

## WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

### DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

16<sup>th</sup> February 2015

held at The Amenity Hall, Stone Cross

- 252 Present: Cllrs K Saxby (Chairman), P Marshall, M Nash, G Garner, B Garner, B Molog, T Bruce, K Stevens, R Perrin, T Comerford, J Blaker and G Parsons.

District Councillor L Clark, A Hillman (Clerk) and six members of the public were also in attendance.

- 253 Apologies for Absence: Apologies for absence were received from K Sutherland and accepted by those present.

County Councillor Pursglove, District Councillor Tooley and PCSO Wyatt also sent their apologies.

- 254 Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

- 255 Clerk's Report:

The Clerks reported;

- Wealden District Council has received the Parish Council's Precept Notification for 2015-2016 and Westham Parish Council is now considered to be a larger Parish Council. Further documentation was required which the Clerk has duly completed and returned.
- Stone Cross Royals Junior Football Club has now confirmed the dimensions of the storage container they want to put in Adur Park as 20ft long, 8ft wide and 8'6" high. Whilst Councillors are happy to have the container in the park and the Club is aware of the risks, they would like to meet a representative of the Club to discuss where it will be sited. Councillors Blaker, G Garner, Parsons, and Marshall will attend the meeting on behalf of Westham Parish Council.
- a second price has been received for a replacement entrance sign in Butcher's Field. Whilst both prices are similar, Councillors agreed to accept the second price of a green sign with white writing and picture of St Mary's Church which they felt was more attractive. Councillor Stevens confirmed he has now heard back from Fields in Trust and they are happy to meet Councillors to discuss whether or not the Centenary Fields Programme will protect Butcher's Field from any future changes of use.
- the ESCC Highways Steward is unable to attend Parish Council Meetings but does call into Parish Council Offices for updates.

256 Disclosures of Interests:

Councillor Stevens declared an interest in items about staff contracts and abstained from voting on this issue.

257 Reports on Committee Meetings held:

The Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2015 were received and adopted by the Parish Council.

The Minutes of the Parks and Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2015 were received and adopted by the Parish Council.

258 Reports on Sub-Committee Meetings held:

There have been no Sub-Committee Meetings since the last Full Council Meeting. This item is to be removed from future agendas.

259 Reports from Outside Meetings:

Councillor Molog also attended;

- the Pevensey Villages Partnership (PVP) meetings held on 20<sup>th</sup> January, 27<sup>th</sup> January and 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015. All three meetings discussed events the Partnership has planned for the coming year.
- the Police Local Action Team Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> January with Councillors Parsons and Saxby. They were disappointed by the lack of response to their Speedwatch complaint and the lack of representation from other outside bodies who may have been able to answer some of the questions raised.
- the Wealden Planning Panel Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> February. Minutes are available from the Parish Clerk on request. She said Strategic Sites might be revised to include the excess from surrounding District and Borough Councils. The Hailsham Water Treatment works can cope with the Strategic Sites allocation as it is but windfall sites could be a problem.
- the Wealden District Association Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> February with Councillor Stevens. Wealden District Council is not supporting the proposals for a second runway on the grounds that the environmental harm is likely to outweigh the economic benefits. Members found the evidence from the Gatwick authority did not stand up to challenge or scrutiny, and was not sufficient to make their case. Details of the District Council's activities are available on their Parish Bulletin, a copy of which is on the Wealden District Council website.

Councillor G Garner attended three Police Street Meetings, namely at Cherwell Close, Rother Avenue and The Crossways. Street lights were causing a resident problems at Rother Avenue whilst refuse bins, youths and disabled parking worried some residents at The Crossways.

Councillors Comerford and Saxby attended the Patients Planning Panel Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> February. Patients can now save nursing time by taking their

own blood pressure at the surgery. It was also reported that a popular Locum has died.

Councillor Perrin attended the St John the Baptist Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> January and reported that the Alms Houses in Rattle Road have all been re-roofed. He also drew the attention of the Parish Council to the Educational Trust which is part of the St John the Baptist Trust and which makes grants towards educational expenses from school to university level for children and young people from the parishes of Pevensy and Westham who might miss opportunities for lack of funding.

260 Report from PCSO Wyatt:

PCSO Wyatt sent her apologies for not being able to attend this meeting but sent an email in which she said;

1. there have been problems with parking on the pavement on Rattle Road. It means that mothers with pushchairs and persons riding a mobility scooter might have to go into the road as the pathway is blocked.

PCSO Wyatt has spoken to the offending drivers who say there is nowhere else to park by the time they return from work. She is to write to all residents there and point out the problems and will arrange a street meeting there too. She is concerned that if she insists that the vehicles are parked onto the roadside it will cause chaos on the road.

