

# GUESTLING PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF GUESTLING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2022**

**7PM AT THREE OAKS VILLAGE HALL**

**CHAIR:** Cllr MARION ROBERTS

**GUESTLING PARISH COUNCILLORS PRESENT:**

Cllr PETE MUNRO Cllr PETER KNATCHBULL-HUGESSEN Cllr MARTIN GRIFFITHS

Cllr MARION MUNRO Cllr ANDREW ELDRIDGE

**LOCAL/DISTRICT C'LLORS:** Cllr JONATHAN VINE-HALL Cllr ANDREW MIER Cllr CARL MAYNARD

**PARISH CLERK:** BRYONY YOUNG

ITEM	NOTES	ACTION
1	<b>APOLOGIES :</b> Cllr GRAHAM FURNESS	
2	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:</b> None	
3	<b>MINUTES TO RESOLVE:</b> The Chair authorised the minutes of the last meeting	
4	<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:</b> Cllr Mier – District Councillors report attached – Appendix 1, circulated to Councillors Cllr Maynard – Report – Appendix 2, circulated to Councillors	
5	<b>MATTERS ARISING OR UNRESOLVED NOT COVERED SEPARATELY IN AGENDA:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wreath for Remembrance Sunday laid by Chair on behalf of Parish Council at Guestling Church Remembrance Service</li> <li>Standing Orders on website</li> <li>Freedom of Information letter sent to Southern Water</li> <li>Guestling Book of Condolence lodged with Rother and put with other Parish entries</li> <li>Confirmation of ESCC grass cutting option 2</li> </ul>	
6	<b>CORRESPONDENCE:</b> ARC – Website lunch Fairlight Village Hall 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	
7	<b>FINANCE:</b> Bench/Litter bin concreting - £750, Hall hire - £19, RALC membership £30 <b>CLLR KNATCHBULL-HUGESSEN LEFT 7.20PM</b>	
8	<b>ROTHER CONSULTATION ON LEISURE STRATEGY</b> – Asks for Parish feedback, PC feels questions in poll are not relevant to the Parish – clerk to reply to this effect	<b>BY</b>
9	<b>SPEEDWATCH/BLACK CAT DEVICE</b> – Cllr Munro advised old device is kept as backup, Pett has new one. Speedwatch: 5 active members in area, 2 passive. Now have bodycam for safety. Doing weekly checks (down to fortnightly in winter). PC needs to apply for licence to put BlackCat device in Parish, PC needs Speedwatch to allocate the poles required and then send a written request for PC to support by paying for the licence	<b>MM/BY</b>
10	<b>FLOODING IN THE PARISH – THREE OAKS RAILWAY BRIDGE WORK</b> – Cllr Maynard advises will get Highway Steward to inspect and asks for any pictures to be sent to Highway Steward – <b>RESPONSE RECEIVED FROM HIGHWAY STEWARD TO CHAIR</b> <b>CLLR KNATCHBULL-HUGESSEN REJOINED MEETING 7.40PM</b>	
11	<b>MEMORIAL TREE FOR PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER</b> – Suggested memorial tree for the late David Hance. Clerk to get pricing for oak tree varieties and plaque costs	<b>BY</b>
12	<b>QE2 PLAYING FIELD:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Road posts are loose, need concreting, PC asked if happy for football club to concrete in – unanimous vote yes</li> <li>Hastings Athletic have taken on using Fairlight Playing Fields as well as Guestling and introducing walking football</li> <li>PC need to revisit contract April 2023</li> <li>Entrance to driveway has potholes that need filling, to advise if PC need to arrange for work</li> </ul>	
13	<b>CHURCH LANE TREATMENT WORKS – SOUTHERN WATER FOI RESPONSE?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New FOI request for how much is being tankered in to Parish for disposal</li> <li>Check charging levels for FOI requests</li> <li>Cllr Knatchbull-Hugessen has signed up to webinars by Southern Water that cover our Parish</li> </ul>	<b>PK-H/BY BY</b>
14	<b>DEVELOPMENT AT BATCHELORS BUMP – ROAD NAMING</b> – Bradshaw Close or Robert Bradshaw Close suggested, PC unanimously agreed, clerk to advise <b>CLLR MAYNARD LEFT MEETING 8.05PM</b>	<b>BY</b>
15	<b>IDEAS FOR THE KINGS CORONATION:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cllr Knatchbull-Hugessen suggests a “Coronation Run” – vehicle run to include whole area of the Parish</li> <li>Clerk investigate if any licencing is required for car runs to Highways</li> <li>Clerk to speak to Guestling Bradshaw School to see what they are planning and if the PC can support</li> </ul>	<b>BY BY</b>
