

GUESTLING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AND PLANNING MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES OF GUESTLING PARISH COUNCIL (PC) MEETING HELD MONDAY 13 JANUARY 2025

7PM AT THREE OAKS VILLAGE HALL

CHAIR: Cllr M ROBERTS

PARISH COUNCILLORS : Cllr G FURNESS Cllr P KNATCHBULL-HUGESSEN Cllr M GRIFFITHS

PARISH CLERK: BRYONY YOUNG

Cllr C MAYNARD

ITEM	NOTES	ACTION
1	APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE: Cllr A Mier Cllr B Coupar Cllr T Grohne	
2	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllr M Griffiths – Item 7	
3	MINUTES: To resolve: The Chair is authorised to agree the Minutes of the previous meeting held 11 November 2024	
4	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Cllr Maynard – Letter has gone in to the Government applying to be in the first tranche of devolution programme – full press release available on ESCC website: https://news.eastsussex.gov.uk/2025/01/09/devolution-expression-of-interest/#more-7607 “The Cabinets of the three Sussex upper tier Councils have...agreed to submit an expression of interest to be considered for the Government’s Devolution Priority Programme indicating support for a Sussex Mayoral Strategic Authority which could unlock new money and powers for the region. The Government’s white paper on English Devolution states that Mayoral Strategic Authorities will bring funding and local decision-making powers down from central Government to deliver on economic growth, jobs and skills, housing and transport. A Mayoral Strategic Authority could give the people of Sussex a stronger voice in how national decisions affect them and greater power to shape major projects across the area. If the Government accepts the initial proposal for Sussex to join the devolution priority programme, the Government will run a consultation to obtain residents’ views. The Government’s White Paper set out in detail the key areas that a strategic authority would be in control of to drive growth and provide support on shaping public services. These include: • Transport and local infrastructure • Skills and employment support • Housing and strategic planning • Economic development and regeneration • Environment and climate change • Health, wellbeing and public service reform • Public safety The expected timeline following the submission of the proposal is: • A devolution consultation would be held before the end of March 2025. • The results of the devolution consultation will be assessed in the Spring 2025 following which a Ministerial decision will be taken as to whether to proceed with a Mayoral Strategic Authority (prior to unitary re-organisation). The Spending Review will then confirm future mayoral investment funds for new mayoral areas. • relevant legislation will be laid before Parliament in relation to the creation of Strategic Authorities. • In March 2026 notice of mayoral elections will be given for a Mayoral election in May 2026. A decision whether to move to a Mayoral Strategic Authority under the reorganised arrangements would follow.....” Rother has proposed marketing of public conveniences and charging for parking in currently free rural car parks – currently under public consultation. Roads – Rock Lane bridge is in programme, A21 will be closed again, 20th January, Cllr Maynard has requested remedial works before people start using rural routes as reroute Cllr Maynard left 7.38PM	
5	MATTERS ARISING OR UNRESOLVED NOT COVERED SEPARATELY IN AGENDA: • Verge 8 Acre & Butchers Lane: See Item 11	

	• A259/Guestling Bradshaw access investigations: No further forward, no response from Pett PC • Speedwatch: No events in Guestling since last meeting so no info to advertise • Sign at entrance QE2 field: Clerk in conversation with sign company, awaiting Fields in Trust logo, quotes to be discussed and decided at next meeting (road-sign plastic quote requested) • Hedges at QE2 field – Arranged but then weather prevented, ongoing to get done ASAP • Pavillion: See Item 9 • Guestling sign on A259: Quotes received, various cost options discussed, unanimous vote to agree to have shot blast, powder-coated and repaint, total cost £1,048, PC advised clerk to add onto insurance policy	BY BY BY
6	CORRESPONDENCE: Chase meeting with Helen Dollimore MP (Guestling Green ward) again	BY
7	GRANT APPLICATION THREE OAKS VILLAGE HALL – DEFIBRILLATOR : Request to “match-fund” cost of defibrillator to be placed on side of Three Oaks Village Hall for general public use, hall to pay ongoing costs, defibrillator now in place. Cllr Furness proposed vote, Cllr Roberts seconded, all applicable councillors voted, unanimously agreed. Clerk to pay out	BY
8	QUEEN ELIZABETH 2ND PLAYING FIELD MAINTENANCE : 3 quotes requested, one non response: Quote 1 - £200 + VAT per cut, every 2 weeks (March to September) – no response to spiking cost request Quote 2 - £150 + VAT per cut, every 2 weeks (March to September) – spiking or rolling £180 + VAT on request Cllr Roberts proposed vote on which quote to go forward with, Cllr Griffiths seconded, Quote 2 unanimously agreed, clerk to contact and arrange meeting at site and send email to Football Club to advise of increased costs and new supplier	BY
9	QUEEN ELIZABETH 2ND PLAYING FIELD PAVILLION: Chair has circulated 2 quotes, one is for full build and project management, one is for basic building. Suggested that we require Football Club input and assistance to see what trades/knowledge is possibly available via them. Match funding application available from Rother April to July - ONGOING	ALL
10	2025/2026 PRECEPT: Clerk asked to leave meeting due to wage discussions Clerk left meeting 8.53PM The Parish Council decided that the Clerks honorarium would be arrived at by using the national scale based on the agreed point system that establishes increments of pay. The post is subject to PAYE and NIC (if applicable). The Parish Council will opt out of pension liability Clerk returned to meeting 9.06PM Due to further information and investigation required to make a decision the Parish Council wish to hold an Extraordinary meeting before Precept has to be declared to Rother District Council on 31 st January to set level (scheduled for 21 st January)	
11	MEETING WITH HIGHWAYS: Cllrs met with new Highway Steward and Jo Read – Traffic and Safety Manager. Visited and discussed junction 8 Acre/Butchers Lane – parking area could be feasible but would be cost prohibitive Ivyhouse and Moor Lane crossroads – Safety Manager advised lines urgently need redoing and location of signage needs addressing, will action. Steward advised that hedge at junction needs to be flailed back to improve visibility splay (as owned by Highways) Chowns Hill visibility and parking issue at Denehurst Gardens junction, Highways propose extension to no parking area, to action. Cllrs saw this as a successful meeting	
12	MEETING WITH MP (Three Oaks Ward)– Dr Kieran Mullen MP: Dr Mullen gave a generous amount of time and listened and was engaged. The Parish Council hopes that when a meeting is finally arranged with the other MP that covers the Guestling Green Ward, Helena Dollimore MP that she is similarly engaged (still awaiting contact, letters sent at same time to both MPs). The Parish Council is pleased to hear that Dr Mullen will respond to need and act on our behalf for Three Oaks ward	
13	ATTENDANCE AT FAIRLIGHT WAR MEMORIAL: Chair attended opening ceremony for Fairlight war memorial on behalf of the Parish Council, well attended and very impressive achievement by many volunteers, culmination of 10 years of work	
14	FINANCE: precept decision required see item 10	
15	PLANNING APPLICATIONS: None	
15	AOB: Due to ESCC unitary plans suggested that a Marsham meeting is a good idea, Chair to try and reopen talks Meeting closed 9.40PM	MR
	BRYONY YOUNG – PARISH CLERK 07730 015684 guestling.clerk@gmail.com	