

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

16th April 2018

held at the Amenity Hall, Stone Cross

201 Present

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

County Councillor T Liddiard, A Stevens (Clerk) and one member of the public were also in attendance.

202 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillor T Comerford and were accepted by the Full Council.

Apologies for absence were also received from County Councillor D Shing and District Councillor L Clark.

203 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 19th March 2018 were confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

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

A resident in Westham reported that the bridge on the footpath at the junction of St John's Drive and Peelings Lane was dangerous and needed replacing. The Chairman carried out a site visit, the matter was reported to Rights of Way and Rights of Way have now been replaced the bridge.

Unauthorised signs fixed to the fence at Butcher's Field were reported to the Clerk and have now been removed. Councillors asked for the hay rack to also be removed.

205 Disclosures of Interests

No disclosures of interest were declared, nor were there any changes to the Register of Interests.

The meeting was then suspended.

206 Reports from the County Councillors

County Councillor Tom Liddiard reported;

- He spoke against the library closures and now the decision has been made to close them he supports both community bids to take over the one at Pevensey Bay.
- He has referred a couple of incidents in Hankham to the Waste Disposal team.
- Road line markings are to be restored in Westham soon.
- Although some of the speed signs in Rattle Road have been replaced, more are still needed but they have been ordered.
- A number of potholes in the Parish have been marked for repair by Highways.

- He reported an incident of shredded paper which was found in the High Street at Westham to Wealden and it has now been cleared.
- He is working with two residents in the Parish to appeal against the withdrawal of their blue badges.
- Potholes on the Glynleigh Road and in Hobney Rise are to be repaired soon.
- He helped resolve a neighbourly dispute in Stone Cross.
- He gave German visitors a tour of the Parish.
- The County Council is currently considering plans to extend Willingdon Community School.
- He will talk to both developers because Rattle Road is not being cleaned effectively.

County Councillor Daniel Shing sent a written report in which he said;

- The local Highway Steward has recently inspected the markings at the roundabout at Adur Drive and arranged for their renewal. These works are weather dependent and so the County Council has been unable to provide an exact timeframe for their completion. However, they will ensure that they are carried out as soon as possible.
- He has received a number of concerns about the pedestrian crossing point on Dittons Road/Golden Jubilee Way. The County Council has responded by stating that it has previously been assessed and did not achieve the benchmark score needed to enable it to be taken forward. They explained that this is mainly because this area has a good safety record, with no crashes involving personal injury to pedestrians being reported to the Police in the most recent three year period.

207 Reports from the District Councillors

District Councillor Clark sent her apologies and said that if there is anything that the Council needs help with, please email her.

208 Questions from Members of the Public

Mr McMillan from Foxes Hollow Residents' Association asked where the new estates are taking their water from because they seem to be taking it from Foxes Hollow and they should not be. County Councillor Liddiard said he will try and find out.

The meeting was then re-opened.

209 Reports on Committee Meetings held

There have been not been any Committee meetings since the last Full Council Meeting.

210 Reports from Outside Meetings

Councillor Parsons reported that the Pevensey Town Trust's planning application is ready for submission to Wealden District Council. It is hoped that work will start on the new wall in September.

Councillor Saxby announced the recent death of Sarah Quibell who was the main driving force behind Hankham Village Society.

Councillor Blaker announced the recent death of Colin Nye at Stone Cross Memorial Hall. The Hall has two new Trustees, of which he is one and is looking for a new Secretary.

The Parish Council asked Councillors Saxby and Blaker to pass on their condolences to the families of Mrs Quibell and Mr Nye.

Councillor Parsons said Mr Rob Slater has raised money for a defibrillator for the car park by Pevensey Castle.

Councillor Stevens attended the latest Wealden District Association of Local Councils Meeting where he gave members the latest update on the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). The Information Commissioner says it is aware of the difficulties facing Town and Parish Councils and has stated publically that it sees GDPR as a 'journey' and not a 'destination'.

Councillor Stevens also reported at the meeting that;

- the Government has signalled in its recently published response to an Independent Review of Local Council Tax Support Schemes that it will explore ways in which it can strengthen the requirement for principal billing authorities to pass a share of local council tax support to their towns and parishes.

The Department recently approached some of the parishes that wrote to it in 2017 to complain about this issue and they have confirmed that the issues remain. The Government's clear expectation is that billing authorities will work with parish and town councils to pass down funding so that increases in their precepts can be avoided. However, some billing authorities are still not passing local council tax support funding on to parish and town councils, and the Department is urging them to reconsider.

Before they decide the next steps, the Department would like to know billing authorities' perspectives on this issue to help them better understand the scale of the problem. They have therefore written to the Billing Authorities and are waiting for their responses.