16	<b>PLANNING APPLICATIONS:</b>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>RR/2021/2752/P COGHURST HALL CARAVAN PARK IVYHOUSE LANE GUESTLING TN35 4NP</b> Siting of 19 no. Glamping Pods and associated works <b>RECOMMEND REFUSAL. GUESTLING PARISH COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE AMENDMENTS PROVIDE TOILET AND WASHING FACILITIES. HOWEVER, WE WOULD LIKE CLARIFICATION THAT THE EXISTING WWT PLANT HAS THE CAPACITY FOR THIS AND THE OTHER 2 RECENTLY APPROVED APPLICATIONS. WE WOULD ALSO ASK WHERE IT IS DISCHARGED TO GIVEN THE MANY NATURAL WATERCOURSE AND PONDS IN THE AREA. THE PLANNING CONSULTANCY STATES THAT THE SITE HAS PP AND IS LICENSED FOR 535 PITCHES. IT ALSO STATES THAT THERE ARE CURRENTLY 522 DEVELOPED PITCHES. THIS INDICATES THERE IS ONLY ROOM FOR AN ADDITIONAL 13. WITH THE RECENT CONDITIONAL APPROVAL OF RR/2020/1507/P AND R/2021/2571/P THE MAXIMUM PERMITTED/LICENSED TOTAL HAS BEEN EXCEEDED. FOR THIS REASON ALONE, THIS APPLICATION MUST BE REFUSED. OTHER REASONS TO REFUSE IT ARE THERE IS NO PROVISION FOR THE DISPOSAL OF GREY WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY NOTES THIS WITH THE CLOSE PROXIMITY OF WATERCOURSES FEEDING SEVERAL PONDS. THE ECOLOGICAL CONSULTATION STATES THAT THE APPLICATION DOESN'T MEET BEST PRACTISE STANDARDS. THE HIGHWAYS COMMENTS ARE FAR REMOVED FROM THE REALITY. THEY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE LANE IS NARROW NOTING THAT TRAFFIC IS REQUIRED TO PASS AT LOW SPEEDS WHEN MEETING HEAD ON. THIS IS NOT THE CASE. IT ALSO STATES THAT ON THE NARROWEST SECTIONS VEHICLES ARE OCCASIONALLY REQUIRED TO REVERSE BACK TO A PASSING PLACE. THIS IS NOT THE REALITY EITHER. THE AMOUNT OF TRAFFIC, ESPECIALLY COMMERCIAL FROM TRANSIT SIZE UP TO 44T, IS MORE THAN THE LANE CAN ACCOMMODATE WITH MUCH SQUEEZING PAST CAUSING THE SIDES OF THE LANE TO BE ERODED AWAY AND, WITH THE POORLY MAINTAINED DRAINAGE (CONSTANTLY TOTALLY BLOCKED) HUGE DEEP CREVASSES APPEAR AT THE SIDES CAUSING VEHICLES TO GROUND. IVYHOUSE LANE TO THE SOUTH IS A NARROW WINDY LANE THAT IS NOT SUITABLE FOR THE EXISTING AMOUNT OF TRAFFIC LET ALONE ANY ADDITIONAL. THE PARISH COUNCIL HAS CARRIED OUT TRAFFIC SURVEYS THAT WILL BE SHARED WITH HIGHWAYS SEPARATELY. THE ONLY TIME THE TRAFFIC LESSENS IS DURING THE OBLIGATORY 2 WEEK SHUT DOWN OF THE CARAVAN SITE</b></li> <li>• <b>RR/2022/2616/P HOLLY BANK FRIARS HILL GUESTLING TN35 4ET</b> Erection of single storey side extension, enlarged patio area <b>RECOMMEND APPROVAL</b></li> </ul>	
17	<p><b>A.O.B:</b> Cllr Griffiths – RALC meeting, discussed effectiveness of Speedwatches Cllr Vine-Hall – New Strategic Plan in Rother, will need to revisit all sites looked at historically for housing, Rother will invite all Parishes to any discussions if anything is proposed in their Parish. Village Halls Energy Efficiency Project with CIL(Community Infrastructure Levy) funding is moving forward</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MEETING CLOSED 8.53PM</b></p>	
	<p><b>BRYONY YOUNG – PARISH CLERK Tel : 07730 015684</b>      <a href="mailto:questling.clerk@gmail.com">questling.clerk@gmail.com</a></p>	

## APPENDIX 1

District Councillor's Report Cllr Andrew Mier 24 October 2022 updated 14 Nov

1. The proposed closure by Freedom Leisure of the Rye Swimming Pool has caused much understandable consternation. I know that many people from this area use the facility.

Freedom Leisure ("FL") is Rother's contractor for the delivery of leisure facilities and receives money from Rother for that purpose. The increased cost of energy has hit businesses hard, and bills are much higher, despite government support until the spring. The additional cost of running the Rye facility is said to be about £92,000 per annum. FL is unable to absorb that cost, much of which will be due to the Pool. FL have chosen to close Rye pool rather than Bexhill because the Bexhill facility is much more heavily used, affecting more people. It generates more income, and the costs of closing it would be greater. The rest of the leisure facilities at Rye will remain open.

