Clerk to the Council: Emma Fulham

Goods Yard House

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Present: Cllrs Horner , Eastwood, Colenutt, Norman, Nathan, Gunn, Burnett-Dick, Shaw, Sanders, Smith, Beare and Reed.

Absent: Cllr Sanders.

In Attendance: Gail Finney (Locum Clerk to the Council)

Minutes to the Parish Council Meeting held in Goods Yard House at 7:30pm on 11th April 2022.

Before the meeting commenced the Parish Council stood for a one-minute silence in memory of Cllr Higgins.  
Public: Cllr Taylor.

Cllr Taylor (County) submitted the following written report:

* **Road repairs:** You may be aware that the road works programme for the year was finalised at the end of March. Councillors should be given the list of planned works, which tend to be the larger scale works (not things like individual potholes that are repaired on an ongoing basis). While there is no formal process for Councillors to be involved in the decision making, we do get to put forward roads for urgent attention during the year. I am still waiting to hear from the Operations Team who oversee the Highways contract.
* **Central Garage:** Last week I spoke to Nigel Brown about the Central Garage land purchase from ESCC. He assures me that he and the garage will come to an agreement. I hear that a price has been agreed and that the Garage just has to confirm they are happy with it.
* **Ukraine refugees**: Cabinet will be considering an ESCC paper about the refugee hosting next Tuesday (19th). However, some information has already been made available. Residents should register with the Homes for Ukraine scheme, even if they have independent pathways for supporting the refugee visas and homes. [Homes for Ukraine: record your interest - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/register-interest-homes-ukraine). Visa applications are going very slowly, and people can contact the helpline on +44 808 164 8810 or 0808 164 8810 (in the UK).
* 818 Ukrainian refugees have been matched with hosts in East Sussex – including 392 in Wealden (by far the largest number), but only a small number have arrived in the UK. ESCC is carrying out the DBS checks and will contacting host households. Some local people are reporting that the DBS check happens after the refugees arrive, which is obviously problematic.
* Hosts should contact the East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service to carry out house safety checks. There is a welcome pack for hosts here: [Welcoming Ukrainian guests to East Sussex | East Sussex County Council](https://new.eastsussex.gov.uk/your-council/ukraine-crisis/hosting-refugees). A pack for incoming refugees will be produced this week.
* Payments to refugees (£200) and monthly payments to hosts who request support (£350) will be channelled through the district councils, and the system is in the process of being set up.
* Refugees can apply for school places here: [Apply for a place during the school year | East Sussex County Council](https://new.eastsussex.gov.uk/education-learning/schools/admissions/apply-in-year)
* There is a helpline for hosts and Councillors: **01323 724748** - operating from 10am to 4pm, Monday to Friday. You can also email enquiries to [ukraine@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:ukraine@eastsussex.gov.uk)
* **Climate:** The two most recent IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) reports can be found here: [Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability | Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability (ipcc.ch)](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/) and here: [AR6 Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change — IPCC](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-working-group-3/) . As the summary of these reports are s quite technical here are a couple of articles that summarise the main points: [Five key points in the IPCC report on climate change impacts and adaptation (theconversation.com)](https://theconversation.com/five-key-points-in-the-ipcc-report-on-climate-change-impacts-and-adaptation-178195), [IPCC report: where to begin slashing emissions (theconversation.com)](https://theconversation.com/ipcc-report-where-to-begin-slashing-emissions-180919) and [Five Key Takeaways From the New IPCC Climate Risk Report - Bloomberg](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-02-28/five-key-takeaways-from-the-new-ipcc-climate-risk-report)

The main message is that we are not doing enough to stop further global heating, people are already suffering all around the world, ecosystems are being damaged irreversibly (e.g., coral reefs) and our window of opportunity is closing. Whilst some of the messages are disturbing and we may not wish to face them, it is imperative that we all work together to support each other and face up to the serious situation we are in.

I attended an LGA Climate conference last week and the big message for local government is that we need to urgently tackle emissions from housing and transport. Both house building and household running are a major source of emissions; and building on green field sites is damaging nature. We need to minimise the building of new homes, and instead adapt existing buildings and empty buildings – both to reduce emission, but also to protect us from hotter weather and flood risks. We need to stop road building, and we should encourage reduction of traffic and increase public transport and active travel dramatically. Here is a summary of the essential mitigation efforts we need to support: The IPCC mitigation report also recommends that we transform our lifestyles, reduce demand for high emissions travel and products, and protect nature and ecosystems. Key messages can be found here: [IPCC\_AR6\_WGIII\_PressConferenceSlides.pdf](https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6wg3/pdf/IPCC_AR6_WGIII_PressConferenceSlides.pdf)

Cllr Norman requested an update on road repairs on the A22 from Forest Row to East Grinstead. Cllr Taylor advised that it was on the road works programme to be resurfaced in July.

