

**MINUTES OF THE PLANNING, AMENITIES & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
OF BERSTED PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 19:00 ON TUESDAY 4 MARCH 2025
AT BERSTED JUBILEE HALL, CHALCRAFT LANE, PO21 5TU.**

Present: Cllrs J. Barrett, P. Ralph, J. Spencer (Chair), A. Van Koolbergen (Vice Chair),
J. Warr-Chapman and G. Yeates.

Mrs S. O'Connell (Deputy Clerk) and Kate Whitton – Western Sussex River Trust, Chalk Stream Resilience Officer.

In attendance: 0 members of the public.

As all were present the Chair asked if the meeting could start at 18:55, members agreed.

24381 Apologies for Absence
None.

24382 Declarations of Interests
Cllr Yeates declared a personal interest in application BE/10/25/S73.

24383 Public Session opened at 19:00
Kate Whitton introduced herself to members and explained that she was the Western Sussex River Trust Chalk Stream Resilience officer for the Aldingbourne and Lavant Rifes. The Western Sussex Rivers Trust was set up around 18 months ago and there are currently 10 staff and they are hoping to employ 3 more soon. They are funded by Chichester District Council. Their role is to check the chalk streams in the Aldingbourne Rife, as it is good for wildlife but a lot a failing at the moment due to environment issues. Their job is to test the quality of the water to see what pollutants may be affecting the chalk stream and they also do river fly testing as this can also give a good indication of the health of the rife. They are looking for volunteers to help test water quality as they need more information to give accurate data on the Aldingbourne Rife. Volunteers can sign up to [Volunteer With Us · Western Sussex Rivers Trust](#) where demos of what the surveys entail can be found and they can get you started at a particular site or work with you to find a location that suits and is safe to access. The River Trust wants to bring back eels and water voles, so if anyone has sitings of water voles along the Rife they would be interested in finding out where and any photos can be sent to them. Cllr Spencer informed her he had seen signs of water voles along a stretch of Rife by Bersted Brooks. Kate also informed members that they can get free trees such as Black Poplars, as these are good at thriving in waterlogged areas or planting near rivers as they soak up the water, but she has non available now. Cllr Yeates asked if they would be useful at Chalcraft Cemetery as this is particularly prone to flooding. Kate agreed that they would help and if Cllr Yeates got in touch, she could possibly reserve some. Kate confirmed that they do report their findings to the Environment Agency. Members thanked Kate for her informative talk and asked that she sends through some information on the topics discussed. The Public session closed at 19:29.

24384 Minutes of the Last Meeting 4 February 2025
RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting 4 February 2025, having been circulated in advance, be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

24385 Matters Arising from the Minutes
None.

24386 Planning Applications.
 App. No. BE/10/25/S73
 Site Walnut Tree Cottage, Shripney Lane, Bersted
 Application Variation of condition 2 imposed under BE/89/22/PL relating to plans. This application affects the character and appearance of the Shripney Road Conservation Area.
Condition 2 states windows should be timber, this application is seeking a change to UPVC. The conservation area team have objected and require that due to its setting in the conservation area timber windows are kept.
RESOLVED to make the following comment; OBJECT members agreed with the conservation area team that due to its setting in the conservation area the windows should be timber, BNP Policy ES5 Building Design.

24387 Planning Decisions made by Arun DC
 BE/119/24/HH – 9 Bucksham Avenue – approved subject to conditions
 BE/122/24/HH – 15 Wren Crescent – approved subject to conditions

24388 Operation Watershed – Shripney
 The Deputy Clerk informed members that the biodiversity surveys had been lodged with Arun planning and the two applications have now been validated under planning refs BE/102/24/PL and BE/103/24/PL. The Environment Agency had some additional information required for the FRAP permit which was being supplied by French Engineering who had lodged the application on behalf of the Parish Council.

24389 WSCC Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Survey
 Members gave their response to the survey on behalf of the Parish Council.

24390 Terms of Reference
 Members reviewed the terms of reference and agreed a paragraph should be included for the Speed Indicator Device (SID) that the committee will review locations and monitor the data from SID which could be used for planning applications, recommending to WSCC Highways traffic management schemes and informing police of persistent speeding in a particular area.
RESOLVED to include a paragraph for the Speed Indicator Device (SID) that the committee will review locations and monitor the data from SID.

24391 Correspondence
 None.

24392 Urgent Matters
 None.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 20:10

Signed..... **Committee Chair** **Date**