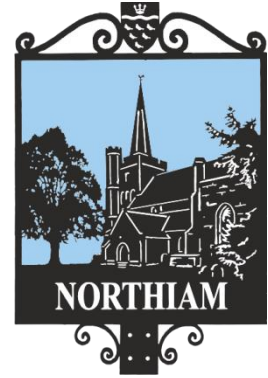


# NORTHAM PARISH COUNCIL



## Minutes of the remote Parish Council

Meeting held on Thursday 8 April 2021

at 7.00pm

1. **APOLOGIES:** None received.
2. **ATTENDEES and introduction of new Clerk:** The Chairman welcomed and introduced Mrs Becky Smolska. Councillors Pete Sargent (PS) Chairman, Tony Biggs (TB), Penny Farmer (PF) -Vice-Chair, Jacqueline Harding (JH), Dean Johnson (DJ), Robert Maltby (RM), Sue Schlesinger (SS), Anthony Wontner-Smith (AWS), County Cllr Ms. A Davies (AD), District Cllrs Tony Ganly (TG) and Martin Mooney (MM), Mrs R Smolska, Clerk, Mrs V Ades, assisting Clerk from Beckley PC and three members of the public.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.
4. **ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS** - To consider such other items as the Chairman decides are urgent and due notice of which has been given to the Clerk by 9:00am on the day of the meeting:
5. **REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: - Maximum of 15 mins.**
  - Mr Sonne, the architect representing the applicants of plans RR/2021/109/P - Valencia, gave an appraisal of the plans which were for 2 pairs of semi-detached houses and one detached house. He gave reasons for the application and why he felt it should be approved. All planning details are on the RDC website.
  - A resident questioned why were the recycling units being removed from the car park as he would prefer them to remain and he would be willing to assist with recycling methods. PS said the bins and area were being used for fly-tipping of many non-recyclable materials, thus contaminating those which were recyclable. The resident was advised to discuss the matter with RDC who owned the property and had agreed the units should be removed.
6. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 11th March 2021:** These were approved and signed by the Chairman.
7. **REPORTS BY PARISH, COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS:** (County & District reports – see attached).

**PF** reported problems with the passageway at Goddens Gill. The Clerk would write to Optivo and RDC to try to ascertain who owned the piece of land. **Clerk.**

**TB** attended the last meeting of the Sussex PNN and the PCSO said they had no knowledge the police had been contacted about anti-social behaviour. PF said she had asked those who raised the matter to copy in the PC on any communications. TB raised the problem of noisy motor-bikes and speeding between Northiam and Broad Oak. It appears all local parishes have the same problems. PCSO's are aware and have passed this to their traffic section for monitoring.

**RM** is in the process of doing the village assets and noted bench at Horns Cross is dilapidated. He will continue with his inspection and report back to the next meeting. He advised he is now on the sub-committee of the SFF Pop-up Club. **RM.**

**SS** said a bench outside Ewhurst House has broken supports. PS said it requires re-siting and asked RM if he would seek out a new site. **RM.**

**AD** said ES had reached the 1M mark for Covid-19 vaccinations. Luke Gillman is the new Customer Service Manager at ESCC. Members of the public are being asked to join the Adult Social Care bank, especially those who have used Adult Social Care or know someone who has. Please call 01273 481565 or go to [www.eastsussex.gov.uk/peoplebank](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/peoplebank) if interested.

**TG** said RDC has grants available for businesses coming out of lockdown of up to £6K for non-essential retail businesses and £18K for hospitality, accommodation, leisure and those who deal face-to-face with the public. In total there is £9.3M available.

