

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

16th October 2017

held at The Amenity Hall, Stone Cross

89 Present

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

Alice Brighton (Welbeck Land), Anna Russell-Smith (Montagu Evans), County Councillor Daniel Shing, District Councillor L Clark, A Stevens (Clerk) and nine members of the public were also in attendance.

90 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from District Councillor D Dear.

91 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 18th September 2017 were confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

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

The Parish Council has received £3278.13 from the Community Infrastructure Levy. The money can be spent to support the development of the local area by funding;

1: The provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or
2: Anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area.

Councillors were asked to suggest ideas at the next Full Council Meeting.

93 Disclosures of Interests

Councillor Bruce declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the item on the Library Consultation and did not take part in the vote.

The meeting was then suspended.

94 Alice Brighton (Welbeck Land), Anna Russell-Smith (Montagu Evans) to speak about and answer questions on Planning Application WD/2017/2020/MAO for Land South Of Dittons Road, Stone Cross

Ms Brighton and Ms Russell-Smith said that in response to the pre-application consultation and subsequent feedback, the number of houses proposed has been reduced from 110 to 90.

In answer to Councillors' questions they;

- confirmed there will be an attenuation pond and any safety features will be detailed in the Reserved Matters Application.
- said there will be a walkway from the new estate to the existing estate. Residents will be able to walk to the existing playpark.

- noted Councillors concerns about the narrow access and the cumulative effect all the new developments will have on the existing roundabout and roads. They also said that no provision has been made for a safer crossing for the extra walkers and cyclists at Dittons Road/Golden Jubilee Way.
- Confirmed Noise Impact Assessments and Air Impact Assessments have been commissioned. Councillor Durling said it would have been helpful to have the results of all assessments in time for this meeting.

The Chairman thanked Ms Brighton and Ms Russell-Smith for attending and they left the meeting.

95 Report from the County Councillor

County Councillor Shing;

- encouraged everyone to respond to The Library Consultation and pointed out that if the proposals go ahead it will take most people longer than the quoted thirty minutes to get to the nearest library. He said it is also unreasonable to expect elderly people to carry also books when they get their shopping.
- encouraged everyone to respond to the A27 Consultation.
- noted Councillors' concerns about the safety of cyclists and walkers crossing Golden Jubilee Way. He said he will put their concerns to Officers at the County Council and report back.

96 Reports from the District Councillor

District Councillor Clark said Wealden District Council will be submitting a response to the Library Consultation soon.

97 Questions from Members of the Public

Mrs Molog, Chairman of Stone Cross Mill Trust, asked Councillors to consider using some of the S106 Money to fund brown tourism signs for the Mill and Information Boards either end of Peelings Lane, and if funds were not available for this purpose if the Parish Council could try and find funds from elsewhere. This was covered later on in the meeting.

Mr Arnold asked the Parish Council to re-consider moving the dog bin In Adur Park because during the summer months the smell is a massive issue for him and his family. The Chairman confirmed this year was particularly bad because the District Council fitted the wrong bins and they could not be emptied. The District Council has since apologised. Councillors discussed whether or not to move the bin later on in the meeting.

Ms Martin spoke about the library strategy proposed by ESCC and what she felt was wrong with it. She asked the Parish Council to consider allocating some funding to help a Community Group take over Pevensey Library should ESCC close it.

The meeting was then re-opened.

98 Reports on Committee Meetings held

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

99 Reports from Outside Meetings

Councillor Parsons attended the latest Pevensey Town Trust Meeting. Trustees have submitted a planning application so they can build a toilet, have running water and underpin the building.

Councillors Saxby and Comerford attended the Patients' Planning Panel meeting at Stone Cross Medical Centre. Staff have been trained to use NEMSIS the Automatic Computer System.

Councillor Saxby also attended the Hankham Village Society Meeting. The Society has planned a carol service on the 13th December and a Fish and Chip Supper on the 16th December. It was noted that the Society now has 100 members.

Councillor Lovell, Stevens and Durling attended the ESALC AGM and Conference where;

- Maria Caulfield, MP, spoke about the A27 proposals.
- ESCC spoke about the Library Consultation
- Sussex Police updated everyone on the funding situation at Sussex Police and the changes they are having to make as a result.
- Representatives from Ouse Valley Energy Group said they have some funding available for schools to enable them to put solar panels on their roofs. The Group can also help groups of twelve or more residents get together and save money by switching energy suppliers.

Councillor Stevens also attended the latest Wealden District Association of Local Councils Meeting where Wealden District Council formally apologised for the situation with the dog bins. The Police updated everyone on the changes at Sussex Police and Wealden updated everyone on the progress of the Wealden Local Plan.

100 ESCC – Library Consultation –

i: to agree a response to the proposals which include closing seven libraries and stopping the mobile library service – Two members said they felt the numbers using the smaller libraries is minimal and questioned whether they should stay open but the remaining members agreed they would like ESCC to keep them. They said;

- usage could increase if the opening hours were longer and may also increase with the new developments.
- Libraries are more than just a local book service and provide many other useful services.
- The libraries may be too expensive for Parishes to take over because they would have to buy the building, the stock and pay the running costs.
- The County Council has a statutory duty to provide a Library Service to all the community.

