

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

18th April 2016

held at The Amenity Hall, Stone Cross

293 Present

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

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

294 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from District Councillor K Balsdon.

295 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Full Council Meetings held on 21st March 2016 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

296 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that ESCC is currently preparing its draft strategy on Public Rights of Way which will be out for consultation soon.

Following on from the previous meeting Councillors agreed that the Clerk will write to residents at numbers 2,4,6,8 and 10 Patcham Mill Road and ask them not to park on the Council owned land opposite their homes because the land is being churned up by cars.

297 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.

298 Reports from County/District Councillors

There were no reports from District Councillors on this occasion.

County Councillor Pursglove said County has concerns about Government plans to make all schools academies and that most religious schools are against the proposals.

299 Questions from Members of the Public

Mr McMillan from Foxes Hollow Residents' Association asked for an update

on the flooding situation at Geering Road. Councillor Stevens has carried out a site visit with a contractor and they found an extra manhole, which was buried and not shown on plans, was full. They cleared it in part and it started to flow. It was then left to dry. The manhole cover now needs raising up so that it is level with the surrounding grass and available for future maintenance and this will be carried out in due course.

Mr McMillan also asked for the ditches to be cleared of litter. The Parish Council will ask the team clearing Peelings Lane to do this when they clear the Lane.

Mr Crosby-Jones asked for the Parish Council's support to protect Rickney Lane. He said 44 tonne lorries are using the lane and the County Council says the lane suitable even though it has a Traffic Regulation Order on it. He said he often has to let drivers onto his property so vehicles can pass and the route is popular with cyclists so it is an accident waiting to happen. This was discussed by Councillors under minute 312.

Mr McClean asked the Parish Council to let him buy the land adjoining his property so he can control what happens there. He said he has had problems with people throwing things into his garden, people not picking up after their dogs, vandalism, abuse and his lawn mower was recently stolen. This was discussed by Councillors under minute 313.

The meeting was then re-opened.

300 Reports on Committee Meetings held

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

301 Reports from Outside Meetings

There were no reports from outside meetings on this occasion.

302 Memorial for Bev Garner

The Parish Council has organised an archaeological investigation on the green in Westham on Wednesday 20th April (starting at 9am) in conjunction with Eastbourne Museum and ESCC. The investigation is needed before a memorial tree can be planted because of the historical sensitivity of the area.

303 Foxes Hollow Entrance Wall

Councillors **resolved** to get a price to apply resin to the cracks in the wall as they felt stitching the cracks would only move the problem on.

304 Westham Pond

The Parish Council has received a quote 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. The report would cost £2063.70 plus VAT.

After much discussion Councillors **resolved** that the Clerk will contact the Environment Agency and ask them if they will provide a report.

In the meantime Councillors agreed to consider putting a sign by the pond asking people to stop feeding the ducks bread and suggests more suitable food instead because bread encourages rats and affects the water quality. Councillor McClarty will provide suitable wording at the next meeting.

305 Celebrating the Queen's 90th Birthday

Councillor Saxby had previously circulated his report of his school visits to Councillors.

Hankham and Stone Cross Schools are considering holding playground parties with the children dressed in red, white and blue. Stone Cross School would like to erect a flagpole and may approach the Parish Council for funding.

Pevensey and Westham School has no plans for any events at this stage but would like to erect the old secondary school bell.

Councillors discussed the practicalities of providing commemorative trophies, medals or mugs but agreed instead to wait for a formal request from each school.

306 Scarecrow Competition

Councillors **resolved** to allow Pevensey Villages Partnership to use the Village Green at Westham for the Scarecrow Competition this year on the same basis/location as in 2015.

307 Annual Tree Report

Councillors **resolved** to accept quotes Q15376 and Q15382 from Chaffins to carry out the Amber and Green Tree Works in the Annual Tree Report.

308 Hobney Rise

At the previous meeting Councillors considered providing play equipment at Hobney Rise and asked the Clerk to write to residents in Hobney Rise and Pelham Close to find out their views. 65 letters were sent and seven replies received, five supported the idea and two were against, citing anti-social behaviour, noise and vandalism as their reasons for objecting. Councillors agreed to suspend the matter of this location for six months whilst alternative sites are considered.

Councillor McClarty suggested using the grounds of Pevensey Castle for a play area and Councillors asked the Clerk to write to Pevensey Parish Council to see what they think and whether they would be interested in a joint venture.

309 Adur Park

Contractors have been approached for prices to erect fencing around the new play equipment. Prices have been promised in time for the next meeting.

310 Westham High Street

Councillor McClarty has been in touch with Polegate Town Council to find out who supplied their hanging baskets and he provided a price to plant and install 590mm diameter half planters and carry out their complete seasonal maintenance.

Councillor McClarty will find out how much the planters cost and bring the price to the next meeting.

