

GUESTLING PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF GUESTLING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 8 NOVEMBER 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 Cllr MARION MUNRO

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR PRESENT: Cllr ANDREW MIER Cllr CARL MAYNARD

PARISH CLERK: BRYONY YOUNG

3 MEMBER PUBLIC

ITEM	NOTES	ACTION
1	APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE: Cllr Jonathan Vine-Hall	
2	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllr Andrew Eldridge – Bowls Club grant	
3	MINUTES RESOLVED: That the Chair of the Council is authorised to sign the minutes of the last Council Meeting	
4	<p>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:</p> <p>Guestling Bowls Club – Guestling Bowls Club members gave an overview of the club and the grant request. Grant allocation proposed by Cllr Knatchbull-Hugessen and seconded by Cllr Furness, unanimously agreed to allocate (£750). Bowls Club have committed to increase their membership by at least five and that they will review the current membership fee.</p> <p>Cllr Maynard – County report (Appendix A attached)</p> <p>Cllr Mier – Rother gets award for housing development plan, quote from Rother News “ Blackfriars (Battle) was named best housing development in the UK (suburban and rural category)at the Inside Housing Development Awards. The Inside Housing Award judges were won over by the schemes dedication to a sustainable and innovative design whilst ensuring peoples wellbeing is at its heart” .</p> <p>Rother is providing discretionary Business Grants – “Making a difference Grant” to provide support for: Businesses closed due to COVID 19 isolation, rural businesses, empty shops, empty businesses rated property, staff training and development.</p> <p>Rother is providing a discretionary Disabled Project Grant (DDPG) designed to provide grant funding for community disability projects to eligible voluntary/community groups, parish councils, faith groups and not-for-profit organisations. The grant is intended to support smaller projects that are easily deliverable and which promote access to buildings and spaces for the general public (i.e. access is not exclusive to particular groups or individuals) e.g disabled access (including ramping, wheelchair access, external step approaches, communal entrances), communal stair lifts, accessible playground/play for children with disabilities, sanitary facilities for disability and wheelchair users, toilets.</p> <p>Tom Warder from Community Led Housing was unable to attend</p>	
5	<p>MATTERS ARISING OR UNRESOLVED NOT COVERED SEPARATELY IN AGENDA:</p> <p>FIBRE OPTIC BROADBAND EXTENSION OF COVERAGE – Online meeting with Sally-Ann Hart MP to discuss in next couple of weeks - ONGOING</p> <p>GRASS AND VERGE CUTTING – ESCC advised that all cutting was done so no refund due. Decision for next years cuts to be on January agenda</p> <p>HIGHWAYS SAFETY OFFICE MEETING OVERVIEW – No response from any of the local Parish Councils that copy of letter to Sussex Police Crime Commissioner was sent to for support/response</p> <p>HEDGE CUTTING QE2 FIELD – Done and cess pit emptied</p> <p>THWART (Three Oaks and Winchelsea Action for Rail Transport) – Invite to next meeting</p>	BY
6	CORRESPONDENCE - None	
7	GRANT APPLICATION : CHURCH AND BOWLS CLUB	

