

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

20th May 2013

held at The Amenity Hall, Stone Cross

14 Present

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

District Councillor D Deer and 6 members of the public were in attendance, including G Garner.

15 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from D Cllrs L Clark and B Tooley.

16 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 15th April 2013 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

17 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that;

- She has written to the junior football club to tell them they do not have permission to use Adur Park but has still not received a reply.
- The Wind Farm Application has been rejected by Wealden District Council.
- New name bars have been ordered for Council Meetings.
- Prices have been received for new fencing at Butcher's Field.

18 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.

19 Reports on Committee Meetings held

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

20 Reports on Sub-Committee Meetings held.

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

21 Reports from Outside Meetings

Cllr Molog attended;

- Two WDALC meetings, the first revealed the Wealden's Core Strategy is subject to a Judicial Review, the second discussed the agenda for the next Parish Conference.
- The Pevensey Town Trust Meeting where the Trust received its End of Year Accounts.
- Wealden Planning Consultation – the Wind Turbine application was rejected.
- The Safer Wealden Partnership Joint Action Group heard that some Speedwatch teams do not feed back to their Parish Councils. The police have launched 'Operation Crackdown' to deal with incidents of Anti-Social driving.
- The Wealden Planning Meeting reported that the South East Plan and Wealden's non statutory plan have now gone, the new Town and Country Planning Act allows more permitted development rights. Two street scene officers have been appointed to look at abandoned cars and prosecute owners.
- The ESALC Annual General Meeting. The Sussex Association of Local Councils is now the Sussex and Surrey Association of Local Councils and is a Limited Company.

The meeting was then suspended.

22 Report from PCSO Ali Shadbolt

PCSO Shadbolt sent a written report in which she said that;

Speedwatch is working well, school parking remains a problem and the police received three calls about children playing ball in Castle Bolton and at The Crossways.

23 Reports from County/District Councillors

D Cllr L Clark sent a written report which was made available at this meeting. In her report she said;

Since May 2011 things have been hectic for Wealden. Officers are now settled into the new offices at Hailsham, and it remains to be decided as to what to do with the Crowborough building.

There has been a lot of focus on Ashdown Forest and the 7km exclusion Zone and many areas in the District are taking on extra housing.

The Joint Waste Contract is underway.

Wealden has new a Committee Structure. D Cllr B Tooley is now on the Internal and Audit Scrutiny and Licensing Committee, D Cllr Deer is on the Licensing Committee and is Deputy Chairman of Planning, D Cllr Clark is on the Overview and Scrutiny and is also Chairman of the Standards Committee.

A full copy of D Cllr Clerk's report is available upon request from the Clerk.

D Cllr Deer said that if anyone had any questions please feel free to contact her.

24 Questions from Members of the Public

Mr McMillan from Foxes Hollow Residents' Association asked the Parish Council to clarify its position on communication with the Residents' Association. The Chairman said that the Parish Council is always willing to talk to the Association but is not currently in a position to say anything about the legal matter relating to funds in the past.

The meeting was re-opened.

25 Emergency Plan - update

Cllr Nash reported that he has now called off the 'Be Aware' weather warning status. There is no need at this stage for any further action. There have been no emergencies in the area to date.

Updates to the Emergency Plan will be made in due course.

26 Ketcham Corner Money

All decisions regarding the new Adult Exercise Equipment have been suspended. The equipment has been closed off pending safety checks after an incident at the weekend.

27 Registration of Westham Pond

Cllr Marshall is to bring the paperwork to register the pond to a Full Council Meeting. He asked the Parish Council to consider turfing the new works when funds allow.

Following a report from a member of the public, an outbreak of Japanese Knotweed has been treated by contractors.

28 Annual Financial Accounts 31st March 2013

Councillors **resolved** that they approved the accounts and annual governance statement for the financial year to 31st March 2013.

29 Requests from Red Dyke Residents' Association

Following requests from Red Dyke Residents' Association;

- Councillors **resolved** that the Residents' Association can site a notice board by the Adur Park Sign in Adur Park at the Tillingham Way end. The Association will be responsible for paying for, maintaining and insuring the notice board.
- Councillors Sutherland and Marshall are to meet representatives from the Association to establish where they would like the Medina Road grit bin moved to.
- Councillors rejected the request to site planters on the hard standing area in Tillingham Way on the grounds that the supplying and future maintenance of the planters is too expensive in the current financial climate.

30 Allotments

Councillors considered a request from allotment holders to replace the gate to the allotments. The original was stolen.

Councillors **resolved** not to replace the gate as they felt they could not justify the cost in the current financial climate.

31 Hamble Road Playpark

Following a request from a resident, Councillors considered providing additional seating at the playpark in Hamble Road.

Councillors **resolved** not to provide additional seating as they felt the existing seating arrangements are adequate.

32 First Responders

The First Responders are planning to set up a new Responder in Westham and asked the Parish Council if they will contribute towards the cost.

Councillors **resolved**, by ten votes to two, to contribute £1000.

33 Questions from Members

Councillor Smith asked members to attend the exhibition at the Red Lion on 23rd May between 3pm and 6pm. The exhibition outlines proposals for a new development north of Rattle Road. There will also be a Strategic Sites and Community Infrastructure Levy Exhibition in Stone Cross School on Monday 3rd June from 10am to 1pm. All are welcome to attend both exhibitions.

Councillor Smith also asked for the frontage of Parish Council land at Tillingham Way, Beaulieu Drive and Wellsbourne Road to be tidied.

Councillor Comerford asked if members are aware that there is a shortage of women GP's locally. The Medical Centre is about to install a new self check in system.

34 Planning Applications

The following applications were considered;

WD2013/0922F - Glyndley Garden Centre – Enclosure of front porch to form draught lobby, enclosure of rear canopy to form cold house extension to side to form additional kitchen/café space and extension to rear plant protection canopies – **Westham Parish Council has no objections to this application.**

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 8:10pm.