

Chalvington with Ripe



Parish Clerk – Sam Adeniji Email: chalvingtonwithripeclerk@gmail.com Phone: 07767 405562
Address – Meadow Cottage, Chalvington, Hailsham BN27 3TH

The Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of the Chalvington with Ripe Parish Council (CWRPC) that took place at the Hayton Baker Hall, Ripe on Monday 3rd June commencing 7 pm.

Present: Cllr P. Bishop (Chair), Cllr J. Ruddock-West (Vice-Chair), Cllr C.Hallworth, Cllr N. Hamblin and Cllr A. Harvey.

In attendance: ESCC Cllr Bennett, Cllr Alison Wilson (WDC) and Sam Adeniji (Parish Clerk)

Members of the public: 7.

95. Attendance and Apologies for Absence - Cllr W. Farrer and Cllr Simon Flint

96. Declarations of Interest – Cllr Hamblin declared a non-prejudicial interest on Agenda Item 102, planning application No. WD/2024/0446/FA as he is a director of RACCA.

97. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 13th May 2024.
It was RESOLVED to APPROVE the minutes and that the Chair could sign them.

98. Public Session - None.

99. Report of the Member of Parliament

None

100. Report of the County Councillor

Cllr Nick Bennett reported that there is not much to report since the last meeting of ESCC. He is however willing to listen to the Parish Council's concern regarding the proposed Solar farm.

RESOLVED - That the report of the County Councillor be noted

101. Report of the District Councillor

Wealden District Council (WDC) Councillor Cllr Alison Wilson stated that due to the pre-election period there is not much to report. She reported that the deadline to register for a postal vote is the 18th of June. WDC has announced a wine trail which is going to be open to the public in the summer, this is a tourism initiative, further details are available on the explore Wealden website. The wine trail will help promote the vineyards within the district by inviting visitors to visit these vineyards and by offering wine tastings, picnics, vineyard tours, nature trails and special events

RESOLVED - That the report of the District Councillor be noted.

102. Planning.

a) Applications.

- **WD/2024/6503/SCO - Colbrans Farm Estate, Laughton -** Request For A Scoping Opinion For A Solar Installation

Members of the public were invited to speak ahead of the application being considered by the Parish Council – Mr Tony Berryman stated there is already a solar farm on the Kitty Hawk airfields which has caused massive destruction to the roads as a result of

the 32 ton lorries rolling down the road several times a day. Similar views were echoed by other residents who spoke during the public session.

Members raised their concern about the effect on the roads within the parish, judging from the example of the Kitty Farm solar project there is a risk that the proposed solar farm will have a detrimental effect on the roads within the parish. Primary access to the site should therefore be away from the villages, a suggested primary entrance for the proposed solar farm is from the main road from Laughton as the proposed primary access through Darp Lane is unsuitable.

In addition, Members were worried about damage to the footpath as well as access and traffic management. The concern includes the traffic impact during the construction phase which could last up to 6 months and then the ongoing use of the roads within the parish e.g. Darp Lane and Mile Lane.

It was noted that although the site of the proposed installation is not within the parish, it will use the roads within the parish. Members therefore urged ESCC Highways to highlight the traffic impact of the proposal on roads within the parish, this should include highlighting the damage by the Kitty Farm solar to existing roads and suggest that heavy construction traffic as needed goes the shortest route rather than the longest one and on bigger roads rather than smaller ones.

The Parish Council agreed to register its concern about the environmental impact of the proposed solar farm, the potential loss of the countryside, the de-agrication of the countryside and the impact on the roads within the parish

RESOLVED – Register a scoping opinion on the proposed Solar Installation as requested by Wealden District Council

- **Application No. WD/2024/0446/FA - Land Alongside St John The Baptist's Church, Church Lane, Ripe** - Variation Of Condition 10 Of WD/2022/2721/F (Change Of Use Of Parcel Of Land From Agricultural To Recreational. Landscaping And Planting. Part Open Side Timber Frame Shelter. Boule Pitch. Recreational Facilities) To Enable Changes To Appearance And Location Of Equipment/Facilities

Members discussed this application and noted that this is a variation of Condition 10 of existing planning permission for a change of use of the parcel of land to recreational space for the parish via the Ripe and Chalvington Community Association. So this has to do with the landscaping, planting the timber frame, shelter, etc, to enable changes to certain appearances and locations of some of the facilities that have been planned. Members noted that the Parish Council supported the previous application and therefore see no reason why this allocation should not be supported as the application represents improvements and changes in the layout as informed by the community needs and community feedback.

RESOLVED – To support the application

b) Planning applications refused, approved, referred, withdrawn or appeals.

103. Other planning matters

Members noted the email received from WDC Planning notifying the parish Council that planning application WD/2024/0024/F has been refused.

104. Annual Governance Statement

The Chair read out each individual item in the Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24.

RESOLVED – That section 1 of the Annual Return (Annual Governance Statement 2023/2024) for 2023/24 be approved and signed off

105. End of year accounts and Audit 2023-2024

RESOLVED:

- a) To approve and note the report of the Internal auditor of May 2024
- b) To claim exemption from the External Auditor's limited assurance review as the Parish Council's gross income and gross expenditure are both below £25k and no public interest report/statutory recommendation/advisory notice/judicial review/application to court re unlawful item of account has been issued by the external auditor in the prior year; and the reporting year is not one of the Parish Council's first three years of existence.
- c) To approve and adopt section 2 Accounting Statements 2023-2024 for the Annual Return and for this to be signed by the Chairman of Council.
- d) To approve and adopt the Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2023/24 Form 2.
- e) To note and adopt the explanation of variances report for submission to the External Auditor.
- f) To defer the review of the Fixed Asset register as of 31.03.2024 until the next meeting

106. Highways, footpaths and rights of way. – none

107. Update on The Community Field– Members received an update on the progress on the Community Field.

RESOLVED – To note the update on the Community Field and progress made.

108. D-Day 80th Anniversary Commemoration Events – Member received an update on the plans for celebrating the 80th anniversary of D-Day on the 6th of June.

RESOLVED – To note the plans for D-Day 80th anniversary commemoration events.

109. Financial matters –

- a. Bank reconciliation statement and Budget Monitoring Report for Month 1 - The Council took note of the Bank reconciliation statement and Budget Monitoring Report for Month 2.

RESOLVED – To note and accept the Bank reconciliation statement and Budget Monitoring Report for Month 2.

- b. Authorisation of payment of account
The Clerk presented the schedule of payments, circulated previously. After review and consideration, it was **RESOLVED** that the payments be approved. The payment schedule is attached in Appendix A.

110. Correspondence

None.

111. Urgent Items

None.

112. Dates of next meeting - The next Ordinary Parish Meeting will be held on 1st July 2024 commencing at 7 pm at the Hayton Baker Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.46 pm

Signed..... Chairman

Date.....

APPENDIX A – Payments

Payments June 2024

Income since last meeting	Amount
VAT	£ -
Prehalf (Half)	£ -
TOTAL INCOME	£ -

BALANCES ON ACCOUNT	
Current Account (Community)	£ 8,288.19
Deposit Account (Business Premium)	£ 10,991.61
TOTAL BALANCES	£ 19,279.80

31/05/2024
31/05/2024

PAID SINCE LAST MEETING TO BE APPROVED	Invoiced Services	Folio number	Chq Nos	Amount
ICO	Data Protection Fee	16		£ 35.00
RACCA	Ecological Appraisal for Community Space	17		£ 954.00
				£ 989.00

To Pay after this Meeting	Invoiced Services	Folio number	Chq Nos	Amount
Chichester Payroll Services	Payroll Company working out Clerk's May salary	18		£ 15.00
Sam Adeniji	Parish Clerk Net Pay For May	19		£ 507.17
HMRC	Tax & NIC On Parish Clerk Salary May	20		£ 126.80
IONOS	Web Domain (DD)	21		£ 1.80
Douglas Stillman	Planning Submission Fee Community Space	22		£ 293.00
HugoFox	Web Host Hugo Fox (DD)	23		£ 11.99
Mulberry & Co	Final Audit Fees	24		£ 124.02
				£ 1,079.78

CIL FUNDS		CIL FUNDS	
RECEIPTS	VALUE	EXPENDITURE (net - before VAT)	VALUE
Opening Balance	£ 26,346.19	ESCC - Licences - posts	£ 445.50
WDC - CIL Oct 2020 to March 2021	£ 6,790.11	Costain - Install bike posts	£ 1,013.00
WDC - CIL Oct 2021 to March 2022	£ 1,966.67	Zara - Island designs	£ 795.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£ 35,102.97	SH Solicitors - CIL advice July	£ 75.00
		SH Solicitors - advice	£ 1,350.00
		Costain - abortive visit	£ 294.11
		Architect fees - design and tender process	£ 1,744.63
		ESCC - S171 fees	£ 295.00
		Island 1 refurbishment	£ 14,060.00
		Legal advice - CIL (August 2020)	£ 125.00
		CIL island cleats (Christmas tree)	£ 327.92
		Electical connection	£ 600.00
		Extension lead (Christmas tree)	£ 21.45
		Abortive community space costs	£ 1,344.00
		50% payment for bench	£ 4,445.00
		RISE JOINERY LTD second payment	£ 3,111.50
		RISE JOINERY LTD final payment	£ 1,333.50
		RACCA	£ 2,236.37
		RACCA	£ 954.00
		TOTAL EXPENDITURE as at 01/05/2024	£ 34,570.98
		COMMITMENTS (net - before VAT)	VALUE
		Community space commitment (approved)	£ 2,406.00
		TOTAL COMMITMENTS	£ 2,406.00
		TOTAL RECEIPTS	£ 35,102.97
		TOTAL EXPENDITURE	-£ 34,570.98
		TOTAL COMMITMENTS	-£ 2,406.00
		BALANCE	-£ 1,874.01

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Community space
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Bench

Balance excluding commitments £ 531.99