	<p>St Laurence Church – Cllr P Munro proposed, Cllr Knatchbull-Hugessen seconded, unanimous agreed to allocate (£500)</p> <p>Guestling Bowls Club – see item 4</p>	
8	<p>COMMUNITY LED HOUSING – Local parishioner has been involved with a scheme and is going to assist, discussions are ongoing - ONGOING</p>	
9	<p>QE2 FIELD – Bins for field requested, one bin agreed (approx. £180 + VAT), new No Dogs sign needed, BY to contact Rother</p>	BY
10	<p>FORMATION OF GUESTLING COMMUNITY INTEREST GROUP – Overview as per Appendix B Proposal is that Guestling Parish Council form a Community Interest Group in partnership with St Laurence Parochial Council to protect community interests. Suggested initial members – Cllr Knatchbull-Hugessen and a second parishioner nominated to represent the Parochial Council and Cllr Furness and Cllr Roberts (Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer – Bryony Young to act if required) to represent Guestling Parish Council</p> <p>3 x MEMBERS OF PUBLIC, CLLR MAYNARD LEFT MEETING 8.20PM</p>	
11	<p>MOTORBIKE AND NUISANCE DRIVING: Cllr Roberts and Cllr Knatchbull-Hugessen went to meet Rye Town Council, Motorcycle Action Group and Sussex Safer Roads for discussion about issues. Meeting to take place with local police to discuss anti-social riding. Freedom of Information request has been made to Sussex Police regards illegal exhaust seizures, sales and fitting prosecutions</p>	
12	<p>RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FOR COMMENTS ON FUTURE INFRASTRUCTURE – Suggested that anything required is submitted so that it is on the radar. Clerk will submit anything sent or councillors can submit separately – DEADLINE IS 5pm on Friday 26 November 2021</p>	
13	<p>FINANCE: Poppy Wreath £21.98, Cess pit empty £180, Hall hire £12, Hedge cutting £162, Bowls Club grant £750, Church Grant £500</p>	
14	<p>PLANNING APPLICATIONS:</p> <p>MINUTES – To resolve: The Chair of the Planning Committee authorises the Minutes of the meeting of the previous planning committee</p> <p>RR/2021/1800/P ROCK LANE - LAND AT GUESTLING TN35 4NY Widening of existing access and laying of permeable hardstanding (Retrospective) RECOMMEND REFUSAL IN IT'S CURRENT STATE. WE NOTE AND AGREE WITH ESCC HIGHWAYS COMMENTS REGARDING REQUIRED VISIBILITY SPLAYS. THIS PART OF ROCK LANE IS DERESTRICTED SO ROOM FOR VEHICLES TO PULL OFF THE LANE TO OPEN THE GATE SHOULD BE REQUIRED, PARTICULARLY AS THIS IS ON THE BROW OF A HILL ON A VERY BUSY LANE. IT IS FELT THE WIDTH OF THE GATE IS EXCESSIVE. THE ACCESS SHOULD BE FORMALLY MADE UP TO HIGHWAY STANDARDS. IT IS TO BE REGRETTED THAT A LARGE AMOUNT OF HEDGE WAS REMOVED DURING THE BIRD NESTING SEASON</p> <p>RR/2021/2571/P COGHURST HALL CARAVAN PARK 1 A FIELD IVYHOUSE LANE TN35 4NP Use of land for stationing of 16no static holiday caravans RECOMMEND REFUSAL. THE PLAN AND THE ARIEL PHOTOGRAPH SHOW THAT THERE IS CURRENTLY WELL IN EXCESS OF THE NUMBER OF UNITS PERMITTED BY PLANNING AND LICENSE. THIS SITE CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO EXPAND ANY MORE IN THIS RURAL AREA. 3 TRAFFIC SURVEYS CARRIED OUT THIS YEAR BY THE PARISH COUNCIL SHOW 60% OF THE TRAFFIC IS GENERATED FROM COGHURST, A VEHICLE MOVEMENT APPROXIMATELY EVERY 35 SECONDS. THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE TURNING SOUTH ON LEAVING RETURNING FROM THE SOUTH THEREFORE PUTTING MORE STRAIN ON THE NARROWEST PART OF THE LANE. IT IS ACKNOWLEDGED BY HIGHWAYS, THAT THE ROAD SERVING THE SITE IS NARROW IN PLACES AND AS A RESULT TWO WAY TRAFFIC IS REQUIRED TO PASS AT LOW SPEEDS WHEN MEETING HEAD ON. ALSO, ON THE NARROWEST SECTION'S VEHICLES ARE OCCASIONALLY REQUIRED TO REVERSE BACK TOWARDS A PASSING AREA TO ALLOW ONCOMING TRAFFIC TO PASS. THIS IS LESS THAN IDEAL; IVYHOUSE LANE IS NOT SUITED OR MAINTAINED TO COPE WITH ANY INCREASE IN TRAFFIC. THE REALITY IS THAT THE SIDES OF THE ROAD ARE ERODING AND DETERIORATING FAST PARTICULARLY DURING THE WINTER. THE SITE IS COMPLETELY UNSUSTAINABLE IN THAT THERE IS NO REAL EASY ACCESS TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT. WHILST THE WALKING TIMES TO THE NEAREST TRAIN STATIONS AND BUS STOPS ARE GIVEN, THE REALITY OF THE CONTOURS, THE LACK OF FOOTPATHS, LIGHTING ETC ARE NOT MENTIONED. TAXI USAGE IS THEREFORE HIGH</p> <p>RR/2021/2590/T NEW HOUSE WINCHELSEA ROAD GUESTLING GREEN TN35 4LS Scots Pine (Pinus Sylvestris) TO505 - Fell to ground level RECOMMEND REFUSAL. OUR COMMENTS TO RR/2019/2123/T STAND IN THAT THIS SCOTS PINE MAKES AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE CHARACTER OF THE VILLAGE AND THE TPO SHOULD NOT BE OVERRULED. OUR OWN INSPECTION SHOWED NO OBVIOUS</p>	