Cllr Beare advised the A264 to Edenbridge required resurfacing. Cllr Taylor would check with the road works department if this section of road were on their works programme. Cllr Taylor advised that the road works programme was set annually and should the A264 not be included in the programme the road might only be patched.

Cllr Colenutt advised Cllr Taylor that the scheduled High Street road closure to carry out BT works had not taken place. Cllr Reed noted this negatively impacted all businesses. There had been advance notification of the closure which had resulted in small businesses closing for the day as well as buses being diverted. Cllr Taylor would look into the matter.

Cllr Reed recognised the tremendous effort of the District and County Councils in supporting Ukrainian refugees. Cllr Horner enquired how the efforts were being co-ordinated. Cllr Taylor advised there were different groups co-ordinating efforts. Forest Row had set up a community group with a Facebook page and were making direct contact with Ukrainians. Cllr Taylor recommended contacting Charities who are experts in this type of work. This would help Government and Charities keep track of refugees ensuring their safety. Cllr Reed noted that Reverend Julie was not directly involved in any organising or planning however the Church would provide support where needed. All enquiries should be directed to the Forest Row Ukrainian Facebook page. **The Clerk would publish this information on the Parish Council’s Facebook page and website advising residents of the contact details should they wish to assist Ukrainian refugees.**

**The Parish Council formal meeting commenced at 7.43pm.**

1. To accept apologies for absence.

**None.**

1. Declarations of pecuniary and disclosable interests in respect of matters to be discussed.

**The Chair reminded Cllrs to declare when necessary.**

1. To Approve Minutes from Parish Council meeting held on 7th March 2022.

**Unanimously accepted and signed as a true record.**

1. Matters Arising.

* Holmesley House – logs response. Cllr Nathan noted that the logs had been removed from the edge of the road and were no longer a hazard.
* Storm damage – the flagpole, lamp post and pavilion roof had been repaired. Cllr Nathan reported the sign on the first pinch point outside the Croft entrance had not been repaired. Cllr Taylor would follow up with ESCC Highways.
* Cllr Reed raised the issue of additional advertising near the big oak tree at the end of the village. **Cllr Gunn would clarify ownership of the land with Land Registry. Once ownership had been identified the Clerk would send a letter to the owners requesting removal of all signs.**
* Annual Parish Meeting – James Adler had confirmed his attendance.
* 100th Anniversary of Pooh – the Parish Council proposed having their own Parish Council representative on the planning committee to be kept informed of decisions. Cllr Reed approved of this. He advised that any Parish Council involvement would only occur in the new year as planning was still in the initial stages and did not immediately affect the village. Cllr Reed confirmed there had been a strong response with regards to the Cotchford Farm open day with 44% of tickets being sold in the first week. There would be 4 sessions per day. Parking would be on the estate with a limited number of cars per session and would not be an issue for the village.
* Cllr Beare reported that Holtye Golf Course were very pleased with the noticeboards.
* Cllr Reed reported he was doing research into taking Pooh Corner off the grid, looking at grants for electricity and solar power. With increasing costs of electricity Cllr Reed suggested the Parish Council (through social media) provided this information to the local community to show the various options available.

1. Correspondence.

The correspondence list was reviewed by the Council.

* North Parish Cluster – Cllr Eastwood was unable to attend. **The Clerk would forward minutes to Cllr Eastwood.**
* Over Development Working Group – **The Clerk would forward minutes to the Parish Council once received.**

1. To consider Hartfield Cricket Club correspondence on grounds maintenance machinery.

The Parish Council do not support the proposal put forward by Hartfield Cricket Club. Cllr Nathan proposed Hartfield Cricket Club submit a grant application for £500 in support of the expense, which would be looked upon favourably by the Parish Council. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Beare and received a unanimous vote from the Parish Council. **The Clerk would advise Hartfield Cricket Club of this decision**.

Cllr Taylor left the meeting at 8.30pm. Cllr Nathan, on behalf of the Parish Council, thanked Cllrs Taylor and Millward for attending the Queen’s Green Canopy tree planting ceremony at Buckhurst Estate.

