

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

20th June 2016

held at The Amenity Hall, Stone Cross

22 Present

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

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

23 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R Perrin and accepted by those present.

24 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th May 2016 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 16th May 2016 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

The Minutes of the Annual General Council Meeting held on 16th May 2016 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

25 Clerk's Report

The Clerk asked if anyone has any questions, on any items on the agenda, for the Wealden Local Plan Update Meeting, they notify her by email in time for the meeting.

26 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.

27 Reports from County/District Councillors

County Councillor Pursglove reported that;

- The new Highways Contract is running three weeks behind schedule but the verges in this Parish should be cut on 23rd June. Councillor Saxby reported the grass verges by the by-pass bridge on the Ersham Road are now dangerously high and obscure visibility for drivers.
- ESCC has carried out a review of School Crossing Patrols and as a result has reduced the number of patrols by four.
- He will ask Highways when they are cutting the hedges.

District Councillor Dear;

- Asked that when the grass verges are cut the cuttings are taken away because if left they block the drains.
- Reported that contractors are currently in the Parish as part of a 'Keep It Clear' exercise. They are checking drains and reporting back to Wealden District Council.
- The Food and Wine Festival this year is on 16th and 17th July at Pevensey Castle.
- She has asked for the planning application for Eastbourne Heights to be referred to Committee for a decision.

28 Questions from Members of the Public

Representatives from Eastbourne Heights Qualifying Residents' Association raised their objections to planning application WD2016/1039FA.

They said that if it is granted they will lose their communal amenity space which will prevent them from having their communal picnics, barbecues and charity events. It will therefore destroy community life.

They added that in 2009, Westham Parish Council said the access was not sufficient for the volume of traffic and Highways said the access is not ideal for a development of this type.

Mrs Bounds asked the Parish Council why Pevensey Park Road is continually overlooked for resurfacing. She said the road is a bus route and is in a very bad state. The Clerk will take this up with Highways and copy in County Councillor Pursglove. Residents are also asked to write in.

Mr Walker agreed and added that when they do cut the grass the grass cutter drives at excessive speeds which are often dangerous. The Clerk will take this up with Highways too.

The meeting was then re-opened.

29 Reports on Committee Meetings held

Councillors resolved to adopt the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on the 13th June 2016 and accepted the recommendations made. It was noted the Business Plan is to be referred to the next Full Council Meeting where Councillors will consider setting up a Working Party to review it, thereby allowing all councillors the chance to be involved.

Councillors resolved to adopt the minutes of the Parks and Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on the 13th June 2016 and accepted the most of the recommendations made. Councillors voted not to replace the gate in Butcher's Field and agreed it should remain a wooden gate.

30 Reports from Outside Meetings

Councillor Saxby attended the latest Patient's Planning Panel Meeting at Stone Cross Medical Centre. The Centre is looking at different ways to provide services and is proposing to run new specialist clinics.

31 Memorial for Bev Garner

The tree planting ceremony has been arranged for 4th July at 11am. Councillors **resolved** to finance a plaque from the Parish Council at a cost of approximately £40.

32 Westham Pond

Councillors agreed to defer this item until the next meeting as the schools would like more time.

33 Celebrating the Queen's 90th Birthday

Stone Cross School has purchased a collapsible flagpole. Councillors **resolved** to fund the cost of the flagpole at £149.00.

Pevensy and Westham School is understood to be asking for money towards a bell they have erected in due course.

34 Adur Park

Councillors considered two prices to fit suitable fencing around the new play equipment and after much discussion **resolved** not to go ahead by seven votes to five because;

- Adur Park is an open space and they feel it should remain one.
- It will make grass cutting difficult and it will therefore be more expensive.
- It is a lot of money to be spend.
- Previous fences have been regularly vandalised.
- Dogs will still get into the play area.

Councillor Blaker asked Councillors to consider improving the surface under the Adult Exercise Area and asked the Clerk to see if S106 money can be used.

35 Westham High Street

As requested at the last Full Council Meeting Councillor McClarty confirmed the cost of supplying and installing hanging baskets on twelve lamp posts in Westham High Street.