	<p>SIGNS THE TREE IS UNSTABLE OR UNSAFE AND NO OBVIOUS SIGNS THAT THE LEAN HAD INCREASED. THE REPORT STATES THAT THE TREE IS IN MODERATE HEALTH. SOME PRUNING OF THIS INDIVIDUALLY PROTECTED TREE IS PREFERABLE</p> <p>RR/2021/2617/FN ROCK LANE - LAND AT GUESTLING Application to determine if prior approval is required for the erection of an agricultural building RECOMMEND REFUSAL. THE DESIGN OF THE BARN AND THE PROPOSED SITING ARE FAR TOO PROMINENT IN A.O.N.B IN A RURAL LANE WITH NO VISIBLE BUILDINGS NEAR BY. THE TOTAL AREA OF GROUNDWORKS OF THE BARN AND THE RETROSPECTIVE HARDSTANDING AND ENTRANCE ARE LARGER THAN THE AREA ALLOWED UNDER PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT. THE APPLICATION STATES THE BARN WILL BE USED FOR LAMBING. PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT STATES MUST NOT BE USED FOR THE ACCOMMODATION OF LIVESTOCK</p>	
15	<p>A.O.B.: Speedwatch co-ordinator is moving away, 3 new people have volunteered and a new co-ordinator.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MEETING CLOSED 9.20PM</p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;">THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE MONDAY 10th JANUARY 2022</p> <p>BRYONY YOUNG – PARISH CLERK 07730 015684 guestling.clerk@gmail.com</p>	

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APPENDIX A

COUNTY REPORT – Cllr Carl Maynard

As we move out of COVID restrictions I thought it would be timely to inform residents of some of our live environmental projects throughout the county

As schools and staff gradually return to normal, we anticipate an increase in energy usage and carbon emissions compared with last year. Projects underway in 2021/22 to reduce ESCC's carbon emissions include:

- Conversion of 14,000 streetlights to low energy LEDs.
- Completion of the delivery of the £480K of government-funded energy efficiency projects in 2022, including a whole building retrofit and pilot installation of heat pumps in a primary school.
- Installation of low energy LED lighting and solar panels in at least 6 sites.
- Implementation of the Council's Electric Vehicle Strategy.
- Continue to deliver the communications plan to Members and staff.
- Continue to embed carbon reduction into appropriate procurement contracts, for example in the new highways contract.
- Update the staff travel plan alongside the Future Workstyles review.

We are not standing still waiting for central government instructions; these are live projects getting improvements delivered now !

Cllr Carl Maynard
Your East Sussex County Councillor

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APPENDIX B

Proposal to form a Guestling Community Interest Company

Situation

The 1066 Country Walk Hastings Link footpath runs through ancient woodland on land to the north of the carriageway of Church Lane from the Village Hall to St Laurence Church. This land, known as Beech Walk, is owned by East Sussex County Council (ESCC) as part of the highway and is currently unmaintained. The trees are subject to a Tree Preservation Order. In several parts these trees need management. The right of way needs work to reinforce two sections that have slipped. The whole area will need management going forward.

The management of this land does not fall within the current ESCC Highways operational plan. The only ESCC commitment to the land, other than ownership, is regular inspection of the footpath by the Rights of Way Team under their agreement with Rother District Council (RDC).

Community Interest

The proposal is for the Parish Council (GPC) in partnership with the Parochial Church Council (PCC) to form a Community Interest Company (CIC) to work with ESCC to manage the land to ensure the maintenance of the footpath and the health of the ancient woodland strip along its length to bring back its use as a community path to and from the Church and Village Hall.

Structure

A CIC is a special type of limited company which exists to benefit the community rather than private shareholders.

The members of the company would be GPC and the PCC. The ex officio directors of the company would be found from members of GPC and the PCC. It is proposed that initially there should be two directors from GPC and two from the PCC.

Purpose

The CIC would plan and manage the maintenance of Beech Walk. It would agree the plans with ESCC and RDC and find the funds either in money or volunteer time to carry out the programme of works. The aim of the CIC is the preservation of the character and function of Beech Walk as a community asset, safe for use by the community and visitors alike.

Funding

There are numerous funding and grant making bodies that provide resources for work of this kind that can be accessed by charitable organisations. The CIC is a charitable organisation: the directors are unpaid and any profit, were there ever to be any, can only be re-invested into the work of the CIC. The directors are responsible for reporting on the work and for publishing the annual accounts. CICs are registered with the Regulator of Community Interest Companies.

References

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-of-the-regulator-of-community-interest-companies>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/community-interest-companies-case-studies>

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/605414/13-781-community-interest-companies-chapter-4-creating-a-cic.pdf