

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

15th May 2017

held at The Amenity Hall, Stone Cross

13 Present

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

T Liddiard, A Stevens (Clerk) and three members of the public were also in attendance.

14 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillor T Bruce, and they were accepted by those present.

15 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 10th April 2017 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

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

Further to the recent TPO request made on behalf of Westham Conservation Group to the Parish Council, the Tree and Landscape Officer at Wealden visited Peelings Lane on a number of occasions to assess and consider the proposals.

He then sent a written report which said;

'As you know we have given this request a great deal of consideration but at present it is considered that it is not expedient to progress to the next step of making of a TPO. As we have previously discussed we assess each case on an individual basis and subject them to tests of defensibility and expediency. In this case a TPO could be defended as the trees are generally of good quality, but at present it is not regarded as expedient to do so for a number of reasons discussed below.

I understand, initial concerns were raised following the felling of a mature Oak along Peelings Lane adjacent to Castle View Gardens. This appears to be a localised and isolated incident and does not directly impact on any of the other trees along Peelings Lane. The quality of the tree felled was relatively poor and would have probably precluded it from TPO protection in any event. Its immediate neighbours which were included in the TPO request (identified as nos 2 & 3) but are also considered to be ineligible due to their poor condition and situation. A further two trees (nos 6 & 7) are already covered by TPO 19, 1988. The remaining trees are located away from the site of the initial incident and in separate ownership and are not regarded as being under direct threat.

When situations that led to the initial request arise, we need to act proportionately and at present there is not suitable justification for applying a wide ranging TPO which is a land charge, to trees in multiple ownership.

We really appreciate the time the Parish Council and Westham Conservation Group have taken to draw these concerns to our attention and we can of course reassess the situation should the position change or if information is received clearly demonstrating that trees are at risk'.

17 Disclosures of Interests

There were no disclosures of interests nor were there any changes to the Register of Interests

18 Reports from the County Councillor

County Councillor T Liddiard introduced himself as the new County Councillor. During his first six days in office he has;

- contacted Highways to arrange a tour on the Parish with the Highways Steward to look at potholes and road issues.
- put himself forward to sit on the Transport and Highways Scrutiny Panel.
- investigated complaints about speeding in Westham High Street.
- spoken to Huw Merriman MP, Caroline Lucas MP and Chris Grayling about plans to improve the A27.
- spoken to the District Councillors about development issues.

19 Report from the District Councillors

There were no reports from the District Councillors on this occasion.

20 Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from the public on this occasion.

The meeting was then re-opened.

21 Reports on Committee Meetings held

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

22 Reports from Outside Meetings

Councillor Parsons attended the latest Pevensey Town Trust Meeting. She said;

- decorators have uncovered a Tudor window and metal grid and the Trustees are now waiting to hear from the Conservation Officer on how to proceed.
- they hope to be open to the public in two months.
- a tapestry presentation, which depicts part of the Bayeux Tapestry, is planned at the for the end of June.

Councillor Blaker attended the latest Stone Cross Memorial Hall Meeting. The Trustees have appointed another Trustee and are in the process of making their final submission to the Charity Commission.

Councillor Saxby announced that Staff and Governors at Hankham School are starting the process to make the school part of an Academy Group.

There was no report from the Patients Planning Panel this month because the meeting was cancelled.

Councillor Garner said he attended the Westham Village Hall Meeting. The Hall has a new defibrillator which can be used by the general public. Rates to hire the hall are set to increase because costs have increased.

Councillor Stevens and Garner attended the Westham Pop-In Meeting. Residents raised concerns about the lack of parking in the Village Hall car park so they agreed to talk to the District Council and find out if measures can be introduced to limit the time cars can park there.

23 To consider supporting the Celebration Weekend Tea in Hankham

At the previous meeting, Westham Parish Council agreed that if the Celebration Tea goes ahead in Hankham School it would, in principle, meet the costs of employing the Caretaker for the day.

The event is not now being held in the School but will be held at Peelings Manor Barns so Councillors agreed to fund the £150 cost of providing two toilets instead.

24 Request for a bus shelter opposite Pride View

At the last meeting, Councillors considered a request from a resident asking them to provide a bus shelter at the bus stop opposite Pride View. The Clerk contacted Highways to see if they will give permission and is now waiting to hear back from them.

25 Windmill Green

At the last meeting Councillors asked the Clerk to complain to ESCC about the state road contractors have left the bank at Windmill Green in. The Clerk contacted ESCC and the bank has now been reinstated to a satisfactory condition.

26 Accounts for the Financial Year Ending 31st March 2017.

Councillors resolved that they approved the Receipts and Payments Account, Bank Reconciliation, Income and Expenditure Account, Asset Schedule, Debtors and Creditors List, Annual Return, Annual Governance Statement, Risk Management Documents and Internal Control Arrangements for the financial year to 31st March 2017.

27 Emergency Plan

Councillors resolved that the Emergency Plan needs updating and agreed that Councillor Marshall will review it and bring an amended version to the next Full Council Meeting.

28 Questions from Parish Councillors

Councillor Beaney asked that the 'No Cold Calling' sign by the Village Green is cleaned. Councillors suggested all the 'No Cold Calling Signs' and benches could be cleaned by the Community Payback Team.

Councillor Durling asked if the Parish Council can ask Pevensey and Westham School to put signs outside like the ones outside Stone Cross School which ask parents and carers to park more considerately at school drop off and pick up times. Councillors declined her request as it is not the Council's role and because if parking is decriminalised the problem may be resolved. Councillor Saxby said Hankham School staggers school times which seems to help.

Councillor Marshall;

- asked if the new path to the Pinewood Estate is finished because it looks rough. Councillors agreed he will carry out a site visit with County Councillor Liddiard after this meeting and report back.
- reported a problem with the tarmac at Adur Drive/Darwell Drive which they will look at too.
- also said the bus shelter at Friday Street needs re-felting. The Clerk will instruct contractors to carry out the necessary repairs.

29 Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered;

WD/2017/0837/F – 42 Pevensey Park Road, Westham – Additions to rooms in the roof forming front and side gables – Westham Parish Council has no objections to this application on any planning grounds.

WD/2017/0664/F – Belvedere, Hankham Hall Road – Two storey side and rear extension with new first floor accommodation including dormer windows and rooflights. Construction of detached double garage – Westham Parish Council has no objections to this application on any planning grounds.

WD/2017/0402/F - Land adjacent to 125 Rattle Road, Westham, BN24 5DH - Extension of existing dwelling curtilage including erection of new three bay garage building including store – Westham Parish Council objects to this application because it is outside the development boundary.

WD/2017/0973/F - Hankham Lodge, Hankham Hall Road, Hankham, Pevensey, BN24 5AG - Erect conservatory at rear – Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

There being no further business, this meeting closed at 8.15pm.