

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

20th July 2015

held at The Amenity Hall, Stone Cross

A minute's silence was observed in memory of Councillor Bev Garner.

95 Present

Councillors K Stevens, T Bruce, G Parsons, G Garner, T Comerford, N Beaney, F Durling, A Lovell and J Blaker.

County Councillor M Pursglove, District Councillor K Balsdon and seventeen members of the public were in attendance.

96 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Marshall, R Perrin and J McClarty and were accepted by those present. Apologies were also received from District Councillor Clark.

97 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.

98 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported the September Full Council Meeting will now be on 14th September and the September Committee Meetings will be on the 21st to enable the Parish Council to meet the consultation deadline for the planning application for the Wells Development.

The Parish Council had received calls from residents who were worried because the swans had disappeared from Westham pond. The swans have now returned.

99 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.

100 Reports on Committee Meetings held

The Minutes of the Parks and Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on 13th July 2015 were received and adopted by the Parish Council.

The Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 13th July 2015 were received and adopted by the Parish Council.

Councillors ratified both committee's decisions to allow the Pevensey Village Partnership to use canon green for the scarecrow competition. ESCC and the Parish Council's insurers have both given their permission.

101 Reports from Outside Meetings

Councillor G Garner said there have been two Street Meetings since the last Full Council Meeting, one at Orwell Close and one at Eden Close. One resident in Eden Close complained about a neighbour's dog.

Councillor Stevens and the Clerk attended a meeting at the offices of Wealden District Council to look at the developer's plans for The Wells Development. The latest plans include allotments, an emergency vehicle access into Peelings Lane and pathway access onto Foxes Hollow. An exhibition followed at the Red Lion in Stone Cross. The plans are expected to be passed onto the Parish Council for its comments in September.

The meeting was then suspended.

102 Report from PCSO Wendy Wyatt

PCSO Wyatt was unable to attend on this occasion but has been seen regularly patrolling the villages.

103 Speaker Simon Stanley, Targeted Youth Support Worker at ESCC

The County Council has detached youth workers operating in identified hot spots in the County. It has a mobile provision and would like to use Adur Park to hold sessions there. The sessions cover issues affecting young people.

Westham Parish Council agreed the youth workers can use Adur Park and asked for feedback when they do. The Parish Council will also notify the youth workers of any other areas they feel might benefit from the service.

104 Reports from County/District Councillors

County Councillor Pursglove handed out a written report detailing his work as a County Councillor. He attended various meetings at the County Council including Education, Cabinet and Economy and the Transport and Environment and Scrutiny Panel. Full copies of County Councillor's report are available from the Parish Clerk.

District Councillor Balsdon had nothing new to report on this occasion.

105 Questions from Members of the Public

Mr Daines asked why the Parish Council turned down the request to make Peelings Lane a 'Quiet Lane'. The Parish Council rejected the proposal because the 20mph speed limit will not be enforceable and the County Council will not agree to it.

The Clerk said although the Highways Authority has the power to introduce a Quiet Lane and a number have been introduced around the country the schemes are very expensive to introduce and one in Kent cost in the region of £400,000. In light of the high costs involved and their relative in-effectiveness in achieving the aims of reducing traffic and speed on these types of lanes, ESCC is not considering introducing them within the County.

ESCC will not also support a scheme even where it is wholly funded from an external source such as through a Parish Council as the designation of a Quiet Lane would require extensive input from ESCC and commit it to on-going work in the future. At a time when its resources are so stretched it cannot direct its limited resources to schemes which are unlikely to have the desired impact and will not contribute to the Council's stated aims contained within the Local Transport Plan.

ESCC Mr McMillan offered the Parish Council's the results of a questionnaire with the views of Foxes Hollow residents.

Mr Jones asked if the Parish Council has a biodiversity policy. Members invited him to attend the next Full Council Meeting to give a presentation on biodiversity to councillors.

Mr Walker asked what the speed limit is on Peelings Lane. The lane has a 60mph speed limit.

The meeting was re-opened.

106 Stone Cross Royals

Councillor Stevens and the Clerk met Darren Bland from the Stone Cross Royals. Mr Bland asked the Parish Council to fill in holes in the park, add top soil to the goalmouths, cut the grass to fit in with match games and generally level the pitch areas. Councillors agreed the pitches were fine for previous football clubs but said they are happy for the Royals to carry out these works. Mr Bland said he would go back to his committee and let us know the outcome. The Parish Council has not heard from Mr Bland since the site meeting.

