

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

19th February 2018

held at the Amenity Hall, Stone Cross

155 Present

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

A Stevens (Clerk) and two members of the public were also in attendance.

156 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillors G Parsons, J Blaker and P Marshall and were accepted by the Full Council.

Apologies for absence were also received from County Councillