BERWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Berwick Parish Council
on Wednesday 26th March 2025 at 7pm
This meeting took place in Berwick Village Hall

Present: Councillors Carnie (Chair for this meeting), Smith and Burroughs
District Councillor A Wilson
There were no members of the public present
The Clerk was in attendance

86. Apologies for absence – Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Winter, Barham and Mills
District Councillor Bennett also gave his apologies.

87. Declarations of Interests – There were no declarations of interest or changes to the Register of Interests.

88. Confidential Items on the agenda – It was **RESOLVED** there were no confidential items on the agenda.

The meeting was then suspended to allow the following:

89. District Councillor Alison Wilson reported:
- A successful appeal was made to the Planning Inspectorate by Wealden District Council regarding a development in Horam. Grampian conditions were imposed on the developer, occupation of the dwellings could not take place until Southern Water upgraded the infrastructure in relation to sewerage.
- Local Plan – there will be another Regulation 18 consultation in the final quarter of this year, further sites have been put forward. These can be viewed on the Wealden District Council map on the website. The final draft of the Local Plan is expected in the second quarter of 2027.
- Devolution and re-organisation. East Sussex will hear from the Government by 4th April regarding the proposals submitted.

90. Public Questions - There were no questions from members of the public.

The meeting was then re-opened.

91. Minutes of the previous meeting – the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd January 2025 were read, approved and signed by the Chair.

92. Clerk's report on matters arising from those minutes – All matters covered elsewhere on the agenda.

93. Planning

i. Planning applications received from Wealden District Council prior to the publication of the agenda.
WD/2025/0311/F – 4 Downsway, Berwick, BN26 6TD
Carport to side of existing converted garage and relocation of oil tank to front garden.
Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that Berwick Parish Council had **NO OBJECTION** to this application.

ii. To ratify the following response to the following application:
SDNP/25/00582/LIS – Frensham Cottage, The Village, Berwick BN26 6SP - **NO OBJECTION** to the application.

iii. No planning applications have been received since the publication of this agenda.

iv. No decisions have been received from WDC or SDNPA.

94. Reports from outside bodies

a)	ESALC	No meetings have been held.
b)	WDALC	No report
c)	Village Hall Committee	Cllr Burroughs reported on the success of the 100 Club, with £1045 raised so far. Bingo nights are very well attended, attracting all age groups.
d)	Tree Warden	The tree warden had nothing to report.
e)	Cuckmere Flood Forum	The meeting due to be held on 9th April 2025 will be rescheduled.
f)	Cuckmere Community Buses	Cllr Smith reported that the summer timetable starts at the coming weekend. CCB has an excellent team of drivers, more drivers are needed.
g)	SDNPA	No report
h)	South West Parish Cluster	No report

95. Updates

a) Defibrillator risk assessment – the defibrillator is checked and updated on The Circuit. The pads expire in May. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should purchase new pads when required.

b) Playground inspection and on-going risk assessments – the report from Wicksteed has been received. All items noted were either low or very low risk, these items will be monitored. It was **RESOLVED** that the seat close to the play equipment should be replaced. It was **RESOLVED** to ask Mr Carnie to carry out regular checks at the playground.

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c) Playground upgrade – it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will draft an item for the Newsletter asking for suggestions from residents.

96. Parish Maintenance

a) Verges/hedges – the Clerk circulated, prior to the meeting, draft wording for a letter which could be delivered to residents, where necessary, asking that hedges/verges/trees are cut back. It was **RESOLVED** that a final draft of the information would be provided at the next meeting for distribution later in the year.

b) The Berwick Way maintenance – it was noted that the barriers at the southern end have now been replaced. The water leak has now been repaired, the Clerk was thanked for her work in getting this carried out.

c) The Berwick Way replacement of benches – replacing the paving slabs supporting the current bench was not considered a suitable base for the replacement bench. It was **RESOLVED** the base should be concrete at a cost of £416.65. The new bench will be engraved on the back rest with "The Berwick Way". Cllr Carnie will visit and identify a suitable site for another bench.

d) The Recreation Ground including tree works – the Clerk has been informed that quotations are being obtained for work to be carried out to adjacent trees overhanging the recreation ground.

97. Road Safety Issues

a) Traffic issues – the Clerk confirmed that a second site, south of the level crossing, for the speed survey has now been booked.

b) Highways issues – the Clerk continues to report issues to East Sussex Highways and monitors progress. Potholes in Common Lane are deemed as not meeting the criteria for repair. The lines marking the bridge in Chilver Bridge Road have now been repainted.

98. Consultations and Surveys

a) East Sussex Rights of Way Access Plan Consultation – it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Burroughs will complete the consultation on behalf of the Parish Council.

b) Sussex and Brighton Devolution Consultation – it was **RESOLVED** that Councillors will complete the consultation individually.

c) East Sussex Fire and Rescue – Making Safer Communities – it was **RESOLVED** that Councillors will complete the consultation individually.

99. Website and gov.uk emails

Details of email addresses have been sent to Councillors. Work on the website continues and will be live in the next two weeks.

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100. Parish Visit by James MacCleary MP

The Clerk is in contact with Mr MacCleary's office to arrange a date in late July/August.

101. Parish Meeting/Assembly

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Meeting of the Parish Council and Parish Meeting due to be held on 28th May 2025 should be rescheduled to 21st May 2025, subject to hall availability. Suggestions for speakers at the Parish Meeting were made, the Clerk will follow up.

102. Finance

a) The following schedule of payments since the last meeting on 22nd January 2025 was **APPROVED**

DD	Team 4	61	Payroll Feb	£12.00
101396	Wicksteed	62	Playground inspection	£180.00
101397	East Sussex Pension Fund	63	Pension	166.99
101398	L Kemp Feb	64	Salary	543.96
101399	Tipler Fencing	65	Berwick Way repair	398.20
101400	HMRC Q4	66	Tax and NI	323.00
101401	East Sussex Pension Fund	67	Pension	£166.99
101402	L Kemp (Mar)	68	Salary	543.76
101403	L Kemp Exps	69	Postage, printing, stationery	54.68
DD	Team 4	70	Payroll Mar	12.00
DD	Wealden DC	71	Dog bins	171.60
				2573.18

b) Bank reconciliations for January and February 2025 – **APPROVED**

c) Accounts to date – **APPROVED**

103. Questions from Councillors

Councillors noted that Cllr Smith was celebrating 50 years at Berwick Post Office. Councillors congratulated Cllr Smith and thanked her for service over the last 50 years.

104. Date of the next meeting

The next scheduled meeting will be the Annual Meeting of the Council to be held on 21st May this meeting will be preceded by the Parish Meeting at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed _____

Chairman

Date _____