Councillors also discussed the possibility that the community could take it over but agreed the first stage is to object to the proposals.

ii: depending on the outcome of (i:) to consider officially appointing a representative on the Working Party to be chaired by Huw Merriman, MP – Councillors resolved that Councillor Parsons will be their representative on the Working Party.

101 Emergency Plan

Councillor Marshall is currently updating the Plan and hopes to complete it shortly.

102 Hedge Cutting

Residents in Medina Drive have asked the Parish Council to reduce the height of the hedge at the rear of their properties. The hedges are in Adur Park.

Councillors resolved to reduce the height of the hedge to 7' and accepted the price from Chaffin Tree Surgery dated 10th October 2017.

Residents in Rother Avenue asked the Parish Council to reduce the height of the trees on the path to Beaulieu Drive. Councillors sought the advice of a qualified Tree Surgeon and accepted the price to carry out the work in the quote dated 16th October 2017

103 Street Light at Windmill Green

Councillor Marshall previously reported two lamp posts at Windmill Green, which are on private land, need to be moved and replaced because they are dangerous.

The Clerk and Chairman carried out a site visit, checked ownership with ESCC and asked Councillors how they would like to proceed. It was accepted that whilst the lamp posts are not dangerous they will need replacing in the next few years.

Doubts were raised as to whether the residents would prefer to have the lamp posts removed or replaced so Councillors asked the Clerk to write to each of them and find out.

104 Adur Park

Adur Park –

i: to consider moving the dog bin at the rear of 22 Eden Close – Councillors resolved to move the bin away from the rear of 22 Eden Close and away from the children's play equipment.

It was also noted that the Parish Council may have to provide more dog bins in the future because of all the new development.

ii: to consider erecting 'no cycling' signs – The Parish Council received a request from a resident which asked Councillors to consider erecting 'no cycling' signs in Adur Park because some of the older residents worry they may be knocked over. Councillors considered the matter and resolved not to erect signs because it would prevent younger children learning to cycle there and is not enforceable.

105 Section 106

The latest S106 Monitoring Report for Wealden South shows the District Council is holding just under £20000 from the former Stone Cross Nursery Site, for its contribution towards off-site Youth and Adult Play space in the Parish.

Councillors considered;

- Signage (as per Councillor Durling and Stone Cross Mill's request) but accepted it would not be classed as 'Youth and Adult Playspace'
- A cycle/running path which would meet the criteria.
- Fencing the children's play area but it would not meet the criteria.

Councillors agreed to think about some more ideas and bring them to a future meeting.

106 Questions from Parish Councillors

Councillor Marshall reported the water leaking from the bottom of the bank at Windmill Green has been repaired.

Councillor Saxby asked what the effects of the Wind Turbines are and whether the outcomes are known. The Clerk will see if she can find out

Councillors discussed the A27 proposals and felt they had to accept them or the funding would be withdrawn.

107 Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered;

WD/2017/2258/F - Winfield, Peelings Lane, Westham - Erect single storey extension at front – Councillors had no objections to this application on any planning grounds.

WD/2017/1847/F - 22 Lambourn Avenue, Stone Cross - Conversion of garage - Councillors had no objections to this application on any planning grounds.

WD/2017/1934/FR - Saxon Nursery, Hankham Road, Hankham - Retrospective Application for Change of Use from part fenced nursery yard area to a fenced area to store scaffolding materials and one HGV lorry – Councillors do not object to the yard being used for storage but they do object to the use of an HGV lorry because they fear it will set a precedent.

WD/2017/2214/F - Wish Cottage, Hankham Hall Road, Hankham - Single storey extension and removal of existing conservatory - Councillors had no objections to this application on any planning grounds.

WD/2017/2047/F - 38 Penrith Way, Stone Cross - Removal of existing cantilever bay window to allow formation of a new walk in bay window - Councillors had no objections to this application on any planning grounds.

WD/2017/2020/MAO - Land South Of Dittons Road, Stone Cross - Outline application for the comprehensive redevelopment of the land for a residential scheme, engineering works and the construction of new buildings and structures to provide residential accommodation (up to 90 dwellings) with ancillary and associated development including new and enhanced pedestrian/cycle routes and open spaces, car parking and vehicular access with all Matters Reserved save for full details submitted in relation to access points at the site boundaries.- Westham Parish Council objects to this application because;

1: The cumulative effect of all the new developments on the existing roads is unknown. This development will over load an already busy roundabout and road which are said to be at full capacity already. Councillors felt that Highways figures are, at best, 'guesstimates'.

2: The access road is too narrow. Cars will not be able to pass each other especially when there is a dustcart or delivery lorry present..

3: The existing infrastructure, for example the local schools and Medical Centre, are already struggling to cope as it is.

4: No provision has been made for a safer crossing for the extra walkers and cyclists at Dittons Road/Golden Jubilee Way.

Councillors agreed they want to see what the effects of the other new developments are before this one is allowed to go ahead.

There being no further business, this meeting closed at 8.55pm.

