



CATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Catsfield Parish Council Meeting
held on

Wednesday 11th January 2023 at 7pm

in Hermon Cottage, Church Road, Catsfield TN33 9DP

Attended by: Cllr K Robertson, Cllr G Curtis, Cllr K Curtis,
Cllr S Jacques, Cllr M Holgate

Also in attendance: Clerk Alexandra Sharp, County Cllr Kathryn Field

Members of the Public: 3 members of the public,

The Clerk:
Mrs Alexandra Sharp
The Village Hall, Church Road
Catsfield, East Sussex

TN33 9DP

Phone 07483 306519

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Alexandra L Sharp

Meeting called 4th January 2023

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA		
Item	Agenda Item	
1.	To receive apologies for absence. Apologies were received from Cllr Janet Fowle.	
2.	To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 14 th and 21 st December 2022 RESOLVED: The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 14 th and 21 st December 2022 were agreed and approved. The Chair is authorised to sign the minutes.	
3.	To receive declarations of interest on agenda items Public Questions relevant to items on the Agenda	
4.	To receive reports from Cllr Kathryn Field (ESCC) and Cllr Gary Curtis (RDC). Cllr Kathryn Field reported the following: - ESCC are in limbo as it is Budget setting is taking place on 7th Feb 2023, cannot imagine that ESCC will not use the 2.99% that they are allowed by government, plus the 2% for Adult Social Care. - Council reserves are being looked at as it has been suggested that councils have too many reserves. ESCC do have a lot of reserves but they are mainly earmarked. - Adult Social Care Reform has been put on hold for 2023. Cllr Kathryn Field will help Catsfield Parish Council with Highways getting the potholes dealt with in Church Road and Church Street. Cllr Gary Curtis reported the following: - Tree Preservation Orders have been renewed at The Normanhurst Estate with every tree listed. - RDC budgets continue to be low, with talk of S.141 i.e. becoming non profitable. - The improvements changes to the Town Hall will be delayed for a considerable amount of time. - There is talk about changes being made to the traffic around Town Hall square. It was also noted that RDC attended the RALC meeting today in relation to their budgets etc, there was talk about the potential to need to draw on reserves. RDC do have a robust Risk Management.	KF/GC
5.	Planning and Enforcement	GC/KC
5.1	RR/2022/2712/P Glebelands, Potmans Lane, Catsfield TN33 9BJ Outline: Change of use (part retrospective) and extension of existing agricultural building to a live/work residential unit for a temporary period of 3 years (Resubmission of RR/2022/219/P). RESOLVED: It was agreed for the following comment to be submitted to RDC Planning Dept: The Parish Council as with the previous application remains divided in its assessment of this application. We understand that the previous application was rejected by RDC at least in part because the business was not proven to be an going concern and that this application for a	

temporary 3 year period would assess if the business is an going and concern and is dependent on having on-site accommodation to be so.

The Parish Council will support by a significant majority this temporary 3 year period of assessment if a business case is provided now which either confirms that the business is a going concern now or would likely to be so within 3 years, and that it would make a positive contribution to the community and that the on-site accommodation is required to meet these criteria. If after the 3 year period these criteria are not met the Parish Council's view is that the accommodation should be removed.

5.2

RR/2020/1562/P at The Brooks, Church Road, Catsfield

Outline: Proposed 30 no. new dwellings all with parking and new access from Church Road, with open space and wildlife corridors. Revised layout and illustrative sketches

