

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

16th January 2012

held at The Amenity Hall, Stone Cross

265 Present

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

There were 6 members of the public in attendance including Gerry Garner. C Cllr T Freebody was also initially in attendance but left after giving his report to attend a meeting in Bexhill. The meeting was subsequently suspended.

266 Report from C Cllr Freebody

C Cllr Freebody reported that;

- i: The decision to build the Bexhill/Hastings link road has been suspended for now. The £40m cost is to be funded from savings made in recycling.
- ii: ESCC Fostering Services have been found to be 'Outstanding' in their latest Ofsted Report. They are appealing for more foster parents, residents are asked to call 01323 747407 if they are interested.
- iii: Funding received from the Department of Health will enable more residents to have warm homes.
- iv: The Pevensey exchange, which also serves this parish, is expected to be upgraded for broadband by 31st March 2012.

The meeting was then re-opened.

267 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs R Perrin and M Nash.

268 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 21st November 2011 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

269 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported the following;

The Parish Council's comments for the proposed new development and the Wind Turbine applications have been submitted to Wealden.

The Precept paperwork is being submitted.

Highways have been contacted again about the state of the verges in Hankham and the lack of lighting at Ketcham Corner.

More grit has also been requested for the empty bin in Tillingham Way and, having sought legal advice, the resident at Penrith Way has been asked to back up his claims or withdraws his allegation. No reply has been received to date.

270 Disclosures of Interests

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

271 Reports on Committee Meetings held

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

Cllr Sutherland	Finance and General Purposes	12 December 2011
Cllr Garner	Parks and Open Spaces	12 December 2011
Cllr Blaker	Planning	12 December 2011

272 Reports on Sub-Committee Meetings held.

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

273 Reports from Outside Meetings

Cllr Saxby attended the Medical Centre's Patients' Forum. The Medical Centre is having an extra telephone line installed to make it easier to call at peak times. The staff are working to rationalise medicines and reported that each time one of their patients visits A&E it costs the practice £3000. A recent survey by the Centre found that 95% of patients are happy with the service currently provided.

The Centre is also to look at the effect the extra housing will have on it although some patients are expected to move to the new Sovereign Harbour Medical Centre as they live at the Harbour.

Cllr Molog attended the Wealden Conference on Fuel Poverty. The extent of fuel poverty is difficult to gauge as generally speaking older people are reluctant to come forward. Cllr Molog and the Clerk attended the ESCC

Broadband Conference, this is covered later on the agenda. Cllr Molog also attended an AiRS meeting about broadband.

Cllr Molog attended the Pevensey Town Trust meeting, the Trust has a new Clerk and a new Treasurer. She also attended an ESALC meeting which confirmed the Standards Board and Code of Conduct are being abolished although the current system remains until it is replaced.

The meeting was then suspended again.

274 PCSO Report

There was no PCSO Report on this occasion.

275 Reports from County/District Councillors

D Cllr Tooley reported that;

- i: Vulnerable residents will need help with the Digital Changeover.
- ii: Hankham schoolchildren recently visited the Uckfield Recycling Centre and Councillors are invited to visit the Centre too.
- iii: There will be elections for the new Police Commissioner in November and residents are encouraged to vote.
- iv: Cabinet elected to freeze the Wealden element of the Council Tax.
- v: Wealden currently have no plans to follow the Hastings' lead to support first time buyers.
- vi: Wealden also currently have no plans for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee but are considering a number of ideas.
- vii: The law regarding subletting of Council houses has changed recently. Wealden has reportedly no knowledge of subletting of any of its properties.

276 Questions from Members of the Public

Mr Gay of Red Dyke Residents' Association asked for the Medina Drive grit bin to be repositioned as its current position means that it fills up with water. The Clerk was asked to contact ESCC in order to reposition the bin.

Mr Lovell of Foxes Hollow Residents' Association said their grit bin has a hasp and staple fitted. He also asked for some work to be carried out at Foxes Hollow.

