Berwick Parish Council

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Berwick Parish Council Held on
Wednesday 25th February 2026 at 7pm
This meeting took place in Berwick Village Hall

Present: Councillors Barham, Smith and Winter (Chair)
There were six members of the public present
District Councillor Alison Wilson and the Clerk were also in attendance

98. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Burrough and Carnie, Cllr Mills did not attend.

99. Declarations of Interests

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

100. Confidential items on the agenda

It was **RESOLVED** that there were no confidential items on the agenda.

The meeting was then suspended to allow the following: -

101. 'Focused' Draft Wealden Local Plan Regulation 18(2) Consultation

District Councillor Alison Wilson gave a summary of the Draft Local Plan timeline and background information.

- Land is considered for development if put forward by the landowner. Wealden District Council must demonstrate they are working to achieve Government housing targets. This is not compulsory purchase, and this process is known as "call-in" and has been continuing for some time. Due to the increase of housing targets WDC have had to re-evaluate previously submitted sites. The railway station makes the area favourable.
- Cllr Wilson urged residents to visit the WDC events taking place when officers will be present to answer questions relating to the 'Focused' Draft Local Plan.
- Cllr Wilson will provide the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and information from the Rivers Trust.
- The parish allocations drawings and colour coding were explained.
- This is the Regulation 18(2) Consultation; Regulation 19 will follow.

102. Public Questions

Members of the public raised the following points/questions:

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- The areas shown in the SHELLA as suitable for development will change the established linear character of the village.
- The area BE2 Land west of Station Road, Berwick shows the site is suitable for 27 houses, this will be serious overdevelopment of this small area.
- Houses at Princes Field already suffered significant sewage flooding issues, should the area BE2 be developed, behind Princes Field, sewage issues will be exacerbated. The sewage system is not fit for purpose currently.
- There is no regular bus service serving areas with primary schools, secondary schools or medical facilities. Cuckmere Community Buses provide a much-needed service but this is not daily or at school times. Residents will be forced to make journeys by car.
- Trains only stop hourly.
- Medical services in the general area are overstretched.
- The village already suffers traffic issues particularly speeding. Congestion is caused at the railway crossing gates. These issues will only increase.
- A member of the public highlighted the already dangerous crossroad junction, Common Lane, Chilverbridge Road, Station Road. There have been numerous accidents recently. Housing at BE4 will add to this, the exit from this site allocation will add further to this accident blackspot. Visibility will be difficult and traffic will be approaching quickly from the south, the entrance/exit is only just within the 30mph speed limit, the approaching limit is 60mph.
- Should the spatial development between Hempstead Lane and Starnash Farm Arlington be re-considered as suitable further flooding issues downstream could be significant.
- Site BE1, land to the north of the recreation ground, already suffers considerable surface water flooding.
- Questions were raised about affordable housing, will his be provided within the sites identified? In response it was stated that this would be decided at the planning application stage.
- It was noted that site BE2 was shown incorrectly on the SHELLA.

The meeting was then re-opened

103. Questions from Parish Councillors

In response Councillors accepted that because of the railway station Berwick Station was considered suitable for development by some. Cllr Winter will make further enquiries at the upcoming WDC Cluster Meeting. The concerns of the public will be conveyed in the Parish Council response to the consultation.

104. The meeting closed at 7.50pm.

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