RESOLVED: It was agreed for the following comment to be submitted to RDC Planning Dept: Where appropriate, all previous comments on the earlier submissions still stand but some may be repeated here. 2. It is 28 dwellings in 26 buildings - not 26 houses. 3. Other inaccuracies and errors are still rife and previous resident and consultee comments have been completely ignored. 4. Failure of applicant or agent to interact personally with the residents at any point during the two years or so since submission shows a distinct lack of respect. No-one from the agent's office, nor the applicant, attended the Parish Council meeting, despite being asked, in order to explain their reasoning or answer questions. 5. Motive seems to be purely profit based - there is nothing in this proposal to the advantage of Catsfield, only negatives. 6. Proposal contrary to numerous RDC Policies, not least being outside the development boundary. No policies support development. 7. Site was dismissed during the SHLAA consultation so no reason to be acceptable. 8. There is no known need for this, or any development. 9. Too big an increase in village numbers, whether or not taking the SHLAA r/o White Hart site into consideration. Overdevelopment of the small housing enclave and loss of strategic gap. 10. The Brooks was probably the reason for the existence of Catsfield so is an important part of the village history. Potential archaeological issues. 11. General infrastructure inadequate, including unstable electricity supply, limited water resources, virtually non-existent mobile phone signal, lack of school places, poor public transport, no employment possibilities so all workers need cars, as would anyone living here or visiting. 12. Crushing the development into the corner of the field doesn't make it disappear and still uses around 30% of The Brooks. 13. Despite applying standard design parameters, the applicant seems totally unaware of the unique condition of the site during winter and no desktop exercise will show how the current brook cannot cope with modern rainfall. The brooks don't necessarily collect all the rainwater so all the lower areas stay with a water table at ground level. Not sure how the provision of what was a previously unacceptable pond will remove the surface water. Agent quoting wrong Environment Agency flood map - it should have been the one for surface water, not rivers and sea. The water table is now at ground level during the winter and flooding to adjacent properties already a problem - this would only make things worse. 14. No garages or storage buildings provided so considerable extra development inevitable. 15. Car park is a security, noise and flood risk. Sufficient parking should be provided with each property, not adjacent to existing houses. 16. Church Road already struggles with existing traffic levels and excess speed so can't cope with increase from this, or any more, development. 17. Wildlife corridor should extend through whole south boundary of the site from The Green to the AONB and wildlife protection zones needs applying to all sections of the brook. 18. Any development would be substantially detrimental to existing wildlife, which uses the field extensively, particularly the proposed development area. 19. Loss of 90% of the Church Road ancient hedgerow to provide visibility splay (on the inside of a long bend with minimal visibility anyway), which is inadequate due to true traffic speeds. 20. Negative impact on adjacent AONB and view from AONB plus the pavement is used extensively by locals and hikers for recreation. 21. Loss of security and privacy to every house adjacent to the whole field from the 'open space', not just the development site. The whole process is a speculative development on a totally inappropriate site and should be resisted at all costs.

6.