## 8. PLANNING:

a) **RR/2020/2256/P** - 1 & 2 St Francis Fields, Main Road, Northiam TN31 6LP. Application for removal of condition 2 imposed on RR/94/1285/P to allow the two ancillary units to be used as independent dwellings. **The PC was unable to vote on the application as they owned the site.**

b) **RR/2021/109/P** - Valencia, Station Road, Northiam TN31 6QL. Retention of existing two storey dwelling with proposed new access/parking. Demolish structures in rear garden area. Erection of 4no. semi-detached dwellings and 1 no. detached dwelling served by existing access. After long discussion members **voted 3 in support, 3 against and 2 abstentions.**

c) **RR/2021/161/P** - Newlands, Dixter Lane, Northiam TN31 6PR. Variation of condition 2 imposed on RR/2018/2282/P to provide two rear dormers to roof slopes of plots 1-3 to serve a new bedroom and en suite to each property. This site has a long history of dismissed appeals, the most recent in 2016. Meaning that any development on this land was not permitted due to the fact that the site is in the AONB which has the highest protection in law. Extra floors are now requested on three every dwelling on this plot which is completely at odds with the street scene that was used, by the applicant, in order to gain approval. Not only do these amendments fail to protect the AONB but they now compromise the privacy of neighbouring properties. Therefore, these amendments should be refused. Members **unanimously voted against support 8:0 and requested the DC's to 'call in' this application if officers are mindful to approve.**

d) **RR/2021/193/P** - Station Road - Land at, Northiam TN31 6QD. Proposed erection of dwelling served by existing vehicular access. (NPPF Para 122. d) the desirability of maintaining an area's prevailing character and setting (including residential gardens), or of promoting regeneration and change; This proposed structure is overbearing in nature and design which has resulted in an overdevelopment of the site, which appears to be far too small, to accommodate a dwelling of this size. The next door property is a bungalow and would therefore be adversely affected by the reduced amount of daylight which is contrary to NPPF Para 127. All three neighbours stipulate that they need to be 7 meters away from the dwelling, how can this be possible on this small a site? Therefore, this application should be refused. **Members unanimously voted 8:0 against approval - and if planners are mindful to approve asked the DC's to 'call in' this application.**

e) **RR/2021/196/P** - Reach Wood, Ewhurst Lane, Northiam TN31 6HJ. Erection of replacement dwelling. Members **unanimously supported the application 8:0.**

f) **RR/2021/299/P** - Strawberry Hole Cottage, Ewhurst Lane, Northiam TN31 6HJ. Dormer roof extension. **unanimously supported the application 8:0.**

g) **RR/2021/375//TN** - Information Only. Thomas Transport, Coppards Lane Industrial Estate, Northiam TN31 6QR. Installation of 1 x 0.6m dish to be mounted on existing support poles fixed to the tower at 25m. Installation of 2 x outdoor units (ODU) to be installed behind the new dish. Minor upgrade works within the existing O2 equipment cabin.

h) **RR/2021/620/DN** - Northiam Depot, Station Road, Northiam TN31 6QT. Prior notification for proposed demolition of buildings. Members **unanimously supported the application 8:0.**

## 9. ALL PLANNING DECISIONS HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED TO COUNCILLORS:

## 10. OTHER PLANNING MATTERS:

## 11. VILLAGE MATTERS

- a. PS reported he had received a **quote from Kompan for £426.00 for bearings for the swing cradle at the play park. Members agreed the purchase.** He has received one quote of £2500 from DCM Surfaces for the replacement safety surface beneath the zip wire. TB said he would try to obtain two further quotes and report back. **TB.**
- b. Adoption of Risk Assessment – PF said she felt rents for access to parish land chargeable 1 January annually should be added. Asking about water payment on the allotments, PS said water was not included with the rent as the water account is in credit. She enquired about an accident book for the office and asked if the emergency plan could also be added. Members **agreed to adopt the Risk Assessment** as it stood, but they would make amendments to it during the year.
- c. Adoption of Standing Orders – **agreed and adopted 8:0.**

- d. Update on permissive path in St Francis Fields. SP reported kissing gates were on order and it will cost £369 to register with East Sussex. The CIC team has received an overall price of £2K which includes the kissing gates, two replacement finger-posts, a permissive footpath, registration and signage. **Members agreed this figure 8:0.**
- e. Tree Survey update. PS reported a third quote was awaited.
- f. Request for Petanque court on playing field. Residents have said they will do the work if the PC will fund the costs of approximately £500 to lay a court. Suggested area is to the right of the field on the former keep-fit area. **Members agreed the idea in principle.**
- g. PS and Sarah Giles met with RDC about the Pop-up Pub for this summer. It is hoped there will be something going on once a month in the court-yard, with a proposed opening date of 26 June 2021. Initially the project will be run by the CIC until documentation comes through and it may require some funding at the beginning from the PC, but it is hoped the pub will quickly become self-funding. The WC will be refurbished. **Members supported the project.**

