

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

19th November 2012

held at The Amenity Hall, Stone Cross

237 Present

Cllrs B Molog (Chair), T Comerford, B Garner, M Nash, J Blaker, K Saxby, T Bruce, R Perrin and B Tooley (B Tooley is also a District Councillor).

County Councillor T Freebody and 8 members of the public were also in attendance, including G Garner.

238 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs G Parsons, C Smith, K Sutherland and P Marshall.

District Councillors L Clark and D Dear also sent their apologies.

239 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 15th October 2012 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

The meeting was suspended.

240 Presentation from Mediation+

Ross Hollister from Mediation+ spoke about the work of his charity. Mediation+ is based in Hailsham and provides a mediation service to residents of Eastbourne, Wealden and Lewes. Cases are self referred or are referred by the police service. Its workers are all volunteers. The service deals with 120 cases a year at a cost of £350 per case and Mr Hollister asked the Parish Council to consider supporting the charity by awarding a grant of £350.

The Chair confirmed that Mediation+ is linked to Citizens' Advice and is there to help anyone. She thanked Mr Hollister for attending and said that the grant request will be discussed as part of the precept requirements later in this meeting.

Mr Hollister left the meeting which was then re-opened.

241 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported the following;

SERCAF have, on councillors behalf, sent a letter to Eric Pickles, MP complaining about the confusion caused by the implementation of the Localism Act 2011.

The Clerk's Conference on the 9th November reported that there are to be changes to precept setting. Parish Council precepts may be capped and a decision is expected in the New Year.

She also attended a meeting with ESCC at its depot in Heathfield to see if Parish Councils can take over responsibility for the maintenance and repairs of fingerpost signs. ESCC presented the Parish and Town Councils with a draft contract for parishes to sign should they wish to do so otherwise responsibility for the fingerpost signs will remain with ESCC. ESCC will consider them a low priority and in time will replace them with metal signs. She asked ESCC to provide each parish with a list of the fingerpost signs in its parish and suggested responsibility and finance could be shared. ESCC agreed and a further meeting is to be arranged in the New Year.

The Clerk has been nominated by SALC for one of three places nationwide to represent small councils on the Small Councils' Committee at its offices in London. Elections take place in December.

242 Disclosures of Interests

Councillors Nash is a Director of Westham and Pevensy Transport Partnership and a Trustee of Westham Village Hall. Councillor Molog is a Trustee to Mediation+ and Stone Cross Mill and Councillor Garner is the Parish Council's representative on Stone Cross Memorial Hall.

243 Reports on Committee Meetings held

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

Cllr Molog	Parks and Open Spaces	12 November 2012
Cllr Molog	Finance and General Purposes	12 November 2012
Cllr Molog	Planning	12 November 2012

244 Reports on Sub-Committee Meetings held.

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

245 Reports from Outside Meetings

Cllr Molog attended the recent East Sussex Association of Local Councils Meeting through the Wealden District Association of Local Councils (WDALC). Becky Shaw, Chief Executive of ESCC, announced that the County Council are having to make £60m worth of cuts.

Cllr Molog and the Clerk attended the Parish Conference in October where the emphasis was on partnership working. Attendees were also told that permitted development rights are expected to be relaxed in the future.

Cllr Molog attended the WDALC meeting on the 14th November, copies of the minutes are available from the Clerk and are also on the SALC website.

Cllr Nash attended the recent Westham and Pevensey Transport Meeting. The Transport Partnership has a new scheme of operating which is expected to improve its efficiency even further.

Cllr Tooley attended an exhibition in Stone Cross on the 10th November, which showed residents the details of the County Council's night light scheme. Many streetlights in the parish are to be turned off between 12.30 and 5.30am from December. The lights on the main roads and the main roads to the estates will remain on. This event is to be repeated in Westham Village Hall.

The meeting was suspended again.

246 Reports from County/District Councillors

C Cllr Freebody said that ESCC is having to save £60m over the next three years. Residents' are invited as to say how these saving can be made and have until December 31st to do so. The County Council will continue to spend £6m on adult social care, £3m on childrens' services and £1m on economy, transport and environment.

