by clerk awaiting answer from MOPP/Church (now received), also forward to school and ask about use over Winter period</p> <p><b>COMMUNICATION WITH THE FOOTBALL CLUB:</b> Contract finalised and signed by all concerned and distributed. Electricity and Water now transferred over</p> <p><b>HIGHWAYS SAFETY OFFICE MEETING OVERVIEW:</b> Sedlescombe PC waiting for laptop, Cllr P Munro to be trained when available Letter sent to Sussex Police Crime Commissioner ref motorcycle and car exhaust noise, no response received, clerk to chase. Also sent to all local Parish Councils, Westfield only response so far to say will discuss at next meeting</p> <p><b>BOWLS CLUB TREE ISSUE:</b> Tree has been checked, no ash dieback, healthy tree, bow to be cut back</p> <p><b>BEECH WALK:</b> Waiting for Operations for ESCC to advise Parish Council what requirements would be to get a licence for Community Company - <b>ONGOING</b></p>	<p><b>BY/CllrV-H/PM</b></p> <p><b>BY</b></p> <p><b>BY</b></p> <p><b>BY</b></p>
5	<p><b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Mier –</b> Rother has signed up to take some Afghan refugee families, put a request out to Rother private landlords to help, tenant finder scheme details are on Rother website Rough sleeping concerns – Streetlink on Rother site, easy way to report Current review of on street parking regulations by ESCC – looking for feedback Operation Radcott – problems with parking/traffic at Camber, meeting in November</p> <p><b>Cllr Vine-Hall –</b> Full report attached to minutes as Appendix 1 Parish Council wish it to be noted that they are glad to hear of the planning review and look forward to an improvement of responses for Guestling Parish residents in the future</p>	
6	<p><b>QE2 FIELD:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issue with cars being locked in when gates left open whilst Bowls Club are in, Cllr Eldridge to ask Bowls Club to check before locking and try to keep gate shut</li> <li>Electric/Water to transfer to football club – <b>TRANSFER COMPLETED</b></li> <li>Hedge cutting – Clerk book for October</li> </ul>	<p><b>AE</b></p> <p><b>BY</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cess pit emptying - <b>DONE</b></li> </ul>	
7	<b>BOWLS CLUB GRANT APPLICATION</b> – Parish Council would like more information before making a decision on the grant request. Happy to support the Bowls Club and would like to update the relationship and ask a member/members to come to the next meeting to give more info about the club	<b>MR/AE</b>
8	<b>LOCAL ROADS:</b> Issues with sides of roads where drainage has been missed (example on way up to Chowns Hill). Parish Council was assured spray patching would not be used as it was not appropriate but it is being used. Email from ESALC regards highways issues – PKH to send email ref motorbikes, MR ref HGVs, PM ref maintenance, BY to send on email to PCC	<b>ALL/BY</b>
9	<b>CORRESPONDENCE:</b> Email from THWART (Three Oaks and Winchelsea Action for Rail Transport) to ask for new support from residents, BY to invite to next meeting Black box data received from East Sussex	<b>BY</b>
10	<b>FINANCE:</b> RALC £30, grounds maintenance invoices £437.68, agreed spend for remembrance wreath and cess pit empty	
11	<b>PLANNING APPLICATIONS:</b>  <b>MINUTES – To resolve:</b> The Chair of the Planning Committee authorises the Minutes of the meeting of the previous planning committee  <b>RR/2021/1496/P 5 THE THORNE GUESTLING TN35 4LU</b> Construction of dormer to rear of roof to accommodate bedroom to loft space <b>RECOMMEND APPROVAL</b>  <b>RR/2021/1685/P SEALEIGH WINCHELSEA ROAD GUESTLING GREEN TN35 4LW</b> Single storey side extension and alterations <b>RECOMMEND APPROVAL</b>  <b>RR/2021/1724/P COPSHALL FARM WINCHELSEA ROAD GUESTLING GREEN TN35 4LT</b> External alterations to barn to facilitate conversion of barn to hotel and landscaping <b>OUR OBJECTIONS TO RR/2020/2521/PN3 AND RR/2021/53/P STILL STAND. THE DESCRIPTION FOR THIS IS NOW AN APART-HOTEL WHICH WOULD SLIGHTLY DIFFER IN USAGE TO A HOTEL. EVEN THOUGH THE PARKING HAS BEEN MOVED THERE WOULD STILL NOT SEEM TO BE SUFFICIENT FOR WHEN THE 2 BARNS ARE IN FULL USAGE. WE PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED CONCERN REGARDING THE LACK OF ANY DETAIL REGARDING DRAINAGE. THIS HAS NOW BEEN MENTIONED BY BUILDING CONTROL ALONG WITH MAJOR CONCERNS ON LACK OF FIRE SAFETY PROVISIONS AND A COMPLETE LACK OF DISABLED ACCESS</b>	
12	<b>A.O.B.:</b> Bowls Club looking at a defibrillator, suggestion to put on gate so that public can have access Guestling telephone box needs painting New laptop and projector suggested for clerk – clerk to investigate Queens Platinum Jubilee – Money from Rother is available, speak to Football Club as to whether they want us to apply for funding for something for jubilee Cllr K-H is on tree course at Ashburnham <b>MEETING CLOSED 8.56PM</b>	
	<p align="center"><b>THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE MONDAY 8<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER</b></p> <p align="center"><b>BRYONY YOUNG – PARISH CLERK 07730 015684    guestling.clerk@gmail.com</b></p>	

