

## **WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

### **DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF**

16<sup>th</sup> April 2012

held at The Amenity Hall, Stone Cross

368 Present

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

There were 3 members of the public in attendance including Gerry Garner. C Cllr T Freebody was also in attendance.

369 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs M Nash and T Comerford. Apologies were also received from D Cllr Dear.

370 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2012 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

371 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported the following;

Eastbourne Borough Council Core Strategy contains plans for a Railway Station in Stone Cross. Councillors asked the Clerk to contact the Borough Council to ask that Westham Parish Council is consulted on any proposals and that it is represented on any committees considering this.

Polegate Town Council asked if Westham Parish Council would like to join them and meet Galliford Try to discuss the new Community Benefit Fund. Westham Parish Council declined the invitation as it feels such a meeting would compromise its position on this matter.

The Playparks Inspection Report is to be an item on the next Full Council Meeting agenda, in the interim Councillors agreed that the bark chippings will be replaced now.

372 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. It was noted that new Register of Interest Forms will be available shortly. Councillors will have 28 days to complete them from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012, failure to complete them within this time frame will be a criminal offence. The completed new Register of Interest Forms will appear on the Parish Council's website.

373 Reports on Committee Meetings held

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

374 Reports on Sub-Committee Meetings held.

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

375 Reports from Outside Meetings

Cllr Garner attended a meeting at Paddock Wood about the Long Horn Beetle. There has been an infestation in Kent but nothing as yet in East Sussex.

Cllr Molog and the Clerk attended a planning meeting at Boreham Street where Patrick Coffey outlined some of the new changes to planning.

Cllr Molog also attended the Police Joint Action Group Meeting in April. Crime figures are down and she asked for suggestions for future Quality Street Meetings.

Cllr Molog also attended the latest SALC Meeting. There was a presentation from a candidate for the new Police and Crime Commissioner role. Concerns were also raised about the new Code of Conduct which Parish Councils are due to receive soon.

The meeting was suspended.

376 PCSO Report

There was no PCSO Report on this occasion.

377 Reports from County/District Councillors

C Cllr Freebody reported that Ofsted recently investigated ESCC's Adoption Service and found it to be outstanding in every area.

ESCC have finished their winter road scheme. 210 schemes were completed and they have agreed to roll out an extra £4.5m for a third year.

C Cllr Freebody said that BT are still updating the Pevensey Exchange. They had hoped the exchange would be enabled by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012 but are now working until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

Planning permission has been granted for the Bexhill/Hastings Link Road although there are still some environmental issues to be addressed.

D Cllr Tooley thanked the Clerk as he said this Parish Council receives more information than others. He was also disappointed to note that Wealden received only 500 responses to the Strategic Sites Issues and Options Consultation and he asked those present to let him know how this figure can be approved upon.

D Cllr Tooley also said that the Core Strategy was not accepted in its entirety, the deadline has been brought forward to 2027 and the number of houses increased slightly. The modifications to the Core Strategy will be available for public inspection for six weeks from the 11<sup>th</sup> April at Polegate Town Council.

D Cllr Tooley also announced an Over 50's Information Day on the 17<sup>th</sup> April at St John's Church in Polegate, he said applications for road closures for Jubilee Street Parties need to be in by 25<sup>th</sup> April and Wealden need more volunteers to be Olympic Torch Stewards.

D Cllr Tooley also noted that Greg Barker MP stated in the national newspapers that Britain does not need more on shore wind farms and that he, Greg Barker, has an Open Surgery on the 4<sup>th</sup> May at 1.30 to 2.30pm after which he will follow on to Stone Cross Mill and Westham pond.

#### 378 Questions from Members of the Public

Mrs Bounds complained that the No Cold Calling Sign on the Eastbourne Road leads into Eastbourne and also that there is an increased amount of dog mess around the pond in Westham. The matter of increased dog mess will be raised at the next Police Panel Meeting.

She also asked if the Parish Council are aware that the First Responders have been nominated for an award and are also having a coffee morning in June.

Mrs Baird feels the new Jubilee Oak is too close to an exiting Horse Chestnut Tree. The clerk is to check with Jim Mellor, Tree Officer at Wealden.

C Cllr Freebody left the meeting at this point.

The meeting was re-opened.

#### 379 Emergency Plan - update

This was deferred until the next Full Council Meeting.

#### 380 Westham Pond

As requested at the last Full Council Meeting, Cllrs Bruce, Garner and Molog went to see how many bollards would be needed at Westham. Cllr Parsons also attended. They reported that there would need to be 15 bollards which would cost the Parish Council approximately £4000.

Councillors agreed that it would be inappropriate to spend £4000 on bollards in the current financial climate.

Cllr Perrin asked if anything can be done to stop the additional planter going in at Westham. He asked for this matter to be considered again in six month's time but his proposal was rejected.

381 Westham Pond

SITA are to talk to Cllr Marshall for the next stage of the grant application. Cllr Marshall is also to prepare an information pack about the pond which Cllr Tooley will present to Greg Barker MP.

382 Foxes Hollow Wall

Cllr Molog reported that the works to the wall are nearly complete. The clerk and Mr Garner are to meet the contractors to rectify any snagging.

383 Dignity at Work Policy

Councillors agreed to defer the Dignity at Work Policy to allow them more time to read it.

384 Path behind St Mary's Church

A resident complained about the dog mess around the path at the back of St Mary's Church and asked Westham Parish Council to put a dog bin there.

Councillors agreed the land owners should be asked to pay for a new dog bin and deferred the matter to them.

385 Dog Mess – to consider alternative ways of minimising dog mess in the the Parish

Cllr Garner said that Mansfield District Council have recently sprayed dog mess pink to embarrass people into picking up their dog mess. Councillors asked the clerk to investigate.

386 The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Councillors **resolved** to site a brass A4 size sign on a wooden base by the Jubilee Oak to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The clerk is to draft the wording which will be emailed to councillors for their approval.

The sign will be fitted once councillors have confirmed the siting of the oak with Jim Mellor at Wealden District Council.

387 Stone Cross Junior Football Club

Councillors considered allowing Stone Cross Junior Football Club to use Adur Park. The clerk is to draft a letter to the club to check the following;



WD2012/0762F

Andrida, Rattle Road  
Side extension and crossover and drop  
kerb.

**No objections on any planning  
grounds.**

WD2012/0537F

24 Rattle Road, Westham  
Repositioning of driveway but keeping  
existing crossover

**No objections on any planning  
grounds.**

WD2012/0830F

52-54 High Street, Westham  
Proposed alterations and conversion  
including partial change of use to form 4  
no. self contained residential flats.

**Councillors dispute the statement  
that it has not been possible to rent  
out the shop and are concerned  
that it takes another shop away  
from the village. It also  
contravenes Westham Parish  
Council's Business Plan to let retail  
units be used for residential use.**