**12. CORRESPONDENCE OTHER THAN THAT ALREADY CIRCULATED:**

**13. FINANCE:**

- a. Adoption of Investment plan was presented and **approved 8:0.**
- b. Asset register update – this is being checked by RM.

**RM.**

**14. FINANCE, OTHER MATTERS:**

- a. End of year report. Not available until after receipt of the bank statement next week.
- b. Cheques for signature: payments were approved 8:0.

A question was asked regarding holding face to face meetings. PS said from the 13 May meetings cannot be held remotely, but government guidelines say only 30 people can meet, so this would prevent a PC meeting being a public meeting. Currently we are awaiting more information from the government.

Members joined with PS to say 'goodbye' to County Councillor Ms Angharad and to thank her for all her valuable work on behalf of Northiam's residents.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

Reports, as written, from ESCC and RDC councillors are attached.

## ESCC Report for Parish Councils - April 2021

The **Covid-19 vaccination service** at Etchingham village hall has vaccinated thousands of people since it opened on 20<sup>th</sup> January. It continues with a few adaptations when children returned to school on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Local GPs and Sussex Community NHS Trust are continuing to provide the service and now vaccination services from other sites are being discussed so as to extend the availability for local people.

**The pan-Sussex Community testing programme** offers free, rapid, lateral flow testing to anyone who is symptom-free but who has to work or Care. This includes those already vaccinated as they could still carry the virus. Adults in East Sussex who have to leave home for work or caring duties can now book a symptom-free Covid test. Anyone over the age of 18 can book a test at any participating pharmacy anywhere in Sussex, or at Moulscombe Leisure Centre in Brighton or at Hove Town Hall. One in three people with the virus experience no symptoms. This kind of testing plays an important role in preventing the spread of the virus. It shows whether an individual needs to self-isolate, and whether their contacts need to be traced. The faster we can identify those with the virus, the better chance there is to limit the spread. Anyone with symptoms, no matter how mild, should immediately self-isolate, and book a test [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) or by calling 119. More information at: [www.eastsussex.gov.uk/communitytesting](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/communitytesting)

**The six day road closure** in Hastings I mentioned in my last report has been postponed till April 6<sup>th</sup>. Battle Road in Hastings will be closed for 24 hours a day for 6 days to install temporary concrete protection blocks. A diversion route will be in place via Ashbrooke Road. Bus routes will also be affected.

A trial **School Streets Scheme** involving 6 schools will involve making more space outside school gates at pick up and drop off times. The scheme will restrict non-essential motor traffic to make more space for social distancing, walking and cycling during the school run. The 6 week trial will start on March 15<sup>th</sup> and finish on May 7<sup>th</sup> 2021. The scheme is being delivered by ESCC in partnership with Sustrans and is being funded through a grant of £1.8m which the council successfully secured from the second tranche of the Department of Transport's Emergency Active Travel Fund. The benefits of this scheme in terms of road safety and air quality will be obvious and will help to give families the space they need to get to school safely.

Residents are being asked to think twice before visiting **household waste sites** as we move out of lockdown. As the weather improves and people start spring cleaning, doing DIY projects, or tidying up the garden, the council is asking residents to consider whether they can safely store waste at home until they have a full car load, or dispose or recycle through kerbside collections rather than frequently visiting a household waste site. ESCC wants to avoid long queues which have been seen since the beginning of March, particularly on sunny days and on weekends. Traffic management has been put in place at Hastings, Maresfield and Mountfield, due to the volume of vehicles visiting. Social distancing is required at sites and staff are unable to assist with unloading or sorting. Verbal abuse towards, and assaults on staff, is unacceptable under any circumstances. Residents visiting a household waste site should check the opening times and restrictions before planning their journey.