277 Emergency Plan - update

There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

278 Westham Village Hall

Westham Village Hall Committee would like the Parish Council to buy a new boiler for the Village Hall as their funds are running low.

Councillors **resolved** to buy a new boiler for the hall at a cost of £1596.00 including VAT.

279 Stour Close

The Parish Council received two prices to repair the drive at Stour Close Councillors **resolved** to accept the price from Hailsham Roadways as they have used them in the past. Five councillors voted in favour and five against and the Chair used her casting vote. One councillor abstained from voting.

280 Superfast Broadband

Cllr Molog outlined the position in East Sussex regarding Superfast Broadband. ESCC have been awarded £10.64m to provide it in the county and they are to match fund it with £15m. Contractors are to make a further investment.

Councillors **resolved** that Westham Parish needs Superfast Broadband and agreed the Clerk should register their support for ESCC on the BDUK website.

281 Annual Playpark's Inspection Report

The Annual Playparks' Inspection Reports have now been received from and councillors **resolved** that the clerk gets prices to carry out the works required.

282 Westham Parking

After some discussion as to whether or not there was a problem with parking in Westham at school times, councillors **resolved** to invite the new Road Steward to the next Full Council Meeting to ask his advice as regards to putting extra bollards there. Ten councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

283 Westham Village Pond

Councillors **resolved** that extensive repairs are needed at Westham Pond and considered three quotes.

Councillors **resolved** to accept the quote from Land and Water Services, the funding of which is to be thus;

- i: £ 5000.00 from Westham Parish Council
- ii: £22866.10 from grants and local businesses.

The Parish Council will claim back the additional £5573.22 VAT.

Councillors **resolved** that they fully support Cllr Marshall's bids for grant funding and they will also pay for the preliminary work required. The Clerk is to get costings for the preliminary work and Cllr Marshall is to ask local businesses for their support.

The votes for all these resolutions were ten votes to one in favour.

284 Annual Tree Inspection Report

Councillors **resolved** to get prices for the works highlighted in the Tree Report.

285 Foxes Hollow Wall

Councillor **resolved** to accept the Schedule of Works drafted by Gerry Garner and ask the Clerk to get two prices to repair the wall as per the Schedule.

286 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Molog explained that under the Localism Act, the Parish Council needs to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Molog explained that the Plan, when finished, will be a statutory document that allows the Council to have a say in the future of the Parish.

Councillors **resolved** to form a sub committee comprising of all councillors to draft the plan. AiRS are to be invited to the next Full Council Meeting.

287 Questions from Members

Cllr Sutherland asked that the Clerk registers a complaint with Highways about the state of the verges after contractors have recently been working there.

Cllr Comerford asked if Councillors are aware that the developers are carrying out drainage works at Castle Bolton from 23rd January.

Cllr Bruce asked the Clerk to keep chasing ESCC about the lack of lighting at Ketcham Corner.

Cllr Smith reported that motorists are driving too fast through Adur Drive and are parking on double yellow lines. He asked if the PCSO can patrol area particularly at school times and if the Football Club can be contacted as it also happens when the Football Club is using Adur Park.

Cllr Sutherland asked that the Parish Council considers buying Jubilee Oaks from the Woodland Trust for Butchers' Field at the next Full Council Meeting.

Cllr Tooley asked if the Parish Council has heard anything from Stone Cross Football Club since Cllr Garner and him attended a meeting with them.

Cllr Parsons asked for an update about the cold calling signs at Eastbourne Road and outside Elsie Cottage and she also asked if the Clerk can get instructions to roll up the laniard on the lifebuoy at Westham pond.

Cllr Molog asked Councillors to look at the Strategic Sites Development Plan Document for the next Planning Meeting.

288 Planning Applications

The following application was then considered;

WD2012/0016F – 21 Lambourn Avenue, Stone Cross – Single storey rear extension – **No objections on any planning grounds.**

WD2012-0073F – 7 Dalloway Drive, Stone Cross – To remove hedging and replace with small brick wall and piers and timber fence in keeping with the locality – **No objections on any planning grounds.**