

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

17th September 2012

held at The Amenity Hall, Stone Cross

138 Present

Cllrs B Molog (Chair), G Parsons, C Smith, T Comerford, P Marshall, B Garner and B Tooley (B Tooley is also a District Councillor).

6 members of the public were also in attendance, including G Garner.

139 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs M Nash, J Blaker, K Saxby, T Bruce, R Perrin and K Sutherland.

140 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 16th July 2012 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

141 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported the following;

Marion Shepherd DL is very apologetic but she is unable to plant the tree in Butcher's Field for reasons of protocol.

Despite endless emails and a personal visit a local nursery has not supplied the third planter for Westham. Councillors asked the Clerk to buy a trough style planter instead assuming that it meets the legal requirements of ESCC.

142 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.

Following the Legal and Finance Day at Battle, Councillors asked for clarification as to whether or not Register of Interest Forms have to be displayed on the Parish Council website. The Clerk is to contact the Monitoring Officer.

143 Reports on Committee Meetings held

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

144 Reports on Sub-Committee Meetings held.

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

145 Reports from Outside Meetings

Cllrs Molog and Parsons attended a meeting of the Pevensey Town Trust and discussed what to do about its car park.

Cllr Molog attended the Police JAG meeting. Parking outside schools is a current priority.

Cllr Molog and the Clerk attended the SALC Legal and Finance Day on Localism.

Cllrs Tooley and Molog attended the ESCC Parish and Town Conference and met the Parish Council's Road Steward.

The meeting was suspended again.

146 Reports from County/District Councillors

D Cllr Tooley expressed his thanks to County Councillor Freebody for getting the 20mph markings painted on the road outside Stone Cross School.

D Cllr Tooley has also met the road sweeper and can now confirm that the roads in the parish are swept every six months and that road spraying is carried out annually. He is working to make sure that the roads are sprayed before they are swept which is not the case at the moment.

147 Report from PCSO Alison Shadbolt

Cllr Parsons read from the report from the PCSO which reported the following;

There have been a lot of car break ins in Stone Cross but the police have made an arrest. Speedwatch is doing a fantastic job and there has been a bogus caller in Westham claiming to be a gardener.

The Youth Shelter continues to be monitored by the Blitz Team and there have been no reports of anti social behaviour. She proposed that the shelter remains in its current position.

147 Questions from Members of the Public

Mrs Painter asked when the hedges around the Parish Council's car park are being cut. Work is booked in for the week beginning 8th October.

Mr Lovell from Foxes Hollow Residents' Association announced that he is standing down as Chairman and Mr Mc Millan will be the new Chairman.

Mr McMillan asked that the minor strips in Foxes Hollow are included when the hedge cutting is carried out and Mr Lovell asked for an update on the lighting at Ketcham's Corner. The Clerk will forward the latest email from ESCC.

The meeting was re-opened.

148 Emergency Plan - update

Cllr Molog read from Cllr Nash's Report;

Cllr Nash has kept the Emergency Plan up to date, sending out several warnings of possible flooding from the Met Office; most of which have happily proved needless. The Schmallenberg sheep virus has reappeared, but it is hoped that the effects this year will be less serious as flocks seem to be showing some immunity.

Cllr Nash has kept up the monthly radio contacts this year on the Wealden Emergency Radio Network. Unfortunately Wealden are expected to axe the network by next April, destroying what is a very useful emergency link.

Special copies of the Plan will soon be passed to the Chairmen of the Residents Association, as Council recently decided.

149 Code of Conduct

Members continue to use the Code of Conduct approved at their AGM until a final version of the new code has been received from Wealden.

150 Drainage at Castle Bolton

Concerns have been raised about broken drainage pipes found in the ditch on Parish Council land opposite 33 Castle Bolton. The ditch leads to a manhole and the concerns were about where the water from the new estate will run. It is expected that the new pumping stations which are to be installed by the developers will solve the problem. The Parish Council recommended an assessment after the estate is built but agreed that an investigation can be carried out by the Residents' Association in the meantime. Cllr Comerford reminded those present that the pipework is blocked and needs clearing.

