

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

20th February 2012

held at The Amenity Hall, Stone Cross

296 Present

Cllrs B Molog (Chair), B Garner, P Marshall, G Parsons, J Blaker, K Saxby, T Comerford, M Nash and R Perrin.

There were 5 members of the public in attendance including Gerry Garner. C Cllr T Freebody and D Cllr McKeever were also initially in attendance but left after giving their reports and Ms Bayo left after giving her report about Neighbourhood Planning.

The meeting was subsequently suspended.

297 Report from Ms Faustina Bayo, Action in Rural Sussex

Ms Bayo explained that Neighbourhood Planning has been introduced to help communities have their say about future planning in their community.

It has not been designed to say no to development but to allow communities the chance to have a say in how, when and where that development takes place. Communities will also be able to have the opportunity to get the facilities needed to support the extra development. The plan will be statutory upon completion and will require extensive public consultation. It will need to be independently examined and the examiner will need to see evidence of that consultation.

A structured Steering Group will need to be formed, Open Day/s will need to be held and a survey designed and sent out to each property. The completed surveys will then need to be summarised.

Once the examiner is happy, the plan will go to the District Council and a referendum called. If 50% of the turnout approve, the plan will become statutory.

Cllr Marshall asked if there is any financial assistance for Parish Councils as there is a lot of work involved. Parish Councils can apply to Awards For All for funding and the District Council should meet the referendum costs.

The meeting was then re-opened.

298 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Sutherland, Bruce, Smith and Tooley. Apologies were also received from D Cllr Dear.

299 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 20th January 2012 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

300 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported the following;

The grit bins have now had one fill. Westham Village Hall Committee have sent the Parish Council the invoice to buy the new boiler for the Village Hall.

She has registered a complaint with Highways about the state of the verges left by contractors working in Red Dyke and chased ESCC about the lack of lighting at Ketcham Corner. She received the following reply;

'We had a look on site and the developer had fitted the wrong lighting columns and the wrong lanterns. They are now in the process of ordering the correct equipment.

Obviously this has delayed the whole lighting scheme and the electricity company have been put on hold for the new connections'.

The Clerk has also asked if the PCSO can patrol the areas particularly at school times and contacted the Football Club using Adur Park to ask that they park more considerately.

301 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.

302 Reports on Committee Meetings held

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

Cllr Blaker	Planning	13 January 2012
Cllr Molog	Finance and General Purposes	13 January 2012
Cllr Marshall	Parks and Open Spaces	13 January 2012

It was noted that the Parish Council's comments on the Strategic Sites Consultation are;

'Councillors considered the four options in the consultation and agreed unanimously to support option 3. They felt option 3 had less impact on this parishes' infrastructure. Option 3 has better access, there will be less traffic and less impact on local schools and medical services'

The Committee also insisted that Wealden are made aware that Option 3 appears to include a small area of land owned by Westham Parish Council and that Westham Parish Council has a policy in place whereby it will not rent, sell or give land away.

303 Reports on Sub-Committee Meetings held.

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

304 Reports from Outside Meetings

Cllr Nash reported that the Westham and Pevensey Local Transport Partnership buses have been rebranded, numbers of passengers have increased and the Partnership now has more support nationally. They have a new treasurer but still need more volunteers. Cllr Nash also said that Westham Village Hall thanks the Parish Council for its recent support.

Cllr Perrin reported that the St John the Baptist Trust has been considering repairs to their Alms Houses. The Trust is also keen to help children in the Parish with any educational support.

Cllrs Molog and Parsons attended a Pevensey Town Trust Meeting. They have a new Clerk, Treasurer and Trustee.

Cllr Molog attended the Wealden District Association of Local Council's Association Meeting. They discussed the Strategic Sites Consultation, the deadline for comments is 24th February.

Cllr Molog attended the Police Joint Action Group Meeting where they discussed work for the Community Payback Team.

The meeting was then suspended again.

305 PCSO Report

The PCSO Report had been previously sent to Councillors and copies were available for the public. There were four reported crimes this month.

306 Reports from County/District Councillors

C Cllr Freebody reported that ESCC have been discussing next year's budget. There will be no increase in the ESCC share of the Council Tax in the financial year 2012/2013, all departments have been scrutinised to achieve this.

There will be some capital expenditure as funding has been set aside for the Bexhill/Hastings link road, better broadband for rural areas and a new access road at Newhaven. Funding has also been identified for Warwick House and new libraries at Newhaven and Hastings. A further £10m has been set aside for a Children's Services Transformation Program because demand in children's services is growing.

C Cllr Freebody reconfirmed that the Pevensey Exchange will be upgraded for better broadband and he also encouraged residents and councillors to follow ESCC on Twitter.

