

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

15th July 2017

held at The Amenity Hall, Stone Cross

50 Present

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

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

51 Apologies for Absence

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

52 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 19th June 2017 were confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

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

The Clerk said;

- Planning Application WD/2017/0402/F has been referred to Wealden Planning Committee South for a decision. Councillors agreed they will not send a representative because they have nothing to add to their original comments.
- A new Neighbourhood Watch Scheme has been set up in Eastbourne Heights and members asked if the Parish Council will 'endorse, support and maybe even actively help co-ordinate and/or facilitate with further efforts to increase Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in the Westham Parish area'. Councillors asked what sort of help did they want and agreed that whilst they wished the residents every success, they could not favour one group over the others.

The Clerk also circulated a response from ESCC on whether permission is needed to erect mirrors on the side of the road. ESCC does not permit the use of traffic mirrors within the limits of the public highway.

54 Disclosures of Interests

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

The meeting was then suspended.

55 Report from the District Councillors

District Councillor Clark;

- said the Chief Inspector of Sussex Police, attended Wealden's Overview and Scrutiny Meeting recently and said the main priorities of the Police are to keep the community safe, support those vulnerable to crime and respond to any harm.
- told residents to report parking offences on Operation Crackdown on the Sussex Police website and provide photographs if possible.
- Said 67% of food outlets in the Wealden area scored 5 star ratings in health inspections. Those scoring 0 are closed down. The lowest score in Wealden was 1. Any outlet scoring 1 or 2 receives immediate education.
- Issues such as fly tipping and dog fouling are dealt with by two Street Scene Officers. There were 460 cases of fly tipping last year.
- Wealden Dementia Alliance continues its activities for carers and patients.
- The Housing Team is busy reassuring its residents following the Grenfell Fire. None of the flats in the Wealden area have external cladding, all have regular fire safety checks and all are risk assessed.

Councillor Marshall asked if Building Control still inspect new developments. District Councillor Clark said she will find out and report back to the Clerk.

A full copy of District Councillor Clark's report will be available from the Clerk in due course.

District Councillor Clark then left the meeting.

56 Reports from the County Councillor

County Councillor T Liddiard said;

- 67 of the potholes that he has reported in the Parish, have now been filled. He will be following up the 13 which have not.
- He has formally complained to Wealden Planning about the state of the path constructed by developers in Dittons Road.
- He has spoken to ESCC about the impact the new developments will have on the existing roads. He will send any response he gets to the Clerk.
- There has been a significant rise in the number of drug abuse cases reported lately and he asked if there is anywhere in the Parish that could hold drop-in sessions. Kamsons Pharmacy are registered to take needles in Polegate.
- He met the Head of the Fire Authority. All high rise blocks in the County have been assessed and all medium ones will have been assessed by the end of July. There are no immediate concerns.
- He is working with 'Supported Living'. 'Supported Living' have identified meeting sites and they have spoken to the District Council and identified vulnerable and high risk residents.
- He has been contacted by three residents with fostering issues.
- Judged the recent Scarecrow Competition, the results of which will be out soon.
- He has received compliments about the hanging baskets in Westham.

County Councillor Liddiard then left the meeting.

57 Questions from Members of the Public

Mrs Lentle complained about the number of cars for sale which are parked on the verges at Stone Cross and also asked if the Parish Council charges them rent. The Clerk said she has previously complained to Highways because the cars are parked on Highways land and the only course of action at the time was to impose a by-law under the Cleaner Neighbourhood's Act but this was expensive. She asked Mrs Lentle to email her and she will try again.

Mr McMillan from Foxes Hollow Residents' Association;

- Reported that the path between Foxes Hollow and the new estate is overgrown. Councillor Stevens and the Clerk will carry out a site visit and take any appropriate action.
- Said the path by the electricity sub-station in Glessing Road also needs looking at because it is impassable.

The meeting was then re-opened.

58 Reports on Committee Meetings held

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

59 Reports from Outside Meetings

Councillors Saxby and Stevens attended the Hankham Village Society Celebration Weekend Tea on the 17th June. The Parish Council was credited with paying for the hire of the toilet facilities.

Councillor Stevens attended the Wealden District Association of Local Council's Annual General Meeting on the 12th July. There was a talk from the Fire Brigade who are keen to set up more Speedwatch Teams.

60 Request for a bus shelter opposite Pride View

Having sought and been granted permission from the Enforcement Department and the Transport and Development Departments at ESCC, the Clerk asked for planning permission from Wealden District Council. The request was denied as the law states only the service provider can provide bus shelters. The Clerk then contacted ESCC and asked them to provide the shelter and said the Parish Council would pay for it. The Parish Council is still waiting to hear back from Highways.

61 Emergency Plan

Councillors Marshall has updated the Emergency Card which is now almost complete. He is also updating the Emergency Plan.

62 Request for a bench at Foxes Hollow

Foxes Hollow Residents' Association would like to supply and fit a Glasdon Phoenix bench on Glessing Green and asked the Parish Council for permission. Glessing Green is owned by the Parish Council.

Councillors agreed as long as there were no objections from any of the neighbouring properties and it is fitted by a Parish Council approved contractor. Any ongoing maintenance will be the responsibility of Foxes Hollow Residents' Association.

63 New Bus Shelters

Westham Parish Council resolved to adopt the future maintenance of two new wooden bus shelters which are being donated by developers at the two stops on Rattle Road.

64 Car Park Barrier

Councillor Stevens and the Clerk met a contractor at Adur Park recently and he suggested the best way to make the entrance to Adur Park more secure would be to fabricate a new galvanised locking system. This would be welded onto the existing gate and the post and would have a hood over it to make it harder to break in. He would also weld on a disc to each hinge to stop the gate from being lifted off its hinges. The Police said as far as they are concerned, anything that makes it harder for anyone to gain entry would be beneficial.

Councillors agreed and resolved that the work goes ahead.

65 Questions from Parish Councillors

Councillor Walker reported overgrowth near the noticeboard at Castle Bolton. The Clerk said she will carry out a site visit and take any appropriate action.

Councillor Marshall asked if ESCC can cut the verge at Windmill Green. The Clerk will ask Highways.

Councillor Saxby asked how far ESCC cuts the hedge back by the bridge on the Ersham Road because it causes visibility problems. The Clerk will ask them about this too.

66 Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered;

WD/2017/1513/F - 64 Rattle Road, Westham, BN24 5DJ - Detached oak framed garage, to supersede the previously approved brick garage of same footprint (WD/2015/1220/F) – Westham Parish Council has no objections to this application on any planning grounds.

WD/2017/1380/F - 36 Castle View Gardens, Westham, BN24 5HP - Proposed replacement single storey extension to the rear elevation and associated alterations - Westham Parish Council has no objections to this application on any planning grounds.

WD/2017/1521/MFA - Uplands Farm, Rattle Road, Stone Cross, Westham, BN24 5DT - Variation of condition 10 of application WD/2015/2887/MAO (Outline application for residential development of up to 183 dwellings (including Affordable) and means of access to Rattle Road. Other matters to be reserved for future determination) – Westham Parish Council has no objections to the condition being removed as long as by doing so it does not add to the flooding problems already experienced by some of the residents in Rattle Road.

There being no further business, this meeting closed at 8.20pm.