2. there have also been problems caused by irresponsible parking at Pevensy and Westham School. She regularly visits the school to try and address this and is also contacting Road Policing for advice.
3. PCSO Wyatt is currently holding Street Meetings in the area to deal with any concerns residents have.

Copies of PCSO Wyatt's report are available upon request from the Clerk.

261 Reports from County/District Councillors:

County Councillor Pursglove sent a written report of which all Councillors have a copy.

The report contains details of a scheme he would like to propose for changing existing bus routes between the District General and Conquest Hospitals. Westham Parish Council does not support these proposals preferring instead to have a shuttle bus service between the two hospitals.

Full details of his report are available from the Clerk.

District Councillor Clark reported;

- visits are taking place to homes at risk of flooding in Pevensey as part of Wealden's Flood Awareness Programme.
- Westham Parish has benefitted from the Streets Ahead initiative.
- Benefit Claims are to be made on line soon. Schemes are in place to help claimants cope with any problems and stress. Citizens' Advice and the Job Centre can also help.

262 Questions from Members of the Public:

Mrs Clark provided members with more information to support the Pevensey Villages Partnership's application for a grant towards a new laptop. She confirmed the Partnership's activities are also for all residents in the parish of Westham and that the laptop is also needed to carry out the day to day administration of the group. She said ESCC does have grants but they are not for this. Members also heard that the Pevensey Villages Partnership is organising a Scarecrow Competition, breakfast walks, beach games, barbeques, coffee mornings, garden competitions and variety shows. The Wealden Food and Wine Festival is also set to return and the PVP would like to use Adur Park for some of these events. The Finance and General Purposes Committee and Full Council will consider this at their next meetings.

Mrs Durling asked why Speedwatch has been disbanded here. Councillor B Garner explained that there was no support from the police and new recruits lost interest waiting for training sessions to be arranged. Councillor Stevens is to take this up with the police at the next Joint Action Group Meeting.

Mrs Clark provided more information about the PVP Garden Competition. A Garden Competition has been operating in Pevensey for 11 years and Pevensey Parish Council contributes £75 towards it. The PVP would now like to extend the competition to this parish but members would like to know more about the competition's criteria before deciding whether or not to consider donating money towards it.

Mr McMillan from Foxes Hollow Residents' Association asked if the police can give more notice of street meetings in future. Residents usually have only a days notice although it was noted that details of Street Meetings are on the Sussex Police Website. The Clerk will take this up with the PCSO.

The meeting was re-opened.

263 Staff Pay Review:

Members **resolved** to accept the proposals from the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2015 and accepted the new updated contract in minute 240. Councillors **resolved** the Clerk will have a copy and that a second copy will be kept in the Council Offices. All were in favour.

264 Separate Pedestrian Entrance to Adur Park:

The Clerk confirmed planning permission will not be required for the new separate pedestrian entrance proposed for Adur Park. The County Council has confirmed there will need to be a safety barrier on the pavement and the path will need to be widened and they will send the specification for these to the Clerk. Once the Clerk has these details she will get prices for the works and bring them back to Full Council.

265 Tree Report:

The Parish Council has received its Annual Tree Report for the forthcoming Year and **resolved** that the works categorised as 'red' are carried out immediately. Members also accepted the price for the tree works categorised as 'amber' which need carrying out in the next three months.

266 Dog Bin at Foxes Hollow:

Foxes Hollow Residents' Association would like the Parish Council to provide a dog bin by the new path between Boniface Close and Beechfield Road, and extra dog fouling signs on the estate. A new bin would cost over £400 initially and £5.05 per week to empty at today's prices.

Councillors **resolved** to look into how often their other bins are used and see if some can be relocated. The Clerk will make some enquiries and report back to the next Full Council Meeting with this information and also the cost of dog fouling signage.

267 Grant Requests from the Pevensey Villages Partnership:

Having considered the information under 'Questions from Members' Councillors **resolved** not to donate money for a new laptop for the Partnership. They suggested the group uses an outside drive for the existing laptop instead and said that if the group wants to go into homes and village halls to help with benefit claims those homes and the village halls here will have no internet access. The software for benefit claims is also free to download from the appropriate gov.uk website.

Councillors will consider the request for a grant towards the Garden Competition at the next Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting once they know the competition's criteria.

268 Questions from Parish Councillors:

Councillor Blaker asked how much an election will cost this parish. It is expected to cost about £8000.

Councillor Marshall asked if it was agreed that the installers of the new play equipment will be asked to repair the ecobond. It has been agreed.

Councillor B Garner said the new Vicar and District Councillor Tooley are working together to get the church boundary wall repaired.

269 Planning Applications:

The following planning application was considered;

WD2015/0235– 54 Oaklands, Westham – Side extension at first floor level and front porch. **Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.**

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 8:35pm.