Cllr Saxby asked for it to go on record that there is still no money from County for a new primary school.

D Cllr McKeever asked for the Parish Council's feedback on the changes proposed with Standards. It is likely that Wealden will need to form a Committee which will include three Parish Councillors. The Parish Councillors will be co-opted and will therefore have no voting rights. An Independent Member will need to be appointed and Parish Councils will need to adopt their own Code of Conduct. This is to be an agenda item for the March Full Council Meeting.

C Cllr Freebody also suggested that the Parish Council might like to consider buying its own gritting machine at a cost of £150.

307 Questions from Members of the Public

Mr Lovell of Foxes Hollow Residents' Association asked for an update on the situation regarding the 1999 bank statements and was invited to make an appointment with the Clerk to discuss this matter further.

Mrs Bounds reported the bench at Pevensey Park/Mortain Road is broken and the path at Springfield Close is in a bad state of repair following recent gas works.

308 Emergency Plan - update

Cllr Nash reported that Wealden are to keep the Emergency Radio operational for another year.

Cllr Marshall said that East Sussex Fire Service have offered to visit the residents on our 'Are You Special' list and asked if we can pass on their details.

Councillors agreed that this breached the confidentiality we guaranteed them and **resolved** that the Clerk should write to them, sending them an East Sussex Fire Service leaflet and a list of councillors who can help them.

An Emergency Plan Sub-Committee Meeting was arranged for Tuesday 28th February at 10am. The Residents' Associations are to be invited.

309 Allotment Charge 2012-2013

Councillors **resolved** that the allotment charge for 2012 to 2013 increases from £7 a year to £8. Six councillors were in favour, three against.

310 Annual Play Park's Inspection Report

The Report has been sent to contractors who are currently working on prices.

311 Westham Parking

Cllr Garner asked what the Parish Council can do to help combat the problems caused by inconsiderate parking at Westham.

Cllr Molog asked if Councillors are aware of Section 33 of the East Sussex Act 1981 that allows Parish Councils to prohibit parking on verges by notice.

Councillors asked the Clerk to find out how much bollards cost to match the existing and if the Parish Council will need to apply for a licence. Councillors are to consider placing bollards between the planters on Canon Corner and alongside Butcher's Field.

312 Westham Pond

Cllr Marshall reported that Chaffins have kindly offered to carry out the preliminary work free of charge and thanked the Clerk for organising this.

The paperwork is in place so the planning application and grant application will be submitted shortly.

Cllr Molog thanked Cllr Marshall and the Clerk for all their hard work.

313 Annual Tree Inspection Report

Councillors **resolved** to accept the price from Chaffins to carry out the works highlighted in the Tree Report. Councillors also **resolved** that the Clerk instructs contractors to carry out the works required to the trees behind the wall in Foxes Hollow as long as the cost is no more than £1000 plus VAT.

314 Foxes Hollow Wall

The Schedule of Works have been sent to both contractors who are currently working on prices.

315 Neighbourhood Plan

Councillors agreed to look at Neighbourhood Planning after the National Planning Policy Framework has been finalised.

316 Trees

Councillor **resolved** to plant an established Jubilee Oak in Butcher's Field at a cost for the tree of £171. There will also be a planting ceremony.

Councillors declined the offer of trees from Chaffins amid concerns they would not be watered regularly and also they also asked that Chaffins remove

the dead trees they supplied last year in Adur Park.

317 Path and Car Park Gritting

In severe weather the clerk has been issuing instructions to contractors to grit the council car park and adjoining path amid Health and Safety concerns. Councillors **resolved** that she continues at her own discretion but checks there are no insurance implications first.

318 Staff Pay Meeting

RESOLVED the Pay Review Meeting will consist of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Parish Council and the Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, the Chair of the Parks and Open Spaces Committee and the Chair of the Environment and Planning Committee. A meeting is to be arranged soon.

319 Questions from Members

Cllr Comerford asked to register his concern about the lack of response to his communications to Wealden Planning about the new development at Penrith Way. A shed has apparently been built on Parish Council land and sub-contractors are arriving too early on site and reversing dangerously. There is reported to have been one accident already. The roads are also not being kept clean. Councillors asked the Clerk to raise these concerns with Wealden. Cllr Comerford also asked for the grit bin to be moved.

Cllr Blaker said the deadline for the submission of articles for the newsletter is 7th March.

Cllr Molog asked that 'Risk Assessment – Review of Practices' is placed on the agenda for the next Planning Committee.

320 Planning Applications

The following application was then considered;

WD2012/0090LBR – The Granary, Montague Farm, Hankham Hall Road – Regularisation of refurbishment works – **No objections on any planning grounds. We support this application which prevents the building falling into disrepair.**