

## WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

### DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

15<sup>th</sup> July 2013

held at The Amenity Hall, Stone Cross

119 Present

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

County Councillor M Pursglove, District Councillor L Clark and 9 members of the public were in attendance, including G Garner.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, including the new Councillor who subsequently officially signed in.

120 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs T Bruce and C Smith.

121 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 17th June 2013 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

122 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that;

- Wealden District Council is holding a consultation on its proposal to introduce Dog Control Orders.
- She has been approached by Shinewater Shaftesbury Centre. The Group is a registered charity which has existed since 1992 and offers free counselling in areas such as benefit issues, family issues and community issues. The Charity would like to use the Amenity Hall one morning a week during term time. Councillors agreed subject to agreement with the school they can but should be asked to pay a nominal rent of £12 a year.

123 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.

124 Reports on Committee Meetings held

Cllr Comerford	Finance and General Purposes	8 July 2013
Cllr Marshall	Parks and Open Spaces	8 July 2013
Cllr Blaker	Planning	8 July 2013

125 Reports on Sub-Committee Meetings held.

The Emergency Plan Sub-Committee is still going strong, Councillor Nash thanked everyone for all their hard work.

126 Reports from Outside Meetings

Cllr Molog attended;

- the Joint Action Group Meeting (JAG) in July with Cllr Sutherland. There has been a marked increase in thefts from outside buildings and it was noted that Sussex Police offer sessions to mark residents' property (Operation Creosote). It was also noted that the exercise to relocate police stations is working well.
- the Pevensey Town Trust Meeting with Cllr Parsons where it was noted that not all car park users are paying to use the car park.

Cllr Nash attended the Westham and Pevensey Transport Partnership Annual General Meeting. The Partnership has been operating for five years but needs more passengers. A new Company Secretary is being trained up to replace Mrs Richards.

Cllr Marshall represented the Parish Council at the Veteran's Day Commemoration in Hailsham.

The meeting was then suspended.

127 Report from PCSO Ali Shadbolt

PCSO Shadbolt was unable to attend on this occasion but sent a written report in which she said;

- the new Police Constable is PC Justin Dighton.
- Pevensey Bay has had a significant number of break ins to outside buildings. Residents here are asked to be vigilant.
- a caravan has been broken into in this parish.
- Dallaway Woods has been included in Operation Blitz following problems with youths there.

The priorities of the police are currently:

- School Parking
- Operation Creosote
- Speeding

128 Introduction of new First Responder in Westham

Cllr Saxby welcomed the First Responders to the meeting and presented them with a cheque from the Parish Council for £1000. The money is to go towards the setting up costs of the new First Responder.

Matthew Briggs from the First Responders introduced the new Responder for Westham, Andy Jackson. There are now four First Responders in this Parish.

Mr Johnson said the team has an initiative to make it easier for everyone to learn life saving skills. They offer a three hour training session to anyone who is interested.

The First Responders thanked Westham Parish Council for its continued support and then two of their members left the meeting.

129 Reports from County/District Councillors

D Cllr Clark reported that;

- Wealden District Council has set up Cabinet Advisory Groups. Each portfolio holder has one. and D Cllr Clark is on the Community Leader and Engagement Community and Advisory Group. Each group scrutinises Wealden's decisions and has some input into those decisions.
- she attended a meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner and will forward the notes to the clerk.
- D Cllr D Dear will keep an eye on future housing developments in the parish. Parish Councillors are particularly concerned about the lack of communication regarding leisure facilities.

C Cllr Pursglove apologised for not attending the last two meetings and said;

- he is on the Scrutiny Committee at ESCC and had some input into getting the road at Hankham repaired. He will also make sure that the layout at the crossroads in Stone Cross is taken into account as the extra housing will mean an increase in traffic flow.
- he is to apply to become a governor at Pevensey and Westham School.
- the new Hastings/Bexhill Link Road is likely to cost an additional £13m which could mean the end for Wind Turbines here.