The PCC with Sussex Police has secured £402,000 of government funding to set up a new **High Harm Domestic Abuse (DA) Perpetrator Unit**. The police team (officers with training in detecting offenders) are now joined by a mental health worker from Brighton Housing Trust, a drugs and alcohol worker from the charity **Change, Grow, Live**, an independent Domestic Violence Adviser from **Worth Services** and specialist intervention probation officers from **Seetec Justice**. 40 of the highest harm DA perpetrators in Sussex will receive tailored intervention. A wider programme has also been launched for DA perpetrators who recognise their destructive behaviour and want to change. This aims to alter the behaviour of 100 more perpetrators and is delivered by the charity **Cranstoun**.

**Overnight work will close stretches of Etchingham Road, A265**, throughout April. Work will begin at the level crossing, with crews heading east towards Haremere Hall, to be completed by Sunday April 11<sup>th</sup>. On April 12<sup>th</sup> work will start east of Oaks Close and continue past the west entrance of Borders Lane, with over a mile of road to be resurfaced by April 29<sup>th</sup>. **Work will occur between 8pm and 6am.**

I have been lobbying for resurfacing on this road for some time !!

Work has started on a new link road which will connect to the recently completed Newhaven Port Access Road. ESCC states that this road which enables all HGV traffic to enter and leave the East Quay Port site will help drive

regeneration and provide an economic boost to Newhaven and the county. Work on the project, to be finished by the end of June, will be carried out by Jackson Civils.

ESCC has successfully secured £478,423 from the government's £1bn **Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme** which supports the government's net zero and clean growth goals, and is part of the **Chancellor's Plan for Jobs 2020**. This grant allows public sector bodies to fund energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation measures. Part of the funding will enable the council's first pilot decarbonisation of heat project at Ninfield Primary School. This will involve replacing old oil boilers with more efficient air source heat pumps and battery storage, the installation of improved insulation throughout the school, and upgrading lighting to low energy LED lights.

For more information about what the council is doing to reduce carbon emissions - visit <https://eastsussex.gov.uk/environment/priorities/whatarewedoing/>

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## **Northern Rother District Councillors' Report March 2021**

### **Housing First accommodation for rough sleepers:**

Cabinet granted the Head of Housing and Community delegated authority to issue non-secure tenancies enabling the council to provide Housing First accommodation to rough sleepers in the district. This will reduce cost pressures on the council's use of emergency accommodation and provide a stable, independent home and intensive personalised support for those experiencing multiple and complex needs through the rough sleeping initiative.

### **Key performance indicators for 2021/22 agreed.**

Cabinet considered and agreed the key performance indicators (KPI) for 2021/22 by which performance will be monitored to deliver the best possible outcomes with the resources available. The KPIs are themed on the four priority areas of the emerging corporate plan. These are: a. Housing and Communities (five indicators) b. Economic Development and Poverty (three indicators) c. Waste Collection (one indicator) d. Additional Income (two indicators).

They will be reported on a quarterly basis to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) for monitoring and scrutiny, with any recommendations being forwarded to Cabinet for consideration.

### **£89,450 of Community Grants approved.**

Community Grants totalling £89,450, as recommended by the Grants Panel were approved benefiting a number of community organisations in Rother.

The maximum value for the 'small grant' scheme was also increased to £1000 with the Head of Acquisitions, Transformation and Regeneration being granted delegated authority to approve the small grants following a recommendation from the Grants Panel.

### **Funding agreed to explore options at Beeching Road.**

Cabinet agreed a budget of £220,000 to progress feasibility studies and detailed designs for the future of a Council owned property in Beeching Road, 'West Trading Estate', Bexhill. Investing in and improving the facility on this site will complement the proposals already in development or underway at Beeching Road.

### **Business grants expanded to support more businesses with significantly reduced incomes.**

Members agreed to expand the Additional Restriction Grant scheme to include additional sectors namely Rother based charities with significantly reduced income (50% or more – not charity shops); and small or micro businesses still able to trade but significantly reduced income (50% or more).

### **Councillors Martin Mooney and Tony Ganly.**