

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

15th February 2016

held at The Amenity Hall, Stone Cross

243 Present

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

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

244 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J McClarty and were accepted by those present.

245 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Full Council Meetings held on 18th January 2016 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

246 Clerk's Report

Mr Kelly and Mr Turpin from Wates Developers are to talk to the Parish Council at the March Meeting about their company's plans to develop land between Stone Cross and Langney.

247 Disclosures of Interests

There were no disclosures of interests declared, nor were there any changes to the Register of Interests.

The meeting was then suspended.

248 Report from PCSO Wendy Wyatt

PCSO Wyatt was unable to attend on this occasion.

249 Reports from County/District Councillors

County Councillor Pursglove reported that the County Council's reductions will not be as bad as they feared.

He also said he attended the Education Performance Panel Meeting which looked at Ofsted Reports for schools.

250 Questions from Members of the Public

Mrs Pike from Stone Cross, asked the Parish Council to review its decision not to fence off the children's play equipment in Adur Park for health and safety reasons. Councillors explained that previous attempts to erect fencing there failed because it was constantly vandalised but they agreed to review their decision at the March Full Council Meeting.

The meeting was then re-opened.

251 Reports on Committee Meetings held

Councillors resolved to adopt the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on the 8th February 2016 and accepted the recommendations made.

Councillors **resolved** to adopt the minutes of the Parks and Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on the 8th February 2016 and accepted the recommendations made.

252 Reports from Outside Meetings

Councillor Parsons attended the latest Police Local Action Team Meeting. She said the role of the PCSO is changing and the Westham PCSO is likely to be moving on. She encouraged residents who are members of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme to let their insurance companies know because they may qualify for a discount.

Councillors Saxby and Comerford attended the Patients' Panel Meeting at Stone Cross Medical Centre. A recent Quality Care Commission's Inspection supported the results of the Centre's own surveys which were good and staff are now trying to improve the appointment's system. Plans to erect a covered way to provide shelter for waiting patients and have a cycle stand area to encourage visitors to cycle have been rejected by the landlord. Staff at the Centre are also considering the impact of future developments on the practice.

253 Memorial for Bev Garner

The County Archaeologist has spoken to Joe Seaman who is the Heritage Service Manager at Eastbourne Borough Council. Mr Seaman has offered to lead a small group of his archaeological volunteers to assess the below ground archaeological potential of the area proposed for the memorial tree. There should be no costs, other than officer and volunteer time in carrying out the fieldwork and writing a short report on the findings. He could accommodate the work on the 25th February. The County Archaeologist will be able to join him for part of the day to survey in the test pits and review the findings and they will need someone from the Parish Council to attend at the start of the day to clarify the exact location where the tree is going to be planted.

The Parish Council would need to check wayleave and utility maps to clarify any risk in relation to cables or pipes.

Councillors **resolved** to accept this offer and agreed to the work going ahead.

254 Foxes Hollow Entrance Wall.

Councillors considered the price to repair a section of the entrance wall at the January Full Council Meeting but felt the amount of work recommended seemed to be more than they thought was necessary. They therefore agreed that Councillor Garner meets the contractor on site to look at other options.

Councillor Garner has now met the contractors and an alternative quote is expected soon.

255 Fingerposts

Following a request from a member of the public to do so, Councillors discussed whether or not to repair the fingerpost at Gallows Lane but decided to consider it as part of the rolling maintenance programme in March instead when part funding is expected from the County Council.

256 Westham Pond

Councillor Durling asked Councillors to look at suggestions from Pete Birchall (Pete the Pond) and Mr Hayward from Ecoclarity and consider;

- i: rebuilding some of the edges.
- ii: forming a duck ramp and feeding station
- iii: looking at ways to minimise future damage
- iv: establishing priorities
- v: drafting a Management Plan to look after the pond.

Councillor Durling said;

- she is concerned about the water quality and the erosion of the banks and suggested the Council should think about how to best manage the pond in the future.
- there are carp in the pond and they are bottom feeders and distribute mud and detritus which contributes to the deterioration of water quality. She added that the pond is primarily a duck pond and enhancing the water quality and wild life value of the pond would improve the health of the ducks and swans.
- silt will need removing but this can be done in a gentle archaeology friendly way.
- she also suggested that Mr Hayward could be invited to a meeting to talk about his recommendations in more detail.