He said the initial cost would be £1240.72 but this includes providing the brackets and includes VAT and there would be ongoing maintenance at a cost of £1246.56 each year. He said the impact on the village would be hugely beneficial and suggested that after the first year sponsorship could be sought from local businesses and the scheme could also be rolled out to Stone Cross.

Councillors agreed to defer making a decision for now to allow Councillor McClarty time to seek sponsorship because they felt that, if the scheme goes ahead, they would prefer sponsorship to start at the outset.

36 Foxes Hollow Wall

Councillors **resolved** to accept the price from Cavity Tech dated 20th May 2016 to fill in the existing cracks in the wall to provide restraint to them. The Clerk will instruct Cavity Tech.

37 Questions from Parish Councillors

Councillor Durling;

- Asked for 'Neighbourhood Plan' to be an item on the next Full Council Meeting agenda and encouraged everyone to look at the Department of Communities and Local Government website for more information in the meantime.
- Asked that soil believed to have been dumped in Peelings Lane is cleared. The Clerk has asked a Senior Planning Officer at Wealden twice to get it removed. Councillor Durling will check if it has been yet and report back to her.
- Drew Councillors attention to the existence of a pyramidal orchid in Westham.

Councillor Marshall;

- Reported a tree overhanging Adur Drive.
- Asked Councillor Stevens about his meeting with ESCC about the flooding in the Parish. Councillors Stevens and Saxby met an Officer from ESCC, carried out a site visit and are now waiting to hear back.

Councillor Bruce said that developers are churning up the field opposite the Oaks and asked why. It is thought the work is part of the preliminary work, probably drainage, for the new estate.

Councillor Stevens asked if the Westham Conservation Group applied for a grant for its walks from Tesco Bags of Help funding because take up for the money was low. Councillor Durling said in that case the Group may reconsider its decision not to apply.

Councillor Parsons confirmed she will investigate following reports that tree branches are overhanging the pavement at Westham Pond.

Councillor Saxby asked if the Parish Council has been invited to attend a public meeting on the 4th August about the County Council's decision to allow 44 tonne vehicles to use Rickney Lane. It has not. Councillors asked the Clerk to find out when and where this meeting is and what neighbouring Parishes feel about the decision. They also agreed that Councillors McClarty and Saxby will represent the Parish Council and that they will formulate a formal response for Councillors McClarty and Saxby to take with them, at the next Full Council Meeting.

38 Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered;

WD/2016/1039/FA – Eastbourne Heights, Oak Tree Lane – Variation of conditions 5 and 8 of WD2009/1989F – use of land for the siting of 98 residential twin unit caravans – Westham Parish Council objects to this application on the following grounds;

- Residents will lose their communal amenity space which would prevent them from having communal picnics, barbecues and charity events. It will therefore destroy community life.
- The access is still not sufficient for the volume of traffic and agrees with Highways that the access is not ideal for this type of development.

WD/2016/1140/FA - Hankham Hall Farm, Hankham Hall Road – Minor material amendment to application WD2016/0340F – Erection of a pair of semi-detached dwellings together with drives – Westham Parish Council objects to this application on the grounds of overdevelopment as it did with the previous applications WD2015/1852F and WD2016/0340F.

WD/2016/1289/F – 3 Pride View – Single storey extension at rear and convert garage – Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

WD/2016/1343/F 30 Carnforth Crescent – Proposed orangery/conservatory to rear – Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

WD2016/1304F – Sovereign Commercial Installations, Westham Business Park – Installation of second window units - Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

WD2016/1238F – Victoria Villa, Milton Street – Side and rear extension to first floor providing addition bedroom space, built above the properties existing ground floor rooms - Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

WD2016/1410F - 8 Glessing Road – Proposed single storey extension at rear/side - Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

WD2016/1076F – 24 Rattle Road – Single storey rear extension and detached garage in front of house - Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

Councillor also considered of request from Persimmon Homes to erect Queensbury Shelters on either side of Rattle Road which they are providing as part of the new development works. Councillors agreed they did not like the plastic shelters and would prefer wooden ones instead.

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