130 Question from Members of the Public

Mr Gay from Red Dyke Residents' Association asked if the road markings outside Stone Cross School can be repainted.

Mr MacMillan from Foxes Hollow Residents' Association apologised for any misunderstanding over the planters. The Association had planned to thank Cllr Bruce and does not want to appear ungrateful. He was also worried the Association may seem greedy and said the Association does carry out and pay for a lot of additional work on its estate.

The meeting was re-opened.

131 Emergency Plan - update

Cllr Nash plans to bring the updated Emergency Plan to the next meeting.

The Emergency Radio link is likely to be withdrawn by the District Council due to lack of use.

132 Adult Exercise Equipment

The rowing machine in the adult exercise equipment has been closed off following an incident, safety checks have been carried out and a report is still due from the Health and Safety Executive.

The Health and Safety Executive has apologised for the delay in sending out the report. Investigations are ongoing and they recommend the Parish Council carries out an independent Risk Assessment and leaves the rower closed off in the meantime.

133 Requests from Red Dyke Residents' Association – to move the Medina Road Grit Bin.

Councillors Sutherland and Marshall met Mr Gay from Red Dyke Residents' Association to see where the Association would like the Medina Road grit bin moved to.

After careful consideration all three agreed the grit bin is in the best position and should stay there.

134 Tillingham Way – extra works

Works have been carried out to the rear of a property in Tillingham Way to cut overhanging branches from Parish Council land. The resident there is worried about possible root damage to her property and asks that the roots are cut back. The Parish Council's Tree Surgeon advises against this unless the trees are actually damaging her property.

Councillors **resolved** that the clerk contacts the Parish Council's insurers to see what they advise and that she gets a price from the Tree Surgeon to dig a trench and install a root barrier in the meantime. The Chairmen of the Committees, the Vice Chairman and the Chairman of the Parish Council will meet and decide what action is to be taken from there.

135 Committee and Sub-Committee's Terms of Reference

Councillors **resolved** that the existing terms of reference remain in place and will be reviewed when the committees are reviewed in September.

Cllr Saxby suggested the number of committees could be reduced to two to increase efficiency and asked councillors to consider how this might work.

136 Foxes Hollow – Collapsed Drain

Wealden District Council, as the land drainage authority, was asked to investigate an area of subsidence adjacent to the entrance drive to 3 and 4 Geering Road. A CCTV survey of the drains was carried out and found the stream had collapsed upstream of the headwall.

Westham Parish Council **resolved** that the clerk asks Wealden District Council the following;

- i: the construction type, pipe diameter and sections lengths if possible.
- ii: if the drains are collapsed or blocked and if the drains are blocked whether they can proffer any causes.
- iii: for a plan of the entire run of the culvert to determine if it runs over parish land and debris can enter from higher up the channel.
- iv: which authorities have jurisdictions and liabilities regarding this culvert.

137 Paths on Foxes Hollow

Foxes Hollow Residents' Association is asking the Parish Council to update three paths on the estate. Whilst it accepts it is not practical to update two of them, it would like the path from Boniface Close to Beechfield Close joined.

Councillors resolved to seek advice from contactors and the clerk will bring prices to the next meeting.

138 Questions from Members

Cllr Parsons reported subsidence on the Rickney Road between the petrol station at Pevensey Bay and Chillely Farm. The clerk will contact ESCC and copy in Pevensey Parish Council as it is believed to be part of their parish.

Cllr Molog encouraged members to look at the police's definition of anti-social behaviour which she had circulated before the meeting.

Cllr Sutherland asked for councillor's views on the recent report of anti-social behaviour at the Community Shelter. Councillors agreed that the Shelter is well used but they will continue to monitor activities there.

139 Planning Applications

The following applications were considered;

WD2013/1295F – 13 High Street, Westham – to erect a new garden wall in order to extend the area of the rear garden – **Westham Parish Council has no objections to this application as long as this application is within the title deeds.**

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 8:40pm.

