

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

16th September 2013

held at The Amenity Hall, Stone Cross

165 Present

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

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

166 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs R Perrin and T Comerford.

167 Disclosures of Interests

Councillor B Garner declared a personal interest in the item for the co-option of a new councillor as she is married to one of the applicants, Gerry Garner.

Councillor B Garner did not take part in discussions concerning this item and withdrew from the room whilst voting took place.

168 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

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

169 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that;

- Wealden District Council is holding £157,073.10 for play spaces which the Parish Council can draw down once the Parish Council has worked up an idea of its plans.
- the Parish Council's financial accounts have passed both this year's Internal and External Audits.
- Planning Potential Ltd has written to councillors expressing its disappointment at the Parish Council's comments for the new proposed new development at The Wells, Rattle Road.

170 Co-option of New Councillor

Councillors considered two applications and voted in favour of Mr Garner, who will officially sign in at the next meeting. Members congratulated Mr Garner, thanked Mrs Perryman and invited her to apply again in the future.

171 Reports on Committee Meetings held

Cllr Marshall	Parks and Open Spaces	9 September 2013
Cllr Blaker	Planning	9 September 2013
Cllr Molog	Finance and General Purposes	9 September 2013

172 Reports on Sub-Committee Meetings held.

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

173 Reports from Outside Meetings

Councillor Nash attended the latest Westham and Pevensey Transport Partnership meeting. The Company Secretary and Treasurer have both now resigned and falling passenger numbers means the Directors, Trustees and Committee Members feel the Partnership is unable to continue. However, conscious of the impact the loss of the service will have upon the local community, the Partnership has entered into talks with the Cuckmere Community Bus and the service will continue.

Councillors Molog and Sutherland attended the recent Wealden Safer Partnership Joint Action Group Meeting where it was reported there are a lot of scams operating locally.

Councillor Molog met the new Chief Inspector, Gary Pike and along with Councillors Stevens, Comerford and the Clerk also attended the Parish Conference where she noted;

- Residents have experienced problems with the new refuse collection and as a result financial penalties are being imposed on the contractors.
- Highways are resealing roads using the best and cheapest materials available and are working with Utility Companies to minimise delays to drivers whilst work is carried out.
- Parish Precepts are likely to be reduced for 2014-2015.

The meeting was then suspended.

174 Report from PCSO Ali Shadbolt

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

- that whilst her priorities remain the same the new officer may have different ones.
- Operation Creosote is still being offered to residents. This is an opportunity for the police to visit residents and mark their garden equipment.

Councillors asked the Clerk to write to PCSO Shadbolt and thank her for everything she has done for this Parish and say how much she will be missed.

175 Reports from County/District Councillors

There were no reports from District Councillors on this occasion.

County Councillor Pursglove reported that;

- he attended a transport meeting at ESCC at which representatives from the Department of Transport, the Rail Regulators and Network Rail were present. He proposed that a rail link is built across the Hastings and Polegate lines and that this could save journey time from Hastings to Victoria by approximately twenty minutes.
- he will take up residents' concerns about the switching off of the streetlights overnight with ESCC.

176 Question from Members of the Public

Mr MacMillan from Foxes Hollow Residents' Association said the hedge cutting looks good at Foxes Hollow and asked when the paths are to be cleared of ingress. He also asked that 'Planting in Geering Road' is an item for the next Parks and Open Spaces Committee Meeting Agenda.

Mrs Clark from Rattle Road asked if residents will have an opportunity to talk to Highways directly about The Wells planning application and if the Parish Council received a copy of the letter she sent to Wealden. ESCC are consulted as part of the planning application process. The Parish Council has yet to receive Mrs Clark's letter.

Mrs Wheatley noted the Wish List and asked if the Parish Council has a more formal, Five Year Plan. It does. She also asked if the new developments will increase the precept. The Parish Council understands the new developments will be managed by Management Companies and should therefore not impact on the precept.

Mr Howells asked who is responsible for maintaining the hedge and trees at Mill View.

177 Westham Signal Box

Mr Jim Barnes, a local architect and conservationist, asked if the Parish Council will support his plans to form a Trust to take over the soon to be redundant signal box at Westham. Councillors agreed in principle to support the Trust.

The meeting was re-opened.

178 Emergency Plan - update

Councillor Nash asked for updates for the Emergency Plan and asked the Parish Council to consider uses for redundant telephone boxes.

178 Adult Exercise Equipment

The Health and Safety Executive has referred the rower to Trading Standards. Constant vandalism of the fencing has led to the rower being temporarily removed until the report from Trading Standards has been received.

Councillors asked for a sign to be fitted by the equipment asking residents to comply with the age restriction noted on each piece of equipment.

179 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.

The resident now requests that the Parish Council pays for a Structural Engineer to survey her property. She has been referred to her Insurance Company.

180 Review of the Parish Council's Committees

Councillors Saxby asked if Councillors would consider changing the structure of the Parish Council's Committees. He said this will allow committees to develop specialisms and increase their effectiveness. The number of members on each committee also needs to be reduced.

Councillor Molog suggested reducing the membership of each Committee to seven but suggested changing the structure in 2015 when she said there will be massive financial changes.

Councillor Saxby proposed that the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Parks and Open Spaces Committee remain but that planning applications are referred to Full Council. Any planning applications that fall outside of Wealden's consultation period would be delegated to the Clerk, the current Chairman of Planning John Blaker and Councillor Molog who could hold meetings as and when required.

Councillor Sutherland asked and members agreed that the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Parks and Open Spaces Committee still meet on the second Monday of each month.

The Risk Assessment will now be an item for the Finance and General Purposes Committee, the Wish List will now be a Full Council item.

Councillors **resolved** to accept Councillor Saxby's proposal and agreed to finalise membership at the next meeting of the two committees.

181 Foxes Hollow – Collapsed Drain

Councillors considered two prices from contractors to repair the collapsed drain at Foxes Hollow and **resolved** to accept the price from Contractor A for £1480.00 plus VAT.

It was noted that the true extent of the damage will not be known until the ground is opened up.

182 Paths on Foxes Hollow

Councillors considered two prices and deferred making a decision until they have been to see the area concerned.

This will be an item for the next Full Council Meeting.

183 Castle Bolton – to consider extending the fencing on the open space

Councillors considered extending the fencing and deferred making a decision until they have contacted Councillor Comerford and have been to see the area concerned.

184 Questions from Members

Councillor Marshall asked for an update about clearing the reeds in Westham Pond. Chaffins are reported to be seeking specialist advice. He also asked if the Parish Council still needs the parish sign at Westham

Councillor Bruce asked the Parish Council to consider repairing the fingerpost sign at Ketcham Corner.

Councillor Blaker reported that the stub by the adult exercise area in Adur Park still needs removing and that a manhole has been dug up and built up in the Park. He also asked if this Parish Council can work with Pevensey Parish Council to look at future traffic flow through the two villages. Councillors agreed this was a good idea.

185 Planning Applications

The following applications were considered;

WD2013/1822F – 61 Springfield Close, Westham – pitched roofs over extensions to replace flat roof areas and associated alterations – **Westham Parish Council has no objections to this application on any planning grounds.**

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 9:00pm.