

## WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

### DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

15<sup>th</sup> January 2018

held at the Amenity Hall, Stone Cross

135 Present

Councillors K Stevens, G Garner, K Saxby, A Lovell, J Blaker, F Durling, G Walker, G Parsons and T Bruce.

County Councillor Tom Liddiard, County Councillor D Shing, District Councillor L Clark, District Councillor D Dear, A Stevens (Clerk) and two members of the public were also in attendance.

136 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor T Comerford, R Perrin, N Beaney and P Marshall and were accepted by the Full Council.

137 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017 were confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

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

All matters' arising were covered elsewhere on the agenda.

139 Disclosures of Interests

Councillor Bruce declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the item on Pevensey Library and did not take part in any voting.

The meeting was then suspended.

140 Reports from the County Councillors

County Councillor Liddiard said;

- He reported the cars for sale at the side of the road in Dittons Road to Wealden. They will not take any action because there are only two cars for sale at a time from one dealer.
- Daniel Shing and he attended the Library Review Panel Meeting at County. Both County Councillors spoke passionately about the effect removing the libraries at Polegate, Pevensey and Langney would have on the residents of this Parish.
- He has arranged for the speed signs along Rattle Road and Dittons Road to be cleaned or replaced.
- The cats' eyes on the road between Westham and Pevensey are being replaced soon.
- He asked Highways to repaint the white lines outside Hankham School but Highways say they are not bad enough yet.

- Drains along Rattle Road/Dittons Road have been cleared because they were blocked with mud from the building sites. Developers have been asked to keep the roads cleaner in future.

County Councillor Daniel Shing said;

- He felt the questions in the Library Consultation were leading. He presented lots of video evidence to prove the journey times quoted were incorrect.
- He reported to ESCC that the road markings in Dittons Road are fading and they are going to be re-painted. He will also ask them to repaint the roundabout markings.
- He has been trying to get the length of time the temporary traffic lights are in place at Lidl, Polegate, reduced and can report the work there is now almost finished.
- The bus timetable has changed. He will send a copy for the Clerk to send to Councillors.

County Councillor Liddiard said he will arrange for Councillor Saxby to meet the Highways Steward at Hankham because parents could not get to school and residents were unable to leave their homes without wellington boots recently because the flooding was so bad.

#### 141 Reports from the District Councillors

District Councillor Dear said;

- She attended a discussion at Wealden on the 15<sup>th</sup> January about Civil Parking Enforcement (decriminalisation) which if it goes ahead could mean County receive over £23000 a year from drivers who park in Pevensey Bay.
- Planning application fees are to increase by 20% from the 17<sup>th</sup> January.
- She was invited to the launch of a new bus by Stagecoach. The new buses have on board phone chargers and free Wii-fi.

District Councillor Clark read from her report which said;

#### Wealden Local Plan

'Ann Newton, Portfolio Holder for Planning told us of her frustration about the process. The Government continually move the goalposts making it very hard to keep on track as this means that in turn we have to keep on changing our plan.

It is likely that Natural England, which is a Government department, will say that this will change as the problem will go away on its own as electric cars are used more. The fact remains that it will be very many years before electric cars are affordable to all.

Our neighbouring councils have not gathered evidence and have nothing to fight with. Wealden, on the other hand, has gathered a lot of evidence to back up the fact that Ashdown Forest is being affected. Both of these facts may be in our favour. Our neighbours could well be loaded with much more development which will mean it would not be necessary for Wealden to supply so many houses.

Wealden does need to take its time to get things right or we could end up with 30,000 more houses than we need or want.

#### CPE – On street car parking charges.

You do not have much limited time "on street" parking in Westham, which means you have not been on the list for "on street" parking charges, I know there has been interest from the shopkeepers. The problem appears to be one of policing.

It seems that the general opinion among Wealden Councillors, is that we should not enter into the realms of setting up on street parking charges with ESCC. Wealden would have to agree for this to happen. Thinking of our businesses we do not want to make it even harder to attract footfall to our towns and villages. The main problem is within our towns where there is a railway station, and it is felt that charging would simply push the parking back to more residential areas.

We have discussed the policing issue again and again, and we can only come to the conclusion that it is within the remit of the Police and not the council. We feel that we need to put much more pressure on the Police to perform what is their statutory duty. To this end we would like all our Parish and Town Councils to join in, and we will be looking at how we can do this. Certainly, there can be a lot of pressure brought to bear by using social media.

Although we intend to stay as we are with on street parking, we will not let the policing issue with the Police rest'.

District Councillor Clark also confirmed she reported the damaged sign in Hankham Hall Road to Wealden and will ask them for an update.

Councillor Stevens pointed out Wealden and Rother are the only two District Councils in the whole of South East England who have not opted for decriminalisation.

#### 142 Questions from Members of the Public

Mr McMillan from Foxes Hollow Residents' Association reported that footpaths on the estate are slippery when wet and asked if the moss can be cleared on them. The Clerk and Chairman will carry out a site visit and report back.