## APPENDIX 1

### Report to Guestling Parish Council 13<sup>th</sup> of September 2021

#### Key points for noting

1. Malcolm Johnson confirmed as Chief Executive of Rother DC
2. Public Spaces protection orders going out for consultation.
3. Sussex Community Led Housing Hub agreement with Rother renewed to help their work to support Community led housing. Currently a number of Parishes engaging in developing sites including Icklesham PC, Battle PC, Northiam PC and Guestling PC and Bexhill CLT.
4. Rother's finances have fared reasonably well following the main impact of Covid with a circa £400k hit which is mainly from loss of income where car parks did not charge and unpaid rates.
5. Rother has been recognised as one of the top Authorities for the speed and efficiency of getting grants out to businesses during Covid having distributed some £36m. As a result RDC have been awarded a further fund to distribute (see below).
6. Community Grants are now fully allocated for the year. However two funds still exist The small grants for applications up to £1000 (a total of £5000 still available). A fund of £10,000 for Queens Jubilee activities for the period 2/6/22 to 5/6/22. See the community grants section of the RDC website for details.
7. The recommendations of the planning review are now being implemented via a task force headed by Robin Vennard who has previous experience of transforming the revenue and benefits department. Tim Hickling recently left the Authority following a departmental restructure. Ben Hook has been promoted to Head of Place and Climate change reflecting the needs of the Authority's corporate plan. This is part of changing RDC planning from a statutory silo to delivering an up to date planning service which delivers a high quality service for all who engage with it. This will take some time and I am sure there will be some bumps along the way. Please be patient.
8. Capita, who is supporting RDC planning with additional officer resources in planning are making strong headway in getting through the backlog of planning applications. The impact is starting to be felt and it is hoped the authority will be back within statutory decision period by the end of the year or soon after. Having said this planning applications continue to come in at above normal rates. One of the unaddressed problems of the past is that the planning department had no flexibility in its resources to deal with increases in applications. This problem has been amplified by Covid and is being addressed by the review.
9. The bottom line on planning is that the serious performance and cultural problems of the past many years are now being addressed and a plan is in place to resolve those issues to make Rother an efficient positive service for our community- Please be patient. It takes time to resolve these long standing issues. RDC has many good planning officers who simply need better processes, management and a positive culture.

## **Additional Grants**

A new discretionary grant has been announced and Rother has obtained £500,000 to distribute with a high degree of discretion. Details will follow and I will circulate as soon as they are available. The overall approach agreed will be that the grants will focus on creating growth in Rother's economy. They can't be used for capital purchase but will be able to be used to relieve business expenses which will allow cash flow should a business want to purchase Capital equipment or for a wide range of expenses to build business in Rother.