

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

18th January 2016

held at The Village Hall, Westham

208 Present

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

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

209 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J McClarty and G Parsons and were accepted by those present.

Apologies were also received from County Councillor M Pursglove and District Councillor D Dear.

210 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Full Council Meetings held on 16th November 2015 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

211 Clerk's Report

Lidl is proposing to build a new store on land on the north side of Dittons Road in Polegate and is holding an exhibition at the Polegate United Reform Church Hall from 10am to 6pm on 27th January for residents to preview and discuss the proposals.

212 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.

213 Report from PCSO Wendy Wyatt

PCSO Wyatt was unable to attend on this occasion. It was noted that the role of the PCSO is changing and the numbers of PCSOs are likely to reduce.

214 Reports from County/District Councillors

County Councillor Pursglove sent a written report in which he noted meetings he has attended. Copies of County Councillor's Report are available from the Clerk.

District Councillor Clark said;

- there have been no meetings at Wealden apart from the Standards Committee but she is unable to comment on this meeting on the grounds of Confidentiality.
- Wealden District Council is supporting East Sussex County Council in that it wants to get a library service returned to Pevensey Bay.
- ESCC is currently undertaking an 18 month review of Library Services and is holding a public consultation on library opening hours.
- A group in Pevensey Bay would reportedly like Westham and Pevensey Parish Councils to buy the Beach Tavern in Pevensey Bay to use as a Community hub and library. This would reportedly cost each Parish Council £250000. Westham Parish Council has not been approached by any such group.
- The Pevensey Villages Partnership is to hold another Garden Competition and Scarecrow Competition this year.
- Wealden District Council is holding the Food and Wine Festival at Pevensey Castle this year. The festival will be held on 16th and 17th July.

215 Questions from Members of the Public

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

The meeting was then re-opened.

216 Reports on Committee Meetings held

Councillors **resolved** to adopt the minutes of the Parks and Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on the 14th December 2015 and accept the recommendations made.

217 Reports from Outside Meetings

Councillors Blaker attended the Stone Cross Memorial Hall meeting on the 23rd November. Councillor Blaker reported that the trustees are currently fundraising. He said the hall is well used and supported but money is needed for maintenance and upgrades.

Councillor Durling is working with Stone Cross Mill and Pevensey Villages' Partnership to produce a leaflet about Peelings Lane. She also said that part of a Roman road which had been discovered at the Wells Site is to be held on display at the Mill.

Councillors Saxby and Comerford attended the Patients' Panel Meeting at the Stone Cross Medical Centre. A recent survey conducted by the Centre showed that 95% of patients were satisfied with the service provided. The Centre now also has an additional doctor who works there for three days a week and the Centre is applying for planning permission for an outside canopy for patients to queue under.

Councillor Stevens attended the East Sussex Association of Local Councils Meeting held on the 12th January 2016. He said members were told of a briefing on the Three Counties Devolution Bid which is to be held in Crawley on the 11th March. Each Parish and Town Council has been invited to send two representatives to the meeting and any Councillor who would like to attend is asked to let the Clerk know.

218 Memorial for Bev Garner

At the previous Full Council Meeting, Councillors resolved to plant a silver birch on the far side of the cannon on Canon Green. The Clerk checked with the County Archaeologist and an archaeological survey will be required before planting can go ahead.

Councillors **resolved** that the Clerk gets prices from two specialist contractors for consideration at the next meeting.

219 Foxes Hollow Entrance Wall

Councillors considered the price to repair a section of the entrance wall 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 see if there are any other options.

220 Precept 2016-2017

There were no changes in legislation announced in December which affected the precept for 2016-2017. Councillors therefore **resolved** the precept for 2016-2017 will be £146160.00.

221 Castle Bolton Playpark

The homeowner at number 11 Castle Bolton has asked the Parish Council to replace the fencing between number 11 and the playpark with six foot high fencing to help stop the hedge overgrowing onto his property. Councillors agreed they could not justify the expense and **resolved** not to replace the fencing because they felt a six foot fence would be detrimental to the open plan nature of the estate.

222 Parking problems caused by Developers.

Councillor Perrin raised concerns about the large number of heavy vehicles driving through Westham to the new building sites in Stone Cross and the effect it could be having on property there. He spoke to the Site Manager but drivers are ignoring the request as there are no weight restrictions there.

Councillors **resolved** that the Clerk contacts ESCC and asks for a permanent weight restriction and for a temporary weight restriction for the duration of the building works in the meantime.

223 Westham Pond

Councillor Garner reported that the overflow at the pond is not draining as well as it could because it has a ninety degree bend. He recommends two forty five degree bends are fitted instead.

Councillors **resolved** that the Clerk gets prices from two contractors for consideration at the next meeting.

224 Questions from Parish Councillors

Councillor Bruce reported a large amount of litter at Standard Hill and asked for it to be cleared.

Councillor Beaney asked for volunteers to deliver the Parish Pump to the Red Dyke Estate. Anyone interested is asked to contact him via the Clerk. Councillor Saxby offered to deliver copies to Hankham. Councillor Beaney also asked how the Pump's grant application is progressing. The grant application will be considered at February's Full Council Meeting.

Councillor Marshall reported that water is still overflowing onto the road by St Luke's Church and it freezes on the road in cold weather. The Clerk will report this to ESCC.

Councillor Saxby said the verges at Hankham are still in a bad state of repair and are non-existent in parts. He said flooding is also still a problem in the village and asked to meet Highways to solve both issues. There were no objections. Councillor Saxby will report back to the next Full Council Meeting after his meeting.

Councillor Stevens asked for 'Celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday' to be an agenda on the next Full Council Meeting agenda.

225 Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered;

WD/2015/2857/F – 28 Patcham Mill Road – Erection of conservatory at rear – Westham Parish Council has no objections to this application on any planning grounds.

WD2015/2887F – Land at Uplands Farm – Outline application for residential development of up to 183 dwellings (including affordable) and means of access onto Rattle Road. Other matters to be reserved for future determination - Westham Parish Council objects to this application on the following grounds;

- the reports relate to the previous application which was for 92 dwellings and are not relevant.
- this is considerable overdevelopment for this site.
- transport – Councillors object to the increase in traffic and subsequent

nitrogen levels and air quality. Chaos also ensues when construction starts and verges are damaged.

- sewage – the current system cannot cope with this development.
- flooding – there is already flooding in Westham and Councillors seek reassurance this will not increase as a result of this development.
- biodiversity – Councillors request that an agreement is in place to make sure the Management Company manages the hedging borders.
- education – Councillors seek reassurance there will be adequate capacity for the extra children.

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 8.15pm.