151 Community Shelter

Following advice from the police, Councillors **resolved** unanimously that the Community Shelter remains in its current position.

Cllr Tooley asked the Parish Council to consider a path to the Community Shelter when funds allow.

152 Golden Jubilee Way

The Clerk contacted ESCC about the possibility of installing a pedestrian crossing over Golden Jubilee Way for residents walking to Polegate.

ESCC confirmed that it meets their criteria and qualifies to be considered for capital funding.

Westham Parish Council **resolved** that a safe crossing is installed and that Polegate Town Council are also notified.

153 Planting at Foxes Hollow

Foxes Hollow Residents' Association submitted a price of £1680 plus labour to plant out the open area at Geering Road. Councillors **resolved** to defer this decision until the next meeting to enable the Residents' Association to come back with a more detailed plan.

154 Street Lighting

The Clerk asked Councillors to consider switching electricity suppliers to ESCC and save an estimated £500 per month. Councillors agreed and **resolved** that ESCC will become the new suppliers.

The Clerk also announced that ESCC are to switch off most of their street lighting in the Parish between 12.30am and 5.30am from Christmas 2012. They will keep the main roads and the main roads to the estates lit and she asked if the Parish Council wants to do the same with its lighting.

Councillors asked for a list of the Parish Council's street lights and agreed to consider this further in October.

155 Wates

Wates Developers have offered Councillors a tour of their Uckfield development to show how their finished estates look. Councillors **resolved** to turn down the offer which they thought could compromise their position.

156 Ketcham Corner

Having secured £10844.62 from developers Westham Parish Council **resolved** to get two prices to provide and fit adult exercise equipment, adequate safety flooring and fencing in the left hand corner of the Friday Street entrance to Adur Park. The clerk is to get the prices.

157 Risk Assessment

The Risk Assessment is almost complete and Cllr Parsons recommended either an external hard drive or memory sticks to back up the office computer.

Councillors **resolved** that they are happy with the existing arrangements and that the status quo remains.

Cllr Parsons asked for it to be recorded that she is not happy with the existing arrangements.

158 Quality Parish Status

Westham Parish Council **resolved** not to apply for reaccreditation as they could see no benefit in having Quality Parish Status. The money that was officially promised never materialised and it was felt more can be achieved using the General Power of Competence.

159 Westham Pond

Councillors **resolved** that work on the pond will start on 31st October and Chaffins will carry out the necessary clearance in preparation.

Councillors also **resolved** that the Clerk pays the £2852.41 CTP payment to SITA to allow the grant to go ahead.

The Clerk and Chair will draft a letter to notify neighbouring properties of the works nearer the time.

160 Questions from Members

Cllr Tooley asked when the last Police Panel Meeting was. There has not been one recently.

Cllr Smith asked when the contractor is reporting back about the grit bin catches. The contractor is expected to report back next week.

Cllr Marshall asked the Parish Council to consider clearing another area at Westham Pond once the initial works have been carried out.

Cllr Tooley asked the Parish Council to consider having a Community Website instead of a Parish Council Website, next year.

161 Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered;

WD2012/1321F	27 St Johns Drive, Westham Rear conservatory No objections.
WD2012/1736F	Grantham Cottage, Rattle Road Widening of driveway. No objections.
WD2012/1823F	7 Dallaway Drive, Stone Cross To remove area of existing hedge. Replace with two brick piers in keeping with existing, in fill between piers with close board timber fencing matching existing scalloped edge design. Remove existing wall to garden. No objections.

Councillors also considered;

- i: the application from Hilliers for Tourist Direction Signs (T/Westham/9/VCB/193588) but agreed with ESCC that they do not meet the criteria to be a signed tourist attraction.
- ii: Councillors also considered the application from Pevensey Parish Council about their proposal to set up a new walking route from Pevensey to the Crumbles. Members deferred this until the next meeting to allow them to more time to look into it.