

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

15th June 2015

held at The Amenity Hall, Stone Cross

62 Present

Councillors K Stevens, T Bruce, G Parsons, G Garner, T Comerford, N Beaney, R Perrin and J McClarty.

District Councillor K Balsdon and six members of the public were in attendance.

63 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Garner, F Durling, A Lovell, P Marshall and J Blaker and were accepted by those present.

Apologies were also received from District Councillor Clark, District Councillor D Dear, County Councillor M Pursglove and PCSO W Wyatt.

64 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Annual General and the Full Council Meetings held on 18th May 2015 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

65 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that the car park barrier has been hit again and contractors are repairing it.

She also reported instances where the District Council is starting to delegate work to Parish Clerks and without prior consultation. This together with the additional workload from the effects of Localism is putting pressure on Clerks. Councillor Stevens said the Wealden District Association has taken this up with the District Council. The Clerk will monitor the situation for now.

66 Disclosures of Interests

No disclosures of interests were declared on any items on the agenda, not were there any changes to the Register of Interests.

67 Reports on Committee Meetings held

The Minutes of the Parks and Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on 8th June 2015 were received and adopted by the Parish Council.

The Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 8th June 2015 were received and adopted by the Parish Council.

68 Reports from Outside Meetings

Councillor Parsons attended the latest Local Action Team Meeting. The police have to find budget cuts of £50m over the next five years and as a result the number of PCSOs is to be reduced. She told the meeting that parking is a problem in Westham and suggested two councillors could walk the area in yellow jackets and this might help.

Councillor Stevens met the Chief Constable and confirmed the number of PCSOs is to be reduced unless alternative funding can be found. Seventeen District Councils in the UK have not decriminalised parking. Wealden is one of them because it says it will affect free parking. County Councillor Balsdon said if parking was decriminalised here Wealden would have to employ a collector and charge for permits and this would contradict Wealden's policy of not creating revenue from parking.

Councillor Stevens attended the Planning Panel Meeting held on the 15th June. There is sewage capacity at Southern Water for only sixty more dwellings in North Wealden. The Strategic Sites Local Plan has been thrown out by Wealden following the latest Inspector's recommendations for more housing and it is reverting back to using the Core Strategy.

Councillor Parsons told those present they can report potholes on 'Fix My Street' on the ESCC website.

Councillor G Garner said there have been two Street Meetings since the last Full Council Meeting. One at Castle Bolton and one at Coniston Close. No problems were reported at either.

The meeting was then suspended.

69 Report from PCSO Wendy Wyatt

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

- She has been made aware of young people in Pickens Wood possibly drug taking and has found several little bags that would indicate this is true. She has given verbal words of advice for the young people there not to return to their den if they are involved with such behaviour and told them to take their rubbish home.
- She has been told of large amounts of litter left around specific vehicles in the back car park at The Crossways but this isn't a police issue. There is however an ongoing issue of a vehicle with a very noisy exhaust. The police do not have the equipment to test exhausts to see if they are illegal but she has asked each person who is upset by the noise to report it to Operation Crackdown. She has also visited the family and suggested that the vehicle is not 'thrashed' when its in a public place and seemed to have improved the situation for the short term but it is now causing issues again so she is visiting the family home to give an anti-social behaviour warning.

- Parking is still an ongoing issue. She has spoken to drivers of vehicles parked on the footpath in Rattle Road and advised them that there needs to be room for a mobility scooter/pushchairs to be able to get past. The majority were compliant, but all complain about no-where to park as most homes have more than one vehicle.
- School parking is an ongoing issue and she is making it her mission to get there as much as possible. She has also received information in regards to motor bikes/scooters riding over the pedestrianised area in Arun Way. Young children play here and at one time a scooter came 'flying through' and did not see the child. She visited the riders of the bikes and spoke to their parents.

Forthcoming Street Meetings have been arranged for;

Monday 22nd June at 10am at Foords Lane, Hankham

Tuesday 23rd June at 10am at Lion Hill in Stone Cross.

70 Reports from County/District Councillors

County Councillor Pursglove sent his apologies but said he has very little to report as the Council is working on its Highways Contract for next year.