To receive and consider the Clerk's Report Appendix 6

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	The Clerk's Report was received and noted.																																																													
7.	Finance, Audit and Legal	KR																																																												
7.1	To approve the accounts, payments and finance pack to 31st December 2022 RESOLVED: The accounts and finance pack to 31st December 2022 were reviewed and approved the following payments were approved:- <table><tr><th colspan="4">Payments by Bank Transfer pending authorisation</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>Payee</th><th>Payment Details</th><th>Amount</th></tr><tr><td>12/01/2023</td><td>Alexandra Sharp</td><td>Clerk's Salary for January 2023 (to inc 2/2 backdated pay scale changes)</td><td>£862.40</td></tr><tr><td>06/02/2023</td><td>HMRC</td><td>Clerk's PAYE for January 2023</td><td>£44.80</td></tr><tr><td>06/02/2023</td><td>Maiden Accountancy</td><td>Payroll Services to March 2023</td><td>£36.00</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><th colspan="4">Payments by direct debit for authorisation</th></tr><tr><th>Payment Date</th><th>Payee</th><th>Payment Details</th><th>Amount</th></tr><tr><td>28/01/2023</td><td>JM Waste Management</td><td>Waste Collections in Dec 2022</td><td>£76.44</td></tr><tr><td>22/12/2022</td><td>Eon</td><td>Electricity Charges for Pavilion Nov (1st -16th)</td><td>£63.16</td></tr><tr><td>28/12/2022</td><td>Npower</td><td>Streetlighting Elec</td><td>£48.39</td></tr><tr><th colspan="4">Payments by debit card pending authorisation</th></tr><tr><th>Payment Date</th><th>Payee</th><th>Payment Details</th><th>Amount</th></tr><tr><td>14/12/2022</td><td>Amazon</td><td>Dictaphone</td><td>£22.39</td></tr><tr><td>09/12/2022</td><td>Timpsons Keys</td><td>VH Letterbox Keys</td><td>£13.30</td></tr></table> To receive and approve the bank statement <u>Appendix 7.2a</u> and reconciliation <u>Appendix 7.2b</u> and balance sheet <u>Appendix 7.2c</u> to 31st December 2022. RESOLVED: The bank statement, reconciliation and balance sheet to 31st December 2022 was reviewed and approved.	Payments by Bank Transfer pending authorisation					Payee	Payment Details	Amount	12/01/2023	Alexandra Sharp	Clerk's Salary for January 2023 (to inc 2/2 backdated pay scale changes)	£862.40	06/02/2023	HMRC	Clerk's PAYE for January 2023	£44.80	06/02/2023	Maiden Accountancy	Payroll Services to March 2023	£36.00					Payments by direct debit for authorisation				Payment Date	Payee	Payment Details	Amount	28/01/2023	JM Waste Management	Waste Collections in Dec 2022	£76.44	22/12/2022	Eon	Electricity Charges for Pavilion Nov (1st -16th)	£63.16	28/12/2022	Npower	Streetlighting Elec	£48.39	Payments by debit card pending authorisation				Payment Date	Payee	Payment Details	Amount	14/12/2022	Amazon	Dictaphone	£22.39	09/12/2022	Timpsons Keys	VH Letterbox Keys	£13.30	
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8.	Recreation Ground (Playing Field, Playground and Community Pavilion)	MH																																																												
8.1	To receive the summary of monthly recreation ground inspections. RESOLVED: The summary of monthly recreation inspections were received.																																																													
8.2	To receive an update on the replacement SIM cards for the CCTV system at the recreation ground. The Clerk has chased the SIM cards, due to delays with couriers this has not yet been received.																																																													
9.	Open Spaces	MH																																																												
9.1	To consider and discuss draft Emergency Plan for Catsfield. Deferred to Parish Council meeting on 15th February 2023.																																																													
10.	Traffic/Roads/Policing	KR																																																												
10.1	To receive an update on traffic surveys and Speedwatch - No new Speedwatch sessions have taken place as it has been too wet. Cllr Roberston will be resigning as Speedwatch Coordinator, a replacement Speedwatch Coordinator will need to be found otherwise the Catsfield Speedwatch Group will no longer be in force. - The neighbourhood policing inspector attended the RALC meeting today. They explained that they are reviewing the monthly reports that are circulated so that they inform the recipient what Sussex Police are doing about reported crimes in the area rather than just what crimes have been reported. They have made some changes, they have done a lot behind the scenes and this information doesn't always come through to the Parishes so this is something they are working on improving. - We are in Area 2 'Battle' and in each area there are 3 Sergeants in each team, 6 Police Constables and 17 PSCOS in each area. - Sussex Police cannot stress enough the importance of reporting crimes via 101. Without residents reporting crimes Sussex Police cannot investigate and take action. They really need the communities support with this.																																																													
11.	Community Engagement	KC/SJ																																																												
11.1	To agree a plan for the distribution of the Village Survey and the collection of data																																																													

11.2	The Village Survey will be on the Parish Council website, hopefully by the end of the month. Once this has been communicated to the village and we have received an initial influx of responses we can then tackle those that haven't participated by post and see how we can help those residents engage with the Parish Council. To consider a plan for Catsfield Warm Spaces initiative • The clerk has put together some letters and printed them out for distribution through the village. • These letters set out 3 trial dates for Catsfield's Warm Welcome Sessions. • Cllr Jacques is in the process of setting up a charity for supporting rural communities and has been awarded some funding to help with mobile food pantries, a community chef and mobile advice clinics (including Sussex Police, Optivo, Health in Mind, FSN etc) • It was also agreed further to invite well established 'The Grumpy Cook' to one of these sessions as a trial run and that the Parish Council will fund up to £100 Burwash Support for their engagement and support of the communities during this economic climate.	
	Items for referral to next agenda / reports / future agenda items / correspondence.	

Meeting closed at 20:27pm

Next Parish Council meeting to be held at
7pm on Wednesday 15th February 2023 in Hermon Cottage

Signed:

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Chairman

Dated:

.....15/2/23.....