311 Business Plan

The Business Plan had been circulated to all Councillors who agreed it should be reviewed by the Finance and General Purposes Committee and all Councillors will send their comments to the Clerk.

312 Rickney Lane

Councillors discussed the request from Mr Crosby-Jones to support his request to protect Rickney Lane from 44 tonne lorries. Councillors agreed the lane is unsuitable and would be dangerous for other road users and they asked the Clerk to write to the County Council expressing their concerns and ask to be kept 'in the loop' with correspondence. County Councillor Pursglove asked to be copied in on all correspondence.

313 Rother Avenue

Councillors discussed Mr McClean's request to buy the land at the side of his property but **resolved** not to sell it as it would contravene the Council's policy not to give, rent or sell land. They will however allow the area to overgrow to prevent access by residents but will keep it under control to protect the Parish Council against any future claims of adverse possession and stop it pushing through Mr McClean's fence.

314 Boundary Review

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.

315 Questions from Parish Councillors

Councillor Bruce asked for 'Fingerpost Repairs' to be an item on the next Full Council Meeting agenda.

Councillor Blaker asked for an update on why Rattle Road floods by St Luke's Church. There has been no news from Highways. Councillor Stevens is arranging for someone from East Sussex Flood Group to inspect the area.

Councillor Blaker also asked what work is underway on the Ersham Road – it is believed to be the new wind turbines.

Councillor McClarty asked;

- the Parish Council to continue to push the developers for a collapsible bollard in Peelings Lane alongside Foxes Hollow.
- For contractors plans for the Wells Development.
- if the three new developments alongside Rattle Road go ahead at the same time there will be chaos on the road and for this to be raised with Wealden. The Parish Council has been told Wealden District Council is aware and developers are working together to minimise disruption to road users.
- said the impact of the Environmental Impact Survey for the Wates Development could be enormous.

Councillor Marshall asked if the wooden posts outside Pinewood Grove are temporary. Councillors thought they are there to protect the new turf but asked the Clerk to check with Wealden. He also asked if the white markers on the verge at Miller's Keep have County Council permission and thought the shelter on the Well's Development might be listed.

Councillor Durling announced the Westham Conservation Group in conjunction with Action in Rural Sussex has arranged a number of walks from Westham Pond to Stone Cross Mill looking particularly at the hedgerows there and the species within them. Councillor Stevens reminded everyone Tesco 'Bags of Help' is now open to receive grant applications.

Councillor Perrin asked if there has been any news from ESCC following the Parish Council's request for weight restriction signs in Westham High Street. There has not. It was noted that developers agree to abide by a Code of Conduct with Wealden but this is not enforceable.

316 Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered;

WD/2016/0683/F – 2 Darwell Drive – New front porch – Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

WD2016/0701/F – 68B High Street, Westham – Proposed conversion of existing premises with associated alterations to form 2 No. one bedroom dwelling houses – Westham Parish Council has no objections to this application as long as residents of Church Bailey can continue to use this access.

WD2016/0725LB – Foords Lane Cottage, Foords Lane – Replacement of upper right bedroom window, south elevation – Westham Parish Council has no objections to this application as long as it meets with the requirements of the Listed Buildings Authority.

WD2016/0722LB - Foords Lane Cottage, Foords Lane – Replacement of upper left bedroom window, south elevation – Westham Parish Council has no objections to this application as long as it meets with the requirements of the Listed Buildings Authority.

WD2016//0775LBR – Corner Cottage, Foords Lane – Retrospective application for refurbishment of first floor en-suite bathroom including installation of shower.

Westham Parish Council has no objections to this application as long as it meets with the requirements of the Listed Buildings Authority.

WD2016/0729LB - Foords Lane Cottage, Foords Lane – Replacement of upper west side bedroom window – Westham Parish Council has no objections to this application as long as it meets with the requirements of the Listed Buildings Authority.

WD2016/0711LB - Foords Lane Cottage, Foords Lane – Replacement of front lower right bedroom window, south elevation – Westham Parish Council has no objections to this application as long as it meets with the requirements of the Listed Buildings Authority.

WD/2016/0645/FR - JCB Eastbourne – Retrospective application for storage of coaches on existing HGV/PSV workshop site, including acoustic barrier to the north east boundary - Westham Parish Council objects to this application on the following grounds:

1. The proposed working hours are totally unsuitable for this location and coaches arrive early/late disturbing the neighbouring campers. Protracted enforcement action has been ineffective and only resulted in the coaches moving to another part of the applicant's site. The continued disturbance to the campsite is likely to make the business non-viable with local loss of employment and a resulting loss of revenue to several other local businesses. A previous application (WD/2007/3475/LDE) to extend the working hours for an adjacent unit was refused as it was considered that this would adversely impact the amenity of the locality.
2. There are no proposals to prevent any of wash water from the coaches which will contain detergents and hydrocarbons, from entering the immediately adjacent ditch which is only a matter of metres from the Mountney Levels, an extension of the Pevensey Levels.

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