

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

18th July 2016

held at The Amenity Hall, Stone Cross

39 Present

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

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

40 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Perrin, T Comerford and T Bruce and were accepted by those present.

Apologies for absence were also received from District Councillor D Dear.

41 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 20th June 2016 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

42 Clerk's Report

All matters arising were included elsewhere on the agenda.

43 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.

44 Reports from the County Councillor

County Councillor Pursglove reported that;

- the works to Hailsham High Street are already over budget.
- he is still chasing Highways for a disabled parking bay in Rattle Road.
- he attended a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education Meeting at ESCC.

45 Report from the District Councillors

District Councillor Clark reported on the following;

Housing Planning Bill

'Pay to Stay' takes effect from April 2017 - Tenants with over £30,500 income will then have to pay the full market rent. Social Housing rents are currently around 50% of the market rent, Affordable Housing, 80%.

Safer Wealden Partnership

District Councillor Claire Dowling is concerned about the remoteness of PCSOs and the fact they will not attend Parish Council meetings.

On the roads the number of those killed or seriously injured has increased from 114 in 2014/15 to 138 in 2015/16. Wealden is working with its partner agencies and is trialling behavioural changing techniques to improve driver behaviour.

Reported crime has increased by 4.5% in 2015/16. The number of calls remained the same but it is thought that new data methods brought about the recorded increase.

Food Safety

Since 2011/12 the number of businesses with a good or a very good hygiene rating has increased from 77.4% to 88.4%.

Fly tipping

73% of flytipping is removed within two days. The contractors target is 90%.

My Alerts

Regular updates went live on 8th April and have been positively received and use of the Wealden website is steadily growing. 'My Alerts' is a free weekly information service from Wealden District Council.

Wealden Dementia Alliance

Wealden Dementia Alliance has now been launched. The Alliance has been set up to educate and support people with dementia and those caring for them.

46 Questions from Members of the Public

Mr Dawson and Mrs Fielding expressed their disappointment at the Parish Council's decision to not put fencing around the children's play area. They asked why Councillors appeared to have changed their mind, how they can do that and why they have not taken into account health and safety and the views of some of their residents.

Councillors explained that they agreed in principle to erect bow top fencing, but the decision was dependant mainly on the layout of the fencing. The only layout possible was simply not practical and would have caused maintenance problems. They also felt;

- the cost of around £10000 was too much.
- Adur Park is an open space and it should remain one.
- Previous fences have been regularly vandalised.
- Dogs will still get into the play area and people will take their own dogs in with them.

Now the final decision has been made the Parish Council confirmed that decision will stand for six months but Councillors will be looking at other solutions in the meantime.

Mrs Dawson asked how the Parish Council consults residents and if it consulted residents before putting a new surface under the adult exercise area. Residents are consulted via the

notice boards, website and public meetings. The new surface was installed because the previous surface was slippery when wet.

Mrs Clark thanked the Parish Council for its grant for the Pevensey Village Partnership from which it has now been able to produce Heritage Trail Leaflets. She also announced the Scarecrow Competition has now started.

Mr McMillan from Foxes Hollow Residents' Association said the Association is now looking at adopting the Paws on Watch Scheme at Foxes Hollow.

The meeting was then re-opened.

47 Reports on Committee Meetings held

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

48 Reports from Outside Meetings

Councillor Parsons announced that the Pevensey Town Trust is looking into becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Trustees have also provided two more disabled parking spaces.

Councillors Stevens, Marshall, Durling, Lovell and McClarty and the Clerk attended a Wealden Local Plan Meeting on the 22nd June. Wealden is now carrying out surveys, assessing the sites put forward and meeting with the parishes most affected by the proposals. Officers have considered the responses to the first consultation and will be sending out a revised Plan for consultation in October/November. Councillor McClarty said Wealden seems to be having second thoughts about the number of houses for Westham and said he would like to have a meeting to get the views of local people in the meantime.

