

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

17th October 2016

held at The Amenity Hall, Stone Cross

73 Present

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

County Councillor M Pursglove, District Councillor D Dear, A Stevens (Clerk) and one member of the public was also in attendance.

74 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T Comerford and G Parsons and were accepted by those present.

Apologies for absence were also received from District Councillor L Clark.

75 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 12th September 2016 were read and amended to;

- Councillor Bruce is included on the Business Plan Working Party (minute 68).
- Councillors discussed whether or not to form a Working Party with Pevensey Parish Council but agreed that the road *can be* downgraded before anything can be done (minute 69i).
- Councillor McClarty said as *Secretary* of the Westham Conservation Group (minute 65).

The minutes were then confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

76 Clerk's Report on Matters' Arising from the Previous Meeting

The Clerk asked the County Council if the Parish Council can have copies of the 'licence to cultivate' given to residents in Romans Way.

ESCC said that 'due to the facts that any licences we issue contain private details and information we are not prepared to give these detailed copies out due to legislation contained within the Data Protection Act'. No template is available either because licences are drawn up individually.

77 Disclosures of Interests

No disclosures of interests were declared at this point, nor were there any changes to the Register of Interests.

The meeting was then suspended.

78 Reports from the County Councillor

County Councillor Pursglove said;

- ESCC is currently setting its budgets.
- he is still trying to resolve drainage problems in Rattle Road
- he is also still trying to get the High Street repaired.

79 Report from the District Councillors

District Councillor Dear said;

- Wealden is working on its response to the Boundary Commission Review.
- she is attending a Local Plan Update meeting at Wealden on the 28th October.

80 Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from members of the public on this occasion.

The meeting was then re-opened.

81 Reports on Committee Meetings held

Councillors resolved to adopt the minutes of the Parks and Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on the 10th October 2016 and accepted the recommendations made.

82 Reports from Outside Meetings

Councillor Blaker attended the latest Stone Cross Memorial Hall Meeting. Works to the roof are more extensive than first thought and the main ceiling needs to be replaced. Trustees are working to improve occupancy and are also appealing for more trustees.

Councillor Perrin attended the latest St John the Baptist Meeting. There has been one vacancy recently, which has now been filled, and Trustees have awarded grants to three young people.

Councillor McClarty said the results from the Westham Conservation Group's recent planning questionnaire have now been collated and a report sent to Marina Briggenshaw at Wealden. They will let the Parish Council have a copy in due course.

83 Westham Pond

The Clerk had previously distributed the report from the recent Ecological Assessment of Westham Village Pond to the Councillors and Councillor Durling had asked when the second samples will be taken. The Clerk checked with Mr Aquilina, who compiled the report, and he confirmed that no second visit is required or was discussed. The Parish Council will consider retesting the pond in the future should it become necessary

Councillors also agreed to consider the recommendations made in the report at the next Parks and Open Spaces Committee Meeting.

84 Neighbourhood Plan

A new Neighbourhood Planning Bill was introduced to Parliament on the 7th September and a second reading is understood to have taken place. The new Bill is expected to simplify and quicken the Neighbourhood Plan process.

Councillors discussed the advantages and disadvantages of registering assets on Wealden's Community Asset Register and agreed to consider which assets they would like to register in conjunction with the Business Plan. More information about the Community Asset Register and the Community Right to Bid can be found on;
www.wealden.gov.uk/.../Localism/Policy_Community_Right_To_Bid.aspx

85 Business Plan

Councillor Stevens sent an email to all Councillors to ask them what they would like the Parish Council to achieve over the next three to five years and four have replied. Once he has everyone's responses, Councillor Stevens will circulate them. The Working Party will then meet and produce a 'wish list' which will be turned into a report for the next appropriate Full Council Meeting.

86 Westham High Street –

- i: to update members about the hanging baskets in Westham High Street.

At the last meeting, Councillors resolved by six votes to three to supply and install hanging baskets on twelve lamp posts in Westham High Street. The Parish Council submitted twelve lamp post locations to the County Council for approval but five were rejected as unsuitable. Councillor McClarty will send a revised list to the Clerk.

- ii: to consider working with Pevensey Parish Council to instigate a traffic survey through Pevensey and Westham and to also work jointly to investigate what can be done to take a case to the relevant Government bodies.

Councillors discussed whether or not to instigate a traffic survey through the villages of Pevensey and Westham and agreed that, whilst they share Pevensey's concerns, it would be better to carry out a survey when the two latest developments in Rattle Road have been completed.

87 Speedwatch

Councillors **resolved** unanimously to form a new Speedwatch Team, because they can now use Wartling Parish Council's hand held 'speed camera'. Anyone who would like to join is asked to contact the Chairman on keithbd.stevens@btinternet.com.

88 Armed Forces Covenant

Councillors were asked to consider becoming an Armed Services Friendly Support Organisation. Further information is available from the Clerk and can also be found on <https://www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk>.

89 Traffic Commissioner's Report

Councillors are disappointed the Traffic Commissioner granted the application by Countyclean Environmental Services Ltd to vary its licence to allow one additional trailer to

be kept at its operating centre at Chilley Farm in Rickney Lane. They accept his hands were tied because there was no planning application in place and asked the Clerk to contact the Head of Planning at Wealden to confirm whether or not they had been granted planning permission and, if not whether he will now take Enforcement Action.

90 Roundabout Sponsorship

Councillors considered sponsoring the mini roundabout by Tesco. The County Council would source appropriate planters, maintain them and clean the signs on the roundabout for £2500 each year. The roundabout would also be rateable.

Councillors agreed to approach Sharnfold Farm and Tesco for sponsorship and consider this in more detail at the next Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting.

91 Photocopier

The Clerk submitted prices to replace the office photocopier because the drum now needs replacing and it is getting harder to source parts.

Councillor Blaker recommended and Councillors agreed to get another price from Kent County Suppliers.

92 Request to use the Council Car Park

A businessman approached the Parish Clerk because he wanted to operate a deli van from the Parish Council car park from 6am each morning. He was advised to put his request in writing to the Parish Council for this meeting. No request has been received. Councillors agreed they would not support the idea because it would take up too many spaces in an already busy car park.

93 Questions from Parish Councillors

Councillor Saxby announced he is to become a Governor at Hankham School on 18th October 2016.

Councillor Beaney appealed for volunteers to deliver the Parish Pump.

Councillor Durling asked Councillors to consider applying for Tree Preservation Orders for eight trees in Peelings Lane. Councillors agreed by seven votes to four to apply to Wealden for the Orders.

94 Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered;

WD2016/2338FR – 7 Hobney Rise, Westham – Removal of existing conservatory and replacing with new brick built building. Removal of existing raised decking area and replacing with new concrete area – Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

WD2016/2370F and 1985LB – Peelings Manor, Hankham Road – Works to stabilise curtilage listed garden wall involving taking it down and rebuilding it using the same materials – Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

WD2016/2326RM – Merrilees, Dittons Road – Reserved matters pursuant to WD2015/0965O and WD2016/0295FA (Demolition of existing single dwelling to be replaced by two detached dwellings) - Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

WD2016/2106F – Lower Yard, Langsett, Rattle Road – Redevelopment of three industrial units and store and dependant external works - Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

There being no further business, this meeting closed at 8.40pm.