

WESTHAM AND STONE CROSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

17th October 2011

held at The Amenity Hall, Stone Cross School

165 Present

Cllrs B Molog (Chair), B Garner, T Bruce, K Sutherland, P Marshall, C Smith, M Nash, G Parsons, J Blaker, K Saxby, R Perrin, T Comerford and B Tooley.

There were 33 members of the public in attendance including Gerry Garner. C Cllr T Freebody was also in attendance.

166 Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

167 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 12th September 2011 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 19th September 2011 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

168 Clerk's Report

The Clerk has been in touch with SALC to organise the training recommended by the Standards' Hearing. Councillors will need to go on Councillors' Training Courses as these include the required Code of Conduct Training element.

At the Committee Meetings, Councillors rejected the proposal to erect a kissing gate at the Adur Park end of the disused path. The Risk Assessment specification has been sent to contractors for pricing the repairs to the wall at Foxes Hollow and one price has been received. The Risk Assessment Sub Committee has been set up and three new concrete litter bins have been ordered for Stone Cross. Councillors looked into organising an event to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and agreed that if the Residents' Associations would like to organise an event they can use Adur Park as long as they notify this Council of their plans, in writing, at least three months before the event.

The Adur Park Sub Committee has been set up to allow representation from the Residents' Associations. The Sub Committee is to look into future uses of the Park.

A new dog bin has been ordered for Adur Park and contractors have been instructed to repair the lifebuoy at Westham.

ESCC have been asked to repair the Speed Reactive Sign in Westham and the pavements outside 15 Oaklands.

Following a concern at the last Full Council Meeting that the Community Council has money invested in Ireland the Clerk confirmed that this Council has a Post Office Account which SALC have confirmed has the same protection as any High Street Bank.

The Maintenance Contractors have been asked to change their cutting equipment to a cylinder mower and they replied that they use a flail deck rather than a rotary deck. A flail deck is more multi-purpose and they believe it is more suitable. Many of the sites have lumps and bumps, steep banks and uneven ground and every time a rotary deck hits any raised areas of ground, the blades get damaged, worn and would end up being expensive in sharpening and repairs. They said they are still using the same tractor and cutting deck as when they first started out.

The Clerk updated the Council on the insurance case at Darent Close and agreed that the hedge should be removed as soon as is reasonably practical.

The Clerk also said that Councillors have been invited to attend a meeting for Councillors about the proposed Wind Turbines. The meeting is at Polegate Town Council.

169 Disclosures of Interests

There were no disclosures of interest in any items on this agenda. There were no reported changes to the Register of Interests.

170 Reports on Committee Meetings held

The following Committee Meeting Minutes were received and adopted by the Community Council.

Cllr Sutherland	Finance and General Purposes	10 October 2011
Cllr Garner	Parks and Open Spaces	10 October 2011
Cllr Blaker	Environment and Planning	10 October 2011

171 Reports on Sub-Committee Meetings held.

There have been no Sub-Committee Meetings since the last Full Council Meeting.

172 Reports from Outside Meetings

Cllr Nash attended the Westham and Pevensey Transport Partnership Meeting and encouraged more people to use the bus.

Cllr Nash also attended a police street meeting at Oaklands and there were no problems reported.

Cllr Molog attended Wealden District Association of Local Council's (WDALC) meeting and along with Cllr Parsons and the Clerk also attended the Wealden District Planning Conference. The WDALC helped set the agenda for the District Conference and the subjects covered included Localism, Social Housing and Neighbourhood Planning. Cllr Molog also attended the Joint Action Group Meeting where they said the crime in the Wealden area is relatively low. There has been a rise in Rogue Trading and she asked those present to report any instances to the police.

Cllr Molog, as an observer on behalf of the WDALC, attended the Wealden Planning Panel. They discussed the National Planning Policy Framework and the need for local plans to be in place before national plans.

Cllr Saxby is a member of the Practitioners Patients' Forum and they receive complaints about Medical Practices. The Medical Centre is sending out a questionnaire to patients to find out what improvements they would like to make.

The meeting was then suspended.

173 PCSO Report

There was no report from the PCSO on this occasion.

174 Reports from County/District Councillors

C Cllr Freebody said that ESCC are preparing for winter and have prioritised their roads accordingly. Details are on their website.