Councillor Stevens attended the Wealden District Association of Local Councils Annual General Meeting on the 13th July. Parishes were complaining about;

- the verges not being properly cut. A one metre only strip is cut and cuttings are not taken away for cost reasons. He said the Police are even considering funding the cost of additional cuts where the lack of cutting causes visibility problems at junctions.
- the Police will no longer be holding Local Action Team Meetings because of a lack of attendance. Councillor Stevens has asked them to postpone this decision.

49 Westham Pond

Councillors looked at each entry for the school poster decision and agreed two winners. The winning posters will be rotated in the parish notice board on a regular basis and the Chairman will provide a prize for each and sweets for all the other entrants.

The Clerk circulated the report from the recent Ecological Assessment of Westham Village Pond for councillors to read for the next Full Parish Council Meeting.

50 Dog Bin request for Rattle Road

Councillors considered a request for a dog bin in Rattle Road at either corner of Mill View Close/Rattle Road. Councillors agreed to defer making a decision until they know how the road will look once the new estates have been built.

51 Neighbourhood Plan

Councillors discussed the pros and cons of producing a Neighbourhood Plan and agreed, by seven votes to three, that before they decide whether or not to go ahead, Councillor Stevens should find out if Wealden would support one in this Parish.

52 Public Inquiry for Rickney Lane

Parish Councillors are concerned about the application from Countyclean Environmental which would allow the firm to be authorised for a trailer at the operating centre in Rickney Lane. If it was granted it would potentially allow one 44 tonne articulated vehicle to be parked and operate from there.

As a result they have agreed that Councillors Saxby and McClarty will attend the Public Inquiry on 4th August and ask to be allowed to speak. Councillor McClarty will draft a statement to take with them which Councillor Saxby will proof read before it is circulated to all councillors for approval.

53 Business Plan

After much discussion, Councillors agreed that before they decide whether or not to set up a Working Party to review the existing Plan, Councillor Stevens will talk to Trevor Leggo, Chief Executive Officer at SSALC, for a suggested Terms of Reference.

54 Questions from Parish Councillors

Councillor Saxby reported that, due to staffing shortages, the Stone Cross Medical Centre was unable to take any patients other than emergencies today. Councillor Stevens will report this to Healthwatch.

Councillor Lovell asked if Councillors are aware that Eastbourne Borough Council has stated publically that it has sufficient land to meet the five year housing supply thereby negating part of Wealden's Duty to Co-Operate.

Councillor Beaney asked if members are aware that 44 tonne lorries are driving through Westham High Street and shaking the properties. Councillors asked the Clerk to talk to her counterpart at Pevensy Parish Council to see if they would be interested in writing jointly to Highways to this up with them again. Suggestions also included forming a joint Working Party.

Councillor Durling asked that soil believed to have been dumped in Peelings Lane is cleared. A Senior Planning Officer at Wealden has now carried out a site visit said he cannot see that there is a problem. He said the pile of mud has clearly been placed to stop access through the field gate during the works on site, for security reasons and it does not appear to be blocking any drain or ditch as it sits on the level area that formed the access to the field. Given that it is temporary in any event he does not consider it necessary to take any action at this stage.

Councillor Blaker asked the Clerk to contact Railtrack and ask them to cut back the hedging by the railway bridge.

55 Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered;

WD/2016/1598/F – Hankham Nurseries, Hankham Street - Extension to outbuilding to provide garage, store and WC – Westham Parish Council has no objections to this application as long as it is only used for garaging, WC and store in conjunction with the operations at Hankham Nurseries.

WD/2016/1144/MAJ – Hillier Garden Centre, Hailsham Road – Single storey garden centre extension – Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

WD/2016/1538/F – Land off Shepham Lane, Polegate – Proposed access track between Shepham Lane and Shepham Wind Farm – Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

WD2016/1606F – The Coach House, Dittons Road – First floor extension to form new en-suite and dressing room along with part conversion/rebuild of existing attached garages to form new front entrance and open plan kitchen/family space along with internal alterations – Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

WD2016/1593F – The Wildings, Peelings Lane – Internal changes with the creation of two new velux windows. Councillor McClarty declared a disposable pecuniary interest in this application and remained in the room but did not take part in the discussions or vote. Councillors unanimously agreed they had no objections to this application on any planning grounds.

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 8.50pm.