The meeting was then re-opened.

#### 143 Reports on Committee Meetings held

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

#### 144 Reports from Outside Meetings

Councillors Stevens and Durling attended the Wealden District Association of Local Councils Meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> January. The main subject on the agenda was the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). The current Data Protection Act is out of date and does not take into account Social Media so new regulations (GDPR) will take effect from 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018. The Clerk is to attend training in February to find out how the changes will affect Town and Parish Councils and will then report back. Decriminalisation was also discussed, Parishes and Town Councils could be asked to contribute towards the set up costs.

Councillors Durling, Lovell, Stevens, and Walker attended the Wealden Parish Conference on 6<sup>th</sup> December. Councillor Durling said she particularly liked the talk about the Healthy Wealden Initiative.

Councillor Saxby attended the latest Governors' Meeting at Hankham School. Governors had started discussions to see if Hankham School could in the future become part of an Academy Trust.

Councillor Parsons attended various meetings about the future of the Pevensey Bay Library. This was covered later on in the meeting.

145 Emergency Plan

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

146 Pevensey Library

Councillors were asked which community group/partnership arrangement they would consider to be best suited to overseeing and managing a joint funded approach to keeping the library open, and if they were able to contribute CIL funds towards the initial set up costs.

Councillors understand there are two bids in the pipeline but felt it is up to ESCC to decide which bid is best because they will have the ultimate say. Councillor Durling suggested the two groups could work together.

Having checked with Wealden, the Clerk confirmed CIL money cannot be used towards the set up costs because it is to subsidise the service and this is a revenue stream rather than a capital project.

146 CIL Money

Councillor Durling suggested the CIL money could be used to change Peelings Lane under the Healthy Wealden Initiative and it could become like the Cuckoo Trail with limited traffic access. It should also stop fly tipping there. She invited Councillors to join her and walk the Lane with Helen Markwick the officer responsible at Wealden.

Councillors said that whilst a few residents would like to see Peelings Lane closed, many others (including the Parish Council) are completely hostile to the idea. The Lane is also an emergency exit for Foxes Hollow and the other new estates and was needed as an escape route when there was a gas explosion. The police have also advised that crime would increase.

Councillors resolved not to spend the CIL Money until the effects of the new developments are known. It might be needed to improve the pedestrian crossing over Golden Jubilee Way for example.

147 Westham Pond

At the last Full Council Meeting, following a request from a resident, Councillors discussed whether or not to allow her to display a poster at the Pond which asks residents not to feed bread to the ducks and geese and recommends what they should eat instead. Councillors asked the Clerk to ask the resident where the poster came from, who has the copyright and whether it has been approved by the RSPB.

The resident replied saying it was something she found on the internet, she did not know who owned the copyright or if it had been approved by the RSPCA.

She submitted a second poster which she said was taken from the Canal and Rivers Trust, which she said is in the public domain so there are no copyright restrictions.

Councillors questioned the legality of the poster and felt it was too wordy and would be ignored. They opted instead to hold another poster competition with the local schools.

148 Foxes Hollow Wall

At the previous meeting Councillors asked the Clerk to get a price to cut back the vegetation overhanging the wall. They agreed to go ahead, and also get the roots killed, as long as the total work costs no more than £600.

149 Grit Bins

Whilst carrying out his grit bin inspections, Councillor Marshall noticed some are being used as rubbish bins and suggested sealing and/or locking the bins.

Councillors resolved to seal each bin with a cable tie over the summer months to see if it solves the problem.

150 Westham Pop-In

Councillors considered the grant request from Westham Pop-In and unanimously resolved to award them £150. The money will be paid out in the new financial year.

151 Scarecrow Competition

Councillors resolved that the Scarecrows can be fixed to the new fence alongside Butcher's Field in the summer because they will look tidier than if they are fixed onto posts on the Village Green. Digging posts into the Village Green might also need an archaeological survey.

152 Adoption of Lion Hill Telephone Box

Councillors were asked to consider a request from a resident to adopt the Lion Hill Telephone Box. The Parish Council would need to adopt the box in the first instance, contracts would need to be exchanged and the resident would also need planning permission to change its use.

Councillors resolved not to adopt the box because the resident has yet to decide what he wants to do with it, legal costs would be incurred and there could be problems if he moves.

153 Questions from Parish Councillors

There were no questions from any Parish Councillors on this occasion.

154 Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered;

WD/2017/2805/LB - Peelings Manor, Hankham Road, Hankham, Pevensey - Alterations and repairs – Westham Parish Council has no objections to this application on any planning grounds as long as it meets the Listed Building Requirements.

WD/2017/2824/F - Unit 19, Potts Marsh Industrial Estate, Eastbourne Road, Westham - Change of use from B1 - Business to B2 - General Industrial - Westham Parish Council has no objections to this application on any planning grounds.

There being no further business, this meeting closed at 8.25pm.