1. To consider Playschool correspondence on pop up café.

**The Clerk would send an email requesting the Play School representative attend a future meeting to present their proposal and answer any questions or concerns posed by the Parish Council.**

1. To consider co-ordination of Ukrainian refugee settlement and integration.

All enquiries should be directed to the Forest Row Ukrainian Facebook page. **The Clerk would publish information on the Parish Council’s Facebook page and website advising residents of the contact details should they wish to assist Ukrainian refugees.**

1. To consider future Fun Run.

Cllr Smith reported the Fun Run would be held on either Sunday, 18th September or Sunday, 25th September. The preferred date is the 25th pending confirmation there are no other marathons that day. A definite date would be confirmed in the next week. Due to the half marathon, the event would start at 9.30am with runners expected until 12.30pm. The whole event would finish at approximately 2pm. The Committee would like the cricket club, football club, tennis club, volleyball club and stoolball club to offer “taster” sessions on the croft on that day. This would hopefully encourage people to attend and support the local clubs in the village. There would be a bar and barbecue. The theme of the fun run would be honey. The fun run would be called the Honey Run with prizes and giveaways related to honey. Social media accounts would be set up. Any profit would be for the youth of the village. Cllr Smith asked the Parish Council for their suggestions of where the money could be donated. **These ideas would be submitted at the next Parish Council meeting.** The Committee would ask for commercial sponsorship. Cllr Smith advised the Committee would have a definite date, marshals, and figures by the next Parish Council meeting.

1. To receive any updates on future community events – Fete, 100th Anniversary of Pooh and Jubilee.

* Fete – Cllr Burnett-Dick reported the recent fete meeting was very positive. The fete would be held on 3rd September. Local organisations would take ownership of the stalls and would be responsible for setting up and taking down of the stalls. Any profit made would be retained by the stall holders. There would be an entry fee for commercial organisations and a voluntary donation from the public.
* 100th Anniversary of Pooh – Cllr Reed confirmed there were no new matters for consideration this year.
* Jubilee – Cllr Burnett-Dick advised that a meeting would be held on Wednesday. There were a few issues which would be discussed and sorted out at the meeting. Cllr Nathan noted that two trees had been successfully planted in the village as part of the Queens Green Canopy initiative. Cllr Horner advised he was unable to attend the Jubilee celebrations and would pass contact details for Lord and Lady De Le Warr to Cllr Burnett-Dick. Cllr Burnett-Dick would contact the headteacher of the village school to discuss Jubilee celebrations and to encourage more participation from the school children in the event.

1. To consider review of Emergency Plan.

Cllr Colenutt reported that a meeting was held a month ago to review the plan. He welcomed Cllr Shaw to the Emergency Plan team. Cllr Nathan had written to all contacts listed on the emergency plan to ensure they are willing to continue as a contact and ensure they had the necessary equipment. At the Annual Parish Meeting Cllr Colenutt or Nathan would provide a form requesting contact details for provision of equipment. The Committee would meet on 27th June to collate information and would provide feedback to the Parish Council. To consider update on Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Horner thanked the Committee for their efforts.

1. To consider update on Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Gunn advised Wealden District Council Neighbourhood Plan was due out shortly. Cllrs Gunn and Reed would re-draft the Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan. Once Wealden District Council had ratified their plan this year, the Parish Council would implement their programme.

1. To discuss issues with verge parking on the Forest.

There were concerns that verge parking would become a problem once parking charges were implemented. Cllr Horner suggested the Parish Council ask James Adler at the Annual Parish Meeting to clarify parking charges and how verge parking would be dealt with once parking charges were in effect.

1. To ratify planning decisions and review planning applications.

**Cllr Eastwood reported the Committee did not support the planning application for Tye Farm.**

**The planning minutes from 11th April 2022 were duly ratified.**

**No further applications to consider.**

1. Items for Reporting or Inclusion in Future Agendas.

* Cllr Reed advised Nancy Holmes would submit a grant application for the Village Hall to assist with a high water bill due to an undetected leak and the water meter not being read for a couple of years. Cllr Reed advised other businesses or parishioners could be in the same situation. The Parish Council should be aware some parishioners might need assistance from the Council. **The Clerk would add to the agenda for the next meeting.**
* Cllr Colenutt reported the security light at the pavilion on the Croft was on constantly. The Parish Council agreed an electrician could look at the lighting.
* Cllr Burnett-Dick requested that all necessary people and organisations are advised when the code for the Croft padlock was changed.
* Cllr Burnett-Dick advised the Croft padlock needed replacing. **The Clerk would purchase a new, good quality digital padlock.**
* Cllr Smith advised initial costs for the fun run required funding. **The Clerk would include on the agenda for the next meeting.**

**Dates of Next Meetings:**

25th April 2022 (Annual Parish Meeting)

9th May 2022.

Meeting closed at 9.28pm.