District Councillor Balsdon had previously distributed his report in which he updated members on the Core Strategy, the Community Infrastructure Levy, the changes to rubbish collection, the Joint Waste Committee, Community Safety, Road Safety, the Prevent Agenda and Paws On Watch.

A full copy of his report is available from the Parish Clerk.

71 Questions from Members of the Public

Mr McMillan from Foxes Hollow Residents' Association asked when the dog bin is fitted on the estate. The Clerk has asked the contractors to contact Mr McMillan to agree a mutually acceptable site and she will now give the Contractors details to Mr McMillan to call them.

The meeting was re-opened.

72 Stone Cross Royals

The Club was understood to have wanted changes made to Adur Park before it will allow the children to play there. The Parish Council is still waiting to receive these details.

This item will be removed from future agendas until she has heard from the Club.

73 Fingerpost Signs

This was deferred until the July meeting as the Parish Council is waiting for a second price to repair the signs.

- 74 Westham – to agree whether or not to provide hanging baskets in the village and/or change the planter on the green.

After much discussion, and having considered other options, Councillors **resolved** to keep the existing planters and not change their shape.

Councillors also **resolved** that Councillor McClarty can get details of hanging baskets and bring them to the next meeting.

- 75 Parking in Westham – to consider ways to alleviate parking problems in the village at school times.

Councillor McClarty said he has written to the Chief Constable, as a resident, and offered ideas on how to deal with parking problems in the parish. Councillors agreed although parking is a problem, resolving it could mean there will be in problems with speeding in the village.

Members also agreed that parking continues to a problem at school times in Westham. Parents and guardians are invited to park in the Pevensey Town Trust car park but few do despite regular notices in the school newsletter.

- 76 Peelings Lane;

- i: to consider designating Peelings Lane a 'Quiet Lane' (Quiet Lanes and Home Zones (England) Regulations 2006).

Councillor McClarty suggested Peelings Lane could be designated as a 'Quiet Lane' which would mean Peelings Lane would be safer for walkers, horse riders and cyclists. Signs would be erected at each end of the lane with a 'Quiet Lane' symbol and a 20mph speed limit.

Councillor Stevens proposed and Councillor McClarty seconded that the Parish Council finds out from the County Council what would be involved and how much it would cost. The proposal was voted against and part of the reasoning was that a 20mph limit would be un-enforceable.

- ii: to consider closing the Lane.

Councillor McClarty asked Councillors to consider closing Peelings Lane at Foxes Hollow using either a gate or a barrier. He said there is no need for access from the Lane to Foxes Hollow by anyone.

Councillor McClarty proposed and Councillor Beaney seconded that the Parish Council finds out what would be involved. Six Parish Councillors were in favour.

77 Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered;

WD2015/0965/O – Merrilees, Dittons Road – Demolition of existing single dwelling to be replaced by two detached dwellings – Westham Parish Council objects to this application because it replaces one dwelling for two and there is no sewage capacity for more dwellings.

WD2015/1048F – 25 Lavant Road, Stone Cross – Single storey rear extension – Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

WD2015/0762F – 65 Rattle Road, Westham – Single storey rear flat roof extension (partly replaces existing rear extension) – Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

WD2015/0822F – 4 Peelings Cottages, Milton Street – Installation of a sand school 20m x 20m to an existing equine property (amended and additional plans showing repositioning of sand school within field) – Westham Parish Council has no objections to this application on any planning grounds.

78 Questions from Members

Councillor Bruce reported that the speed sign outside Foxes Hollow is unreadable because the vegetation needs cutting back and a tree on Standard Hill opposite Mill View Close is dead. Councillor G Garner will look at both with Councillor B Garner and report back to the Clerk.

Councillor McClarty reported land encroachment in Peelings Lane on Highway's verges and asked the Parish Council to consider adopting the verges. He would then arrange volunteers to manage the land.

This is to be an item on the next Full Council Meeting agenda. In the meantime the Clerk will notify ESCC Highways of the problem and find out what would be involved.

Councillor Parsons asked that Councillors review the 'Wish List' at the next Full Council Meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 9.00pm.