Rother has its own financial problems caused by the current crisis. Our own energy costs have increased, inflation means contractors are expecting more when contracts come up for renewal, and staff have to be paid fairly. On the income side Rother can set the precept only once per year in the spring, and increases are at present capped by government at 2%. Most fees and charges are fixed by law, leaving little scope for increased income. This makes it very difficult or impossible for Rother to give further support to FL. For the Record Rother's share of Band D council tax is £193.38 per annum. Rother collects the rest on behalf of other authorities (County Council, Police, Parish etc) but does not benefit from it.

Rye Town Council is campaigning against the closure and is in contact with Rother. On 17 October a District Councillor for Rye, Howard Norton, and I addressed Rye Town Council, explaining the difficulties. On Saturday 22 Oct I attended the public meeting called by Rye TC. On Friday 28 Oct Friday Rother's Chief Executive, the responsible Cabinet member (Cllr Hazel Timpe), the CEO of FL the Clerk to Rye Town Council and a representative of Sally-Ann Hart MP's office met.

Sally-Ann Hart MP is in touch with central government in order to see whether targeted funding might be available.

Rother is urgently considering allocating CIL funds in order to improve the energy efficiency of the pool. That will require technical advice as to whether it can be done and whether the energy cost saving would be sufficient. It would also require the consent of ESCC as freehold owner.

A Google search shows that swimming pools across the country have been closing, even before the energy crisis. Rye is not unique, and FL also proposes to close the pool at Milton Keynes.

One possibility would be for Rye TC to contribute to the running of the pool, and surrounding parishes could consider their position.

It would be a great shame to lose the pool. It is only 20 odd years old, very pleasant, and built in part by public subscription. It has very good disabled facilities (ramp into the water) and local primary school children use it as part of their curriculum.

2. I'd like to correct some misunderstandings about the "Town Hall Renaissance" project.

Rother's Town Hall at Bexhill sits on a site of 0.58 hectares, similar in size to our own Market Garden. The original buildings date from 1895 and 1908. They provide an attractive and usable council chamber and committee room, but are grossly energy inefficient. Staff are accommodated in rooms behind and above the public parts ("the attic") and in two converted Victorian villas to the side. The standard of accommodation is deplorable and inaccessible to wheelchairs. Much of the site is underutilised car park and former commercial buildings.

It would be remiss to have no plan to exploit the potential of this central site. Councils are encouraged by central government to "regenerate" their districts, especially town centres. This can have the additional benefit of providing an income. Rother already owns the freehold of Budgens in Battle, Sainsbury's in Bexhill and the Beeching Road industrial estate freehold, providing not only income, but also securing control of strategic sites for the long term. The Town Hall project would include lettable office space above Rother's requirements.

The plan has been to retain the "heritage" building, but to upgrade it to a far better energy efficiency standard and repair the deteriorating structure. The Victorian villas and

some other buildings would be demolished and replaced with a modern block, creating an attractive public courtyard behind and parking space.

On 13 October a planning application for the above scheme came before Rother's planning committee. The application was narrowly refused due to the appearance of the new block and its relationship with the heritage buildings. (I voted in favour of the application which I felt met material planning considerations, though I concede improvements to the design of the office block are desirable).

It remains to be seen whether the application will come back in a modified form.

October's decision was on planning, not financial, grounds. It is a separate matter whether the scheme is economically viable. The intention has always been that it would be self-financing from letting office space. Whether that can be achieved in current difficult conditions is something else which remains to be seen. Either way doing nothing is not a valid option as the repairs and upgrading to the existing building will have to be done in order to preserve the fabric, reduce energy costs and meet Rother's carbon objectives.

Cllr Andrew Mier

24 October 2022 updated 14 Nov

## **East Sussex County Council Report – October 22 From Cllr Maynard**

### **Children's Services**

#### New Film Released to Encourage People to Become Foster Carers

A new film seeks to reach people who may be interested in working alongside their local authority to provide nurturing and positive homes for children and young people. Entitled 'Childhood', the film follows 'Sophie' and 'Charlie' from a difficult home situation to being supported through foster care to attend school and enjoy their hobbies and interests.

The project was coordinated by The Council Advertising Network and produced by Reel Twenty-Five. It has been jointly funded through a national collaboration between 56 local authorities across England.

View the film 'Childhood' and find out more information about fostering with East Sussex County Council [here](#). (or via the ESCC Fostering website).