107 Children's Play Area in Westham

Councillor Durling asked Councillors to consider providing a play park for one to six year old children in Westham. Councillors discussed several potential sites which were;

- next to the Village Hall – this land is currently owned by the District Council and is believed to be being taken over by the Village Hall.
- Hobney Rise – previous play equipment was removed following complaints by neighbours and vandalism.
- Butcher's Field – this would require approval by the County Archaeologist.
- Village Green by the canon – this was thought to be too close to the road.

Councillors thought the best site would be the land by the Village Hall and asked the Clerk to find out what's happening about the transfer and report back at the next meeting.

108 Fingerpost Signs

Councillors considered prices from two contractors to repair or replace the fingerpost signs in the parish. 50% funding is currently available from the County Council to repair two signs a year.

Councillors **resolved** to replace the fingerposts at the junction of Glynleigh Road and Hailsham Road and the junction of Hailsham Road and Hankham Road at a cost of £1580.00 plus VAT.

The maintenance of the rest of the fingerposts will be considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

109 Westham – hanging baskets

Councillor Durling will ask Councillor McClarty to bring details of hanging baskets, such as cost and size to the next Full Council meeting.

110 Peelings Lane;

i: to consider introducing traffic calming measures.

Councillor Durling said residents would like to have traffic measures in Peelings Lane.

Councillors voted by seven votes to two against traffic calming measures as there have been no reported injury crashes in the last three year period and ESCC would therefore not support any schemes.

ii: to consider taking over the ownership of the verges.

Councillor Durling asked members to consider taking over ownership of the verges at Peelings Lane following cases of possible land encroachment. The Clerk has notified Highways and its Enforcement Officer is to look into the cases identified and report back to the Clerk. This item has been deferred until the outcome of his report is known.

iii: to consider implementing a 20mph speed limit.

Councillor Durling asked members to consider implementing a 20mph speed limit in Peelings Lane.

Councillor Lovell said that the volume of traffic in the lane is minimal and Parish Councillors agreed that a 20mph speed limit would be unenforceable. ESCC would also not agree as there have been no reported injury crashes in the last three year period. For these

reasons the Councillors voted by seven votes to two against the consideration of implementing a 20mph speed limit.

111 Parish Council decisions

Councillor Durling asked that all motions should be properly debated and each member who rejects a proposal should provide a substantive reason for doing so. Councillors agreed this would mean changing the Standing Orders and as the Standing Orders cannot be changed for six months, this item was deferred until the November meeting.

At this point Councillor Stevens reminded Councillors that decisions are made by the Council as a collective decision which all Councillors should stand by. He also emphasised that Councillors should not be corresponding direct with third parties and that all correspondence should be directed through the Clerk. Likewise communication between Councillors should also be through the Clerk rather than randomly sending emails to all Councillors.

112 Wish List for Developers

Councillors agreed to add the following to the Wish List;

- crossing at Golden Jubilee Way
- improvement to Adur Park drainage
- play area Westham.

Councillor Stevens will divide the Wish List into Capital and Revenue items for the next meeting as developers will only fund capital items of expenditure. In the meantime Councillors are asked to put any additional ideas to the Clerk.

113 Questions from Parish Councillors

Councillors agreed that Councillor Garner will be the Acting Vice Chairman until a permanent appointment is made at the next Full Council Meeting.

114 Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered;

WD2015/1291/FA – JCB Eastbourne – Minor material amendment to application WD2014/2042F (proposed commercial vehicle storage area on existing land in JCB Medway ownership. Including formation of grass mounds between car park and adjacent grassland) – Change of surfacing material – Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application provided usage of the vehicle storage remains during normal working hours.

WD2015/1040FR – Dormer Cottage, Peelings Lane – Single storey rear extension – Summerhouse - Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

WD2015/7502T – Lion Hill – Proposed telecommunications installation upgrade and associated works - Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

WD2015/1118F – Acorns, Gallows Lane – Single storey extension at rear together with conversion of rood void into two bedrooms including hip to gable extension, front and rear dormers and front and rear velux roof windows - Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

WD2015/1220F – 64 Rattle Road, Westham – Detached single storey brick garage - Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

WD2015/1458F – 13 Orwell Close – Two storey extension to side elevation - Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

WD2015/1420F – Land adjoining 4 Peelings Cottages, Milton Street - Installation of small sand school 20m x 20m to existing equine property but varying condition 2 of WD2015/0822F to allow sand school to be used by existing DIY liveries associated with large land holding - Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

WD2015/1538F – 39 Lambourn Avenue – First floor extension - Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 9.10pm.