

## **WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

### **DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF**

19<sup>th</sup> October 2015

held at The Amenity Hall, Stone Cross

147 Present

Councillors K Stevens, T Bruce, G Garner, T Comerford, N Beaney, F Durling, A Lovell, P Marshall, J McClarty, K Saxby and G Parsons.

County Councillor M Pursglove, A Stevens (Clerk) and three members of the public were also in attendance.

148 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Blaker and R Perrin were accepted by those present.

Apologies were also received from District Councillors L Clark and K Balsdon, and PCSO W Wyatt.

149 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Full Council Meetings held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2015 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

150 Clerk's Report

All matters' arising were covered elsewhere on the agenda.

151 Disclosures of Interests

Councillor Marshall declared a pecuniary interest in the forthcoming Bellway Homes application. There were no changes to the Register of Interests reported.

The meeting was then suspended.

152 Speaker Julian Goodban from Bellway Homes

Mr Goodban and two colleagues from Bellway Homes described their plans for their Reserved Matters Application for the former Rydon's Development in Rattle Road.

They have reviewed Rydon Home's plans and plan to make the development less urban and more rural by making the following changes;

- there will be no flats over garages.
- there will be fewer parking courts.
- they will break up the run of housing and flats.
- they will have smaller runs of terraces and garages.

- they will change the mix of housing and reduce the number of flats.
- there will be more gardens and more on plot parking.

In answer to Councillors questions, Mr Goodban confirmed;

- Bellway Homes has met Wealden District Council on two occasions to discuss the changes.
- most houses will have two car parking spaces.
- the Community Centre, if wanted, will be offered to the Parish Council first but the Section 106 can be changed to offer another facility.
- ESCC Highways is one of the consultees on this application. They will assess the impact on the existing roads.
- the site will contain a pond and crates under the road surface to absorb surface water. Bellway Homes will provide funds to Southern Water to develop the sewage pipes. Engineers are also looking at permeable paving.

Bellway Homes also invited councillors to think about the materials and design of the houses and email any other questions they might have to the Clerk who, in turn, will send them on to Bellway Homes.

The Chairman thanked Mr Goodban and his colleagues for coming and they then left the meeting.

153 Report from PCSO Wendy Wyatt

PCSO Wyatt was unable to attend on this occasion.

154 Reports from County/District Councillors

There were no reports for District Councillors on this occasion.

County Councillor Pursglove reported the following;

- the church footpath has now been renewed.
- flooding in Rattle Road remains a problem and he feels it is because all the water feeds into a sump and the sump is unable to cope.
- the streetlights in the Mills Estate are to be converted to LED lighting. He was also looking at the timing some of the lights are on but will check which belong to the Parish Council first.
- on the instructions of the Government, the Environment Agency is hoping to discharge responsibility for some waterways onto Local Authorities.

155 Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from the public on this occasion.

The meeting was then re-opened.

156 Reports on Committee Meetings held

Councillors **resolved** to adopt the minutes of the Parks and Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

157 Reports from Outside Meetings

Councillors Comerford and Saxby attended the latest Patients' Panel meeting at the Stone Cross Medical Centre. The Centre has now closed its list and is not taking any new patients on.

Councillor G Garner said there has been one Street Meeting since the last Full Council Meeting but the time was adjusted by the PCSO and he was not notified.

158 Local Plan Issues, Options and Recommendations

The first phase of Issues and Options for the new Wealden Local Plan, which deals with housing need is now out for consultation. Under this new plan Wealden's Housing Need is just under 20,000 dwellings by 2037. The housing numbers are being imposed by Central Government and without a Plan Wealden says the development will go ahead anyway but without an adequate infrastructure. Parish Councils are therefore being advised to work with District Councils to make sure this does not happen. The plan is backdated to 2013 and will include units already granted permission since April 2013.

In the case of the parish of Westham the new plan requires the construction of 860 dwellings (500 in Stone Cross, 350 in Westham and 10 in Hankham) between now and 2037, of which 44 have already been granted permission at Stone Cross Nursery.

After much discussion Councillors agreed to read through the Issues, Options and Recommendations documents and bring any comments and questions to the next Full Council Meeting in order to put together an official comment from the Parish Council. Councillors also agreed to invite Ann Newton, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Development to the next Full Council Meeting to answer any questions.

159 Boundary Commission

The Boundary Commission is inviting Town and Parish Councils to formulate a formal response to the electoral review of East Sussex County Council and the five District Councils.

Westham Parish Council considered the review and **resolved** to recommend this ward boundary is reviewed and the number of District Councillors is reduced from three to two, one for the Parish of Westham and one for the Parish of Pevensey.

160 Community Wardens

Sussex Police has to reduce its budget by a further £59m over four years from 2016 and, as a result, policing in Sussex will have to change. As 80% of the budget is currently spent on staffing, there will be reductions but it is hoped to make them through natural wastage and retirement. The role of the PCSO will change, they will now work in a problem solving way and their numbers will be reduced. Sussex Police is therefore asking Parish and Town Councils to consider employing Community Wardens if they would like a uniformed presence in their communities.

Community Wardens will cost parishes and towns approximately £28,000, not including any transport costs and part funding for the first two years may be available from the Police and Crime Commissioner. Community Wardens will have no powers of arrest but they can issue fixed penalty notices for problems such as dog fouling, fly posting, littering etc. They will not have the powers to deal with speeding or parking.

Westham Parish Council **resolved** not to employ a Community Warden either wholly or partly with other parishes because Councillors agreed the main issues in this parish are speeding and parking. Councillors would prefer to keep the PCSO.