ESCC have included a slip in the latest 'Your County' magazine for residents to put in their windows. The slips are to ward off rogue traders.

The County Library has set up Group Reading and residents can now borrow more than one copy of a book for a fixed period of time.

There is a Family History Open Day at Lewes on 30th October from 10am to 4pm and the incinerator at Newhaven is now known as the Energy Recovery Facility.

Consultation is now open on the Waste and Minerals Core Strategy, there will be no land raise or land fill in the Low Weald.

D Cllr Tooley outlined complaints he has received from residents namely concerning street lighting, knot weed and waste collection. He reported that the Wealden Waste Collection is working well and Wealden also have a roadside car sales policy. He also said that two in five electric blankets tested by Wealden were found to be faulty and he has sixty cold calling stickers if anyone would like some.

175 Questions from Members of the Public

Mr Thompson asked when the new street lighting at Gallows Lane will be working and why the area and path behind the new development at Ketcham Corner have been fenced off.

Mr Walker asked that the gas pipe marks in Pevensey Park Road and Springfield Road are removed.

Mrs Britton asked why the Council changed its name without consulting its residents.

Mrs Bounds asked why the Council does not meet in Westham and presented the Council with a petition asking the Council to revert back to the name Westham Parish Council.

Mr Miller asked that the Council reverts back to being called Westham Parish Council. He said the parish area is a geographical one and Stone Cross is within that Parish.

Mrs Britton asked why motions are not formally recorded. Motions are recorded as having been 'resolved'.

176 Westham and Stone Cross Community Council – name change

Cllr Molog said the Council changed its name to Westham and Stone Cross Community Council to reflect the wider community of Stone Cross. She said the Council has to work with the Community and does not want to be stuck in the past. The decision was taken legally in accordance with the Government Act 2007.

Cllr Saxby felt the name Parish should still be included as it is a legally defined area and offered the name Westham Parish Community Council.

Cllr Sutherland felt that Stone Cross should be included in the title and Cllr Tooley felt that Hankham should also be included.

Cllrs Nash and Perrin felt the name should be Westham Parish Council as there is 1000 years of Government behind it and questioned the justification and arrogance of changing the name to anything else.

Whilst some residents felt the name should remain Westham and Stone Cross Community Council the majority of those present felt that those who live in Stone Cross know they live within the Parish of Westham.

Cllr Saxby withdrew his suggestion and it was agreed that the word Community is dropped from the title. Three names for the Council were therefore submitted;

- i: Westham Parish Council
- ii: Westham Parish Council (including Hankham and Stone Cross)
- iii: Westham and Stone Cross Parish Council

There was not enough interest in the name Westham Parish Council (including Hankham and Stone Cross) and this was subsequently withdrawn.

Councillors **resolved** by seven votes to five in favour of the name Westham Parish Council and Cllr Molog asked for the vote to be recorded. Cllrs Molog, Parsons, Smith, Tooley and Blaker voted for Westham and Stone Cross Parish Council.

Cllr Sutherland had withdrawn from voting.

177 Emergency Plan - update

Cllr Nash said that he is to draft a Recovery from Emergency which will form part of the Emergency Plan and he also asked residents to return their completed 'Are You Special' forms.

178 Risk Assessment

One price has been received to carry out the repairs to the wall at Foxes Hollow, another is expected soon.

179 Westham Pond

Cllr Marshall has sent out his specification for works to Westham Pond and is waiting for prices for the Council to consider both.

180 Path at the Rear of Rother Avenue

The Adur Park end of the disused path was sealed off following more anti social behaviour and the Council discussed whether to let residents and dog walkers have keys.

The Council **resolved** that the Clerk writes to the residents who's homes back on to that section of the path and find out how they feel about it.

181 Community Shelter

Cllr Saxby reported that the PCSO had put in writing to him that the shelter was in the wrong place and that it should have been sited at the Friday Street end of Adur Park.

Councillors considered whether or not to move the shelter to the Friday Street end of Adur Park but **resolved** that the shelter remains in its current position. The position will be reviewed in September 2012 with the vote being carried by 9 votes to 3. There was 1 abstention.

182 Questions from Members

Cllr Tooley asked for two volunteers for the Neighbourhood Watch. Cllrs Saxby and Sutherland kindly volunteered.

183 Planning Applications

There were no planning applications to consider on this occasion.