Protesters at the last Cabinet Meeting were protesting against the new Bexhill/Hastings link road. They felt the money would be better spent on revenue but capital money has to be spent on capital projects.

C Cllr Freebody confirmed there is no provision for schooling in the capital budget and there will overall be job losses.

D Cllr Tooley reported that there is to be a Public Enquiry for the proposed 120 new houses at Windmill Green on 26th February at the Boship Farm Hotel.

247 Report from PCSO Alison Shadbolt

Copies of the report from PCSO were available for members of the public.

248 Questions from Members of the Public

Mr McMillan, Chairman of Foxes Hollow Residents' Association asked the Parish Council to reconsider its decision not to plant the area in Geering Road now as per the previous Full Council Meeting. He pointed out that the proposal has now been scaled down and money could be used from the commuted sums originally designated for a play park on the estate.

Mrs Bounds asked if the dog bin in Pevensey Park Road can be emptied more frequently. She also handed the Parish Council a petition in which residents complained about the state of the roads, paths and verges in Pevensey Park Road. County Councillor T Freebody is to take this up with the County Council.

The meeting was re-opened again.

249 Emergency Plan - update

Copies of the Emergency Plan were passed to the Chairmen of the Residents Associations.

Following flooding reports in some parts of the country, Cllr Nash asked residents to think of those worse off. He also reported that there have been no signs of ash die back in the Parish yet.

250 Precept Request 2013-2014

Councillors **resolved** to award the following grants for 2013-2014;

Friendship Lunch	£ 250.00
Stone Cross Memorial Hall	£ 400.00
Westham Village Hall	£ 400.00
Stone Cross Mill Trust	£ 400.00
Mediation +	£ 350.00
	—————
	£1800.00

Councillors **resolved** to defer the decision to award Westham and Pevensey Transport Partnership £1250 until January 2013 as they would like more information on passenger numbers.

Councillors **resolved** to also defer the decision to award Stone Cross Memorial Hall a further £2000 for redecorating until they have a more detailed price.

After very careful consideration, having considered the year on year trend, the effects of no precept increase for three years and the prospective increase in the council tax base with the extra housing, Councillors **resolved** that the precept for 2013-2014 is increased by just under 2% to £130500.00. This decision also allows the Parish Council to meet its future statutory commitments and apply for admission to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

251 Grit Bins

The grit bins are currently full and councillors **resolved** to fill the grit bins one more time in the forthcoming winter. Extra refills and gritting of the council car park and adjoining path will be at the discretion of the Clerk.

251 Planting at Foxes Hollow

Councillors considered the points from Foxes Hollow Residents' Association in minute 248 but **resolved** that, subject to legal agreement, Westham Parish Council uses the £15000 originally designated for a play park in Foxes Hollow to upgrade play equipment in the rest of the parish instead.

252 Ketcham Corner S106 Money

The adult exercise equipment for Adur Park, which is being paid for from the S106 money for Ketcham Corner, has been ordered and is hopefully being installed in time for the Christmas holidays.

Councillors deferred the decision to seek fencing prices until after the equipment has been fitted.

253 Westham Pond

The restoration works are now complete. Councillors are to consider re-erecting the fencing and looking at the drainage at the next Full Council Meeting.

254 Annual Tree Report

Chaffins have been asked to carry out the Annual Tree Inspections for this year. It is hoped that the report will be completed in time for the January Full Council Meeting.

255 Parks Inspections

The Parish Council is yet to receive the report for Adur Park and **resolved** to consider all the play park reports at the next Full Council Meeting.

256 Subsidence Claims

The Parish Council is receiving an increasing number of subsidence claims and **resolved** that the Clerk as Responsible Officer deals with the claims seeking professional advice as appropriate.

257 Questions from Members

Cllr Bruce asked for agendas to be placed on the Parish Council website.

Cllr Blaker asked if Network Rail have been asked to cut back the vegetation at the railway bridge in Friday Street.

Cllrs Nash and Bruce reported that the new street lights at Ketcham Corner are now working.

Cllr Molog thanked Cllr Marshall for his drawings for the proposed new entrance to Adur Park.

258 Planning Applications

The following planning application was considered;

WD2012/2316F

2 North Cottages, Dittons Road
Variation of condition 9 to
WD2010/2791F

Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.