161 Appointment of Tree Warden

Councillors **resolved** that Councillor Parsons carries out the role of Tree Warden on a permanent basis having carried out the role as Acting Tree Warden since July 2015.

162 Replacement rubbish bin at Adur Park

Councillors **resolved** to replace the rubbish bin removed by Wealden District Council at the Tillingham Way entrance to Adur Park with the one on the corner of Lion Hill and Adur Drive and asked the Clerk to ask Wealden to meet the costs of the move. The Parish Council will then pay for the bin to be emptied on a regular basis.

163 Annual Play Park Inspections – Cherwell Close, Hamble Road and Castle Bolton

Councillors read and accepted the Annual Inspection Reports from Zurich Insurance and agreed no further action is required.

164 Peelings Lane

Councillor McClarty asked Councillors to consider taking control of the verges in Peelings Lane. He said the land currently belongs to ESCC, residents are claiming them through adverse possession and the area will be a shambles unless something is done. He said the Westham Conservation Group will carry out the maintenance and has already drafted a maintenance plan.

The Clerk contacted Highways to look into this and said Highways has said it has either issued licences or is in the process of issuing licences to all the areas

highlighted to them by Councillor McClarty. The Clerk asked Councillor McClarty if he wants the Parish Council to consider taking over the rest of the verges. Councillors **resolved** by nine votes to two not to take control or ownership of the verges in Peelings Lane.

Councillors were reminded that all communication made as Parish Councillors must be sent through the Parish Clerk.

#### 165 Memorial for Bev Garner

Councillors agreed to consider providing a tree in memorial to the late Councillor, Mrs Bev Garner and that Councillors Parsons and Gerry Garner can bring details of price and possible locations to the next Full Council Meeting.

#### 166 Adoption of Procedures

The Filming of Meetings Procedure was approved and adopted by Westham Parish Council.

#### 167 Foxes Hollow Entrance Wall

Councillor Garner has inspected the wall as part of his Annual Risk Assessment Review and has checked the wall for possible movement. In doing so he noticed a crack under the map.

Councillors **resolved** that the Clerk asks contractors for a price to put resin in the crack and stitch it and bring the price to the next Full Council Meeting.

#### 168 Biodiversity Policy

Councillor Durling asked members to consider drawing up a Biodiversity Policy for Westham Parish Council and suggested setting up a Working Party, consisting of Parish Councillors and residents with expertise in the subject, to do so.

Councillors asked for more information about biodiversity and asked Councillor Durling to draft a template of a Policy for the next meeting. They would also like to know what the policy would be used for.

#### 169 Questions from Parish Councillors

Councillor Saxby reported;

- two broken street signs, one at Hankham Hall Road and one at Hankham Street. The Clerk will report these to Wealden District Council.
- he has received complaints about the brightness and timing of the new lighting at Hankham School. The Clerk will write and ask the school to alter both the timing and brightness of the lights.
- the marking on the road outside the school in Hankham need repainting. The Clerk will ask Highways.

Councillor Comerford reported a broken noticeboard at Castle Bolton playpark. Instructions have been given to contractors to repair it.

Councillor Beaney reported the twitten by the Alms Houses is overgrown again. The Clerk will report this to ESCC. He also said the bench on the corner of Pevensey Park Road still needs repairing. The Clerk will chase the contractors up about this too.

Councillor Parsons asked the Clerk to chase the County Council up because the roadside hedging between Stone Cross and Westham still needs cutting back.

Councillor Bruce asked for the entrance to the Amenity Hall to be better lit at night and said that some of the yellow warning signs at Peelings Lane have already been removed.

Councillor McClarty said the Westham Conservation Group is in the process of asking businesses to contribute towards the cost of having hanging baskets in Westham High Street and he will let the Clerk know when he wants this item back on the agenda. He also asked if the Clubs and Associations page on the website can include a piece about the Group. He agreed to draft something and the Clerk said she will arrange for it to be put on there.

#### 170 Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered;

WD2015/2126LBR – Corner Cottage, Foords Lane, Hankham – Works to bedroom 2 including removal of inset desk and replacement with stud wall, and removal of built in cupboards – Westham Parish Council has no objections to this application provided the work is approved by the Listed Buildings Authority.

WD2015/2127LBR – Corner Cottage, Foords Lane, Hankham – Retrospective application for works to return kitchen/dining area back to use, includes removal of breeze block wall and ceiling above kitchen, repair to roof structure and proposed new kitchen installation and parquet floor repair - Westham Parish Council has no objections to this application provided the work is approved by the Listed Buildings Authority.

WD2015/2128LBR – Corner Cottage, Foords Lane, Hankham – Retrospective application for replacement of window boards - Westham Parish Council has no objections to this application provided the work is approved by the Listed Buildings Authority.

WD2015/2129LBR – Corner Cottage, Foords Lane, Hankham – Retrospective application for installation of wood burning stove - Westham Parish Council has no objections to this application provided the work is approved by Listed Buildings Authority.

WD2015/2214F – 2 St John's Drive – Single storey extension on front elevation of property – Westham Parish Council has no objections to this application on any planning grounds.

WD2015/2244F – 3 Rattle Road, Westham – Erect conservatory at side and rear - Westham Parish Council has no objections to this application on any planning grounds.

It was also noted that application WD2015/1750MRM (The Wells development) is being considered by Members of the Planning Committee South on 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Councillors agreed they had nothing new to add to their original comments.

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 9.30pm.