- Wealden is the only District Council south of the M4 and M25 to not opt for decriminalisation and one of only seven nationwide. Decriminalisation would enable Local Authorities to deal with problem parking.

211 Emergency Plan

This Emergency Plan cards are now at the printers and should be ready to present to Councillors at the next Full Council Meeting.

212 Bus Stops

At the previous meeting Councillors resolved to replace the two plastic bus shelters in the Parish, one in Stone Cross and one in Westham, with the wooden ones which match the new shelters provided by the developers.

The County Council has since said the Parish Council will need to apply for a licence for the project at a cost of £380. Councillors resolved to still go ahead. County Councillor Liddiard said he will see if he can get the charge revoked and he will also see if he can find out why the County Council is not fitting a new shelter in Lion Hill even though the Parish Council has agreed to pay for it.

213 Firework Display

At the last meeting the Parish Council asked the Clerk to ask the PTFA;

- 1) Where exactly is their display being staged? Is there a bonfire and if so where will that be?
- 2) Why does our car park need to be closed?
- 3) Will it (the car park) be used in connection with the firework display?

- 4) Will other car parks or any other facilities in the area be expected to close and if not why not?
- 5) Where are the people attending the firework display going to park their cars?
- 6) Where are residents who normally park their cars overnight in our car park expected to leave them?
- 7) Often, particularly at the weekend, our car park is regularly used as an overspill for the shops car park, where are these people expected to park and had the organisers thought about the detrimental effect on those traders.
- 8) If our car park is being closed purely on a health and safety basis, if the display is so risky, is holding it in such a built-up area a good idea?
- 9) How will you close the car park and who will police it?
- 10) What will happen if we keep the car park open?

The Parish Council is still waiting for a response.

214 Dog Bins

The Parish Council has received a request from a resident who lives near the dog bin at the top of Pevensey Park Road. He said that despite being emptied twice a week it is often overflowing and asked for an additional one to be fitted. Councillors who pass the bin regularly said they have not found this to be the case recently but agreed to monitor the situation and report back to the Full Council if it becomes a problem again.

Councillor Marshall said that Eastbourne Borough Council has stickers which say 'there's no such thing as a dog poo fairy' and 'in the absence of a dog bin or if a nearby one is full use a litter bin' and suggested we could have some here. The Clerk said she will see if she can get some.

Councillors also suggested putting an article in The Pump to say that if there are no dog bins nearby or if there are and they are full, residents can use litter bins instead. They also asked that 'dog bins' are added to their Wish List.

215 Annual Tree Report

Councillors resolved to accept the price for the works highlighted as 'Amber', 'Red' and 'Green' in the 2018 Annual Tree Report.

216 Jubilee Tree

Councillors resolved to replace the tree which has been killed by sheep and protect it with adequate netting.

217 Friends of Stone Cross School (FOSC) Events

Councillors resolved not to allow FOSC permission to advertise the summer fete on the fence in Adur Park because it is a dangerous point at which to divert drivers' attention away from the road and it may mislead residents into thinking the event is in Adur Park.

218 Questions from Parish Councillors

Councillor Lovell reported a loose manhole cover by the pedestrian entrance to St Luke's Church in Rattle Road. The Highways Steward was seen there assessing it the previous weekend.

Councillor Saxby asked for an update on the cars advertised for sale at Golden Jubilee Way. The Clerk is waiting for the outcome of a case which has been reported to Trading Standards. If it is successful she will report these to Trading Standards too.

He also asked if the litter picker could extend the area he cleans in Hankham Hall Road. The Clerk will arrange it.

Councillor Bruce reported the hedge clippings which have been dumped in a ditch at Ketcham Corner are still there. County Councillor Liddiard said he will chase County.

She also asked why there was no mention of Councillors' phones in the GDPR documents circulated by the Clerk for the May Meeting. This will be covered in more detail at the meeting in May.

Councillors asked the Clerk to apply for the Stone Cross share of the Shepham Wind Farm Community Fund.

219 Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered;

WD/2018/0589/F - Belgrave House, Dittons Road, Stone Cross, BN24 5EL - Erection of single storey rear extension with pitched roof – Councillors raised concerns because they think the proposed new development is near a gas main but agreed as long as it is safe to proceed they have no objections to this application.

WD/2018/0580/F - Hankham Hall Cottage, Hankham Hall Road, Hankham, BN27 5AH – Conversion of garage and ancillary building into an annexe – Councillors have no objections on any planning grounds to this application as long as it is included in Hankham's housing allocation.

WD/2018/0571/F - 32 Eastbourne Road, Westham, BN24 5NF - Erect single storey extension at rear – Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

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