Councillors generally felt that enough money has already been spent on the pond and that some of the work proposed has already taken place. They said the Parish Council carried out expensive works to combat the effects of erosion

and several experts were consulted including Land and Water Services. They said residents will continue to feed the ducks even if there is a feeding station and one councillor said the presence of carp suggests the water quality is good.

Councillors **resolved** to contact Land and Water Services and ask them to provide an unbiased view about the pond.

257 Celebrating the Queen's 90th Birthday

Councillors discussed whether to have a beacon in the Parish and whether to sign up to 'Clean for the Queen'.

Based on the experiences of Pevensey Parish Council they decided against a beacon because there are too many Health and Safety Requirements but **resolved** that Councillor Saxby asks the three schools in the Parish if they are interested in doing something. Councillor Saxby will find out and report back to the next Full Council Meeting.

The Clerk understands the Westham WI are planning to clean parts of Westham.

258 Weight Restriction – Westham High Street

Following a request by the Clerk to do so, The Principal Officer in Implementation at ESCC Transport Development Control has spoken to Developers and most of the construction traffic is now avoiding driving through Westham. Two firms are continuing to do so though and Councillors asked the Clerk to report them to Highways and copy in the District Council because they are breaching the Code of Conduct.

The Parish Council still awaits a reply to its request for Weight Restrictions in the village but the Clerk will chase the County Council again.

259 Verges in Westham

The Clerk asked Councillors to consider a request from Councillor McClarty to have signage in Westham to prohibit parking in the area or posts to prevent access. He said the Village Conservation Group would be happy to install wooden posts along the boundary, provided the Parish Council pays for the materials.

After much discussion Councillors agreed to get prices for new posts to match the existing and to also look into extending the fencing already there to the edge of the pavement. The Clerk will report back to the next meeting.

260 Annual Tree Report

Councillors considered the works required as per the Annual Tree Report and asked the Clerk to get prices for the 'amber' and 'green' works.

261 Rother Avenue

Councillors Stevens and Garner investigated a possible incident of land encroachment in Rother Avenue and found that although there was some work taking place there, at this moment in time there was no case to answer. They will continue to monitor the situation.

262 Drainage at Foxes Hollow

Councillors Stevens and Garner also investigated a report that two drains were overflowing in Foxes Hollow. They believe the cause was down to an unusual surge and will continue to monitor the situation.

263 Land adjoining Westham Village Hall

The Parish Council's has offered to take over the land at the side of the Village Hall and Wealden District Council is in the process of writing to all adjoining property owners asking for offers to purchase the land

264 Questions from Parish Councillors

Councillor Saxby asked if Councillors are aware that flooding in Hankham makes areas impassable in bad weather. Councillor Stevens has taken this up with the East Sussex County Council Flood Forum.

Councillor Lovell asked why Westham does not have a representative at the Hailsham Area Action Group meetings but Polegate and Willingdon have and offered to attend. Councillors resolved that Cllr Lovell represents the Parish if it is invited to join the group.

265 Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered;

WD2016/0009F – 6 Son Matias, Peelings Lane – single storey extension at the front – Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

WD2016/0048F – The Wells, Rattle Road – Erection of a substation - Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

WD2015/1971F – Unit 5 Potts Marsh Industrial Estate – Extension to existing factory unit - Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

WD2015/2604F – Hankham Nurseries – Extension to existing garage building to replace existing office and WC to form a new office and store for use by the nursery - Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application as long as it remains an office and store for the nursery.

WD2016/0295F – Merrilees, Dittons Road – Removal of conditions 4 and 5 – Westham Parish Council sees no reason to remove these conditions and

supports the District Council in imposing them.

WD2016/0180/LB – Foords Lane Cottage, Foords Lane – Replacement of front lower left window - Westham Parish Council has no objections to this application as long as it meets the requirements for a Listed Building.

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 8.45pm.