

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

15th October 2012

held at The Amenity Hall, Stone Cross

188 Present

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

PCSO Alison Shadbolt and 4 members of the public were also in attendance, including G Garner.

189 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from District Councillor Clark.

190 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 17th September 2012 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

191 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported the following;

Concerning the Register of Interests question about whether Register of Interest Forms have to appear on websites, the Democratic Services Manager confirmed the following;

It is correct that it is not a criminal offence if councillors in post prior to 1st July 2012 do not complete the form within 28 days. It becomes a criminal offence if they do not disclose at a meeting an interest that they should disclose (that is not already on their form) and notify the Monitoring Officer of that interest within 28 days of disclosing it at meeting.

The monitoring officer (Trevor Scott) is required to maintain the register of DPIs and has requested that all councillors complete a form in order that he can maintain a register. This is a new register under the Localism Act 2011 and there is a requirement for it to be published on the websites. Therefore, the new forms of existing councillors do have to be published on the website.

Councillor Smith expressed his concern about the lack of documentary control with the new forms and councillors also expressed their dislike about the utter confusion surrounding them. Councillor Molog will take their concerns to the Wealden District Association of Local Councils.

The Clerk has looked at the trough planters in Stone Cross Nursery for Westham but they are too small to be practical for the side of the road. Stone Cross Nursery is to provide a price to make a larger planter.

The Clerk also reminded those present that the Jubilee Oak still needs to be moved in Butcher's Field. All agreed that the Jubilee Oak Tree is replanted asap to the right of Butchers Field (Pevensey Castle end). The Clerk is to contact Chaffins and let Councillors know the date for re-planting

192 Disclosures of Interests

There were no disclosures of interest in any items on this agenda nor were there any changes to the Register of Interest.

193 Reports on Committee Meetings held

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

Cllr Parsons	Finance and General Purposes	8 October 2012
Cllr Molog	Planning	8 October 2012
Cllr Marshall	Parks and Open Spaces	8 October 2012

194 Reports on Sub-Committee Meetings held.

There have been no sub committee meetings since the last Full Council Meeting.

195 Reports from Outside Meetings

Cllr Nash reported that Westham Village Hall is looking forward to submitting a grant request to the Parish Council. He has also attended a Westham and Pevensey Local Transport Partnership Meeting. Its future is looking particularly positive.

Cllr Molog attended the September and October WDALC Meetings where members worked on the WDALC contribution to the Parish Conference.

Cllr Molog also attended the latest JAG Meeting and clarified the position about parking on zigzag lines outside schools. In order for the PCSO to enforce no parking on zigzag lines the Parish Council needs to write to ESCC and ask them to adopt that section of the road. This letter must also be copied into Inspector Wakefield of Sussex Police. Councillors agreed that the Clerk writes to ESCC on behalf of all three schools in the Parish.

Councillors Molog, Saxby, Comerford, Parsons and the Clerk met officers from Wealden District Council to get the latest LDF Strategic Sites updates. Site A, which would mean most of the additional housing is near Eastbourne, is being minimised with the emphasis now being on site B. Site B is behind and alongside Windmill Green and The Oaks.

The meeting was suspended.

196 Reports from County/District Councillors

D Cllr Tooley had nothing new to report on this occasion.

197 Report from PCSO Alison Shadbolt

There have been a few burglaries to dwellings in Hankham and a few suspect door knockers in Foords Lane.

Operation Creosote will be in Hankham between 10am and 12pm on Monday 22nd October. Operation Creosote involves the police marking residents' belongings should they so wish.

Residents who would like their property marked were asked to call PCSO on her mobile, the number of which is on the Police website.

PCSO Shadbolt spoke to a resident who was concerned that the new ESCC Night Light Scheme will result in a rise in burglaries. The police do not believe this will be the case as burglars need light.

The Police Panel appealed for new members and has identified three new priorities;

- i: speeding
- ii: parking
- iii: cold callers

198 Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from Members of the Public on this occasion.

The meeting was re-opened.

199 Emergency Plan - update

Copies of the Emergency Plan are to be passed to the Chairmen of the Residents Association. New amendments are expected soon.

200 Code of Conduct

Westham Parish Council **resolved** to accept the new Wealden Code of Conduct which complies with the provisions in the Localism Act.

201 Planting at Foxes Hollow

Councillors considered the latest proposal from Foxes Hollow Residents' Association to plant an area of Geering Road.

The new proposal uses 134 shrubs, instead of the previous 513, and the Residents' Association asked the Parish Council to contribute £750 towards the cost.

Councillor Marshall proposed and Councillor Sutherland seconded that the Parish Council supports this scheme. No one else was in agreement Councillor Bruce said the decision was purely financial amid concerns that it may open the floodgates to similar requests. Councillors agreed to consider the request again when the works to Westham Pond are complete.

Councillor Sutherland asked that his vote in support of the proposal be recorded

202 Street Lighting

Councillor Tooley proposed that the Parish Council delays its decision to turn off its lights until three months after the ESCC starts, to gauge how the ESCC scheme impacts on residents. Cllr Bruce seconded his proposal but councillors voted against the proposal by four votes to nine.

Councillor Garner proposed and Councillor Saxby seconded that the Parish Council lighting joins the Night Light Scheme to save money in the current financial climate. Councillors voted in favour of this proposal by eight votes to five.

Westham Parish Council **resolved** that the Parish Council's lighting joins the ESCC Night Light Scheme.

203 Ketcham Corner

Four suppliers were approached to supply and fit new adult exercise equipment for Adur Park but only one submitted a quote. Councillors liked the equipment and **resolved** to buy five pieces of equipment, safety matting and a sign to describe how to use the equipment at a cost of £8000 plus VAT. The new equipment is being funded using S106 money from the developers of Ketcham Corner.

Councillor Sutherland abstained from voting.

204 Westham Pond

Work on the pond is booked in to start on 31st October 2012. Chaffins will carry out the necessary clearance in preparation free of charge. The grant funding paperwork is complete, the cheque is expected soon and a letter has been sent to notify neighbouring properties of the works. A copy of the letter has been given to all councillors.

Councillors would like to thank resident Kevin Balsdon for distributing the letter and also for storing the recently vandalised notice board. Councillors asked the clerk to write and formally thank him.

205 Annual Tree Report

Councillors **resolved** that Chaffins are asked to carry out the Annual Tree Inspections for this year.

206 Wealden Parish Bulletin

Councillor Tooley asked Councillors to consider displaying the Wealden Parish Bulletin on the Parish Council website.

He subsequently withdrew the proposal through lack of agreement from other councillors.

207 General Power of Competence

Westham Parish Council **resolved** that it meets the prescribed conditions for the General Power of Competence.

Councillors congratulated the Clerk on her success in achieving this latest qualification.

208 Risk Assessment

Councillor Parsons reported that the Risk Assessment is now complete.

209 Questions from Members

Councillor Comerford asked for grit bins to be an agenda item for the next Full Council Meeting.

Councillor Sutherland queried the use of monies to purchase new equipment in Adur Park. It was pointed out that this equipment is being funded using S106 money from the developers of Ketcham Corner and has already been agreed by the Council.

Councillors Bruce asked for the hedges to be cut in Rattle Road by Standard Hill.

Councillor Molog asked if Councillors would like to invite Mediation+ to the Next Full Council Meeting to talk about work they do. All agreed that the Clerk invites the Manager of Mediation+ to the November meeting

210 Planning Applications

There were no planning applications to be considered.

It was however noted that planning permission was not required for a proposed new garage at Holly Cottage and that Network Rail are to remove their signal box at Westham.