

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

16th May 2016

held at The Amenity Hall, Stone Cross

1 Present

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

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

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor T Comerford.

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

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

4 Clerk's Report

All matter's arising were included elsewhere on the agenda.

5 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.

6 Reports from County/District Councillors

There were no reports from District Councillors on this occasion. Councillors expressed their disappointment at their irregular attendance and apologies.

County Councillor Pursglove reported that;

- He is continuing to monitor the flooding issues in Rattle Road.
- He will chase Highways and support the Parish Council's request for weight restriction signs in Westham High Street.

7 Questions from Members of the Public

Mr McMillan from Foxes Hollow Residents' Association asked;

- for an update on the repairs to the entrance wall at Foxes Hollow. Councillors have asked for a price to apply resin to the cracks in the wall as they felt stitching the cracks would only move the problem on. The Parish Council is now waiting for a price from another contractor.
- for an update on the flooding situation at Geering Road. The Clerk

confirmed the manhole cover is to be raised up so that it is level with the surrounding grass and available for future maintenance and this will be carried out asap.

- who owns the verges by the Golden Jubilee roundabout because cars are being from sold there causing a distraction to motorists and giving the sellers an unfair advantage on other traders. The Clerk said ESCC owns the land and will not take any action, Wealden can impose a bye-law but say it is too expensive.

The meeting was then re-opened.

8 Reports on Committee Meetings held

There have been no Committee Meetings since the last Full Council Meeting.

9 Reports from Outside Meetings

Councillor Stevens and the Clerk attended the Wealden Protocol Meeting for the anticipated Friday Street Farm application but had nothing new to report. The Planning Application is expected in July/August. Two public exhibitions are to take place in June.

10 Memorial for Bev Garner

The Parish Council has now had an archaeological investigation on the green carried out. The investigation was needed before a memorial tree could be planted because of the historical sensitivity of the area.

The excavation recovered a lot of finds (mainly medieval pottery) and showed it will be safe to plant the tree in this area of Cannon Corner.

The tree planting ceremony has been provisionally arranged for 4th July.

11 Accounts for the Financial Year Ending 31st March 2016

Councillors resolved that they approved the Receipts and Payments Account, Bank Reconciliation, Income and Expenditure Account, Asset Schedule, Debtors and Creditors List, Annual Return, Annual Governance Statement, Risk Management Documents and Internal Control Arrangements for the financial year to 31st March 2016.

12 Westham Pond

The Parish Council has received three quotes to test the water and sediment quality at Westham Pond, carry out an Ecological Assessment of the pond and provide advice on any further steps that might need to be taken. Councillors **resolved** to accept the quote from Aquilina Environmental Quality.

Councillors also discussed whether to erect a sign by the pond asking people To stop feeding the ducks bread and suggesting more suitable food instead.

Councillor McClarty suggested the following wording;

‘ Please, no bread. It is bad for ducks and creates dangerous toxins in the

pond. Seeds, oats and corn are good'.
Councillors agreed to change the wording to;

'Please, no bread. It is bad for ducks and is dangerous for pond life. Seeds, oats and corn are good'

Councillors **resolved** to ask the schools in the Parish to design a notice on A4 size paper for the notice board incorporating the wording. The Chairman agreed to donate a prize which he will pay for.

13 Celebrating the Queen's 90th Birthday

Stone Cross Schools would like to erect a collapsible flagpole and are understood to be approaching the Parish Council for funding. Cllr Saxby will let everyone know when he knows the cost.

Westham Evening WI has approached the Parish Council for £200 to support the current fundraising it is undertaking to provide a Public Access Defibrillator for the community of Westham. Councillors **resolved** to award the WI £200.

14 Adur Park

Although several contractors have been approached only one has so far submitted a price to erect fencing around the new play equipment in Adur Park.

Councillors **resolved** that they will fit bow top fencing but asked the Clerk to check the layout with the contractor and report back to the next meeting. This will also allow contractors more time to submit a price.

15 Westham High Street

The Clerk has received prices to provide and fit self-watering conventional style planters in the High Street at Westham. Copies of the quote along with copies of the price to maintain them had been circulated to all councillors.

Councillor McClarty said it is too late to fit the planters this year but said he will see if the supplier can lend Westham Parish Council the ones not currently being used by Uckfield Town Council.

Councillors asked Councillor McClarty to clarify the costs and bring them to the next meeting.

16 Dog Bins

Councillors discussed two requests from the public to provide additional dog bins in Westham, one in Hobney Rise and one outside St Mary's Church. They **resolved** not to provide bins at either site because they felt the village already has enough.

17 Boundary Review

Councillor Durling felt Councillors had not had enough time to consider the Boundary Review proposals before the last meeting. The majority of Councillors felt they had and no one had anything to add to their comments

which were as follows;

'Whilst Councillors generally supported the proposals in the Boundary Review they object because Hankham is divided and they would like it to include it all in Stone Cross'.

18 Fingerpost Review

ESCC has agreed to pay half the costs of repairing up to two fingerpost repairs this year. Westham Parish Council therefore agreed to repair the two in the worst state of repair namely one at Peelings Lane/Gallows Lane and one in Hankham. Prices had already been submitted to the Parish Council.

Councillors also asked the Clerk to move the sign in Hankham to its original historic position.

19 Rattle Road – Proposed S278 lighting works

Councillors considered and accepted proposals by Persimmon Homes to replace two street lights in Rattle Road as per the Persimmon Homes email dated 4th May 2016.

20 Questions from Parish Councillors

Councillor Bruce invited everyone to the Pevensey Bay Library Open Day on 30th August 2016.

Councillor Beaney asked for an update on the grant application from the Parish Pump. The application will be considered at the June Finance and General Purposed Committee Meeting.

Councillor Durling said the Westham Conservation Group is holding a barn Dance on 2nd July 2016.

21 Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered;

WD/2016/1008/FR – 32 Medina Drive – Retrospective application to erect conservatory at rear – Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

WD2016/0894F – 8 Pevensey Park Road – Proposed garage conversion and associated alterations - Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

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