#### Career Path Scheme Provides Insight and Experience to Young People

More than 20 businesses have signed up to East Sussex County Council's annual 'Open Doors' scheme. The scheme is aimed at giving young people real-life experience of the workplace as well as the opportunity to learn about possible career paths. Students will tour buildings such as courts, museums and galleries, meet employees and learn about employability skills and available career opportunities.

Supported by the East Sussex Careers Hub, the scheme will run from November 2022 until June 2023, ensuring that as many Year 7 to Year 13 students as possible can benefit. Several industries will be represented in this year's scheme, including accountancy, manufacturing, engineering and consultancy.

Businesses interested in getting involved with Open Doors and welcoming students can contact [OpenDoors@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:OpenDoors@eastsussex.gov.uk)

More information about this story can be found [here](#).

### **Communities, Economy and Transport**

#### East Sussex County Council Takes Action to Save Vital Bus Service

East Sussex County Council has agreed to subsidise several bus services that were under threat due to falling passenger numbers and rising costs. With bus use struggling to recover to pre-Covid levels alongside significant increases in operating costs, some operators are having to make changes to services – most of which involve reduced service frequencies.

From the end of October, East Sussex County Council will subsidise seven services operating across Eastbourne, Hastings and parts of Rother. The funding will initially be in place until March 2023.

Following the outcome of competitive bids, Stagecoach will continue to run the services which would have been withdrawn with funding from East Sussex County Council. This follows a range of discounts for passengers as a result of County Council funding, including a new £5 East Sussex single operator day ticket, family and group travel tickets, and an off-peak unaccompanied young person £1 flat single fare ticket.

More information about this story can be found [here](#).

#### East Sussex County Council Approves Environmentally Sustainable Procurement Policy

On 11 October, the Lead Member for Resources and Climate change resolved to review and approve the County Council's adoption of the Environmentally Sustainable Procurement Policy.

Aligning with East Sussex's Environment Strategy and the Climate Emergency Plan, the policy will prepare prospective suppliers for the environmental consideration changes and expectations that will be implemented into the Council's future contracts. Its implementation is expected to increase environmental considerations across the Council's procurement activity, presenting a significant opportunity to influence a reduction in carbon emissions across the Council's services.

#### New Highways Contractor for East Sussex Announced

Balfour Beatty Living Places Ltd has been awarded the County Council's new contract for highways and infrastructure services. The contract is valued at £297 million and will run for an initial seven years from May 1, 2023. There will be an option to extend this period to a maximum of 14 years, worth up to £730 million.

Balfour Beatty Living Places will be responsible for maintaining the county's highway network and infrastructure, as well as providing winter gritting and delivering highway improvement schemes. During the extensive procurement process, bidders were asked to demonstrate how they would support the County Council's efforts to reduce its carbon footprint, ensure quality of work, provide value for money and improve social wellbeing.

More information about this story can be found [here](#).

#### South East Business Initiative Programme Boosts Jobs and Profits

Since launching in July 2020, The South East Business Boost "Big Ambitions" programme has helped 85 businesses within East Sussex. The project has helped businesses in a variety of sectors, including beauty and food and drink.

From those enrolled in the programme, 55 businesses reported an increase in total turnover of £5.5 million, as well as the creation of 48 new jobs. The programme is part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund and East Sussex County Council. It is delivered by Digital Islands and provides advice from subject experts.

More information about this story can be found [here](#).

#### Eastbourne Library Event Supports Men's Mental Health

On November 9, the free event 'Let's Talk...Men's Mental Health' will be held at Eastbourne library. The free event will allow an opportunity for men and women to have an open conversation about men's mental health, as well as providing further information and support links. The event will be supported by the Eastbourne-based organisation ManKind, alongside the Samaritans and The Old Bank Wellbeing Trust, who provide counselling amongst other support services. The evening will be hosted by Paul Roskilly, who established ManKind in 2020 alongside Ian Pickard.

The East Sussex library service maintains a collection of online tools and resources to support men's mental health year-round, including book recommendations, event information, and links to podcasts and forms offering help and advice.

Book a free place at the event [here](#). Urgent mental health help and advice can be found on the [NHS website](#). More information on ManKind, including advice on how to join their meetings, can be found [on their website](#).

More information about this story can be found [here](#).

#### Celebration of Apprentices Graduation Ceremony

An East Sussex graduation ceremony on 19 October celebrated the commitment and hard work of those who completed an apprenticeship between 1 September 2019, and 1 October, 2022. Four special awards were presented to celebrate the achievements of all those involved in the completion of the apprenticeships.

The first of its kind since the pandemic, the ceremony marked the importance of apprenticeships within the local economy and celebrates the contribution of local businesses and educators.

The event was organised by Sussex Council of Training Providers and was supported by East Sussex County Council and East Sussex College Group. Other sponsors included NCFE, the South East Apprenticeship Ambassador Network and OHM Energy.

Businesses can find out more information about apprenticeships [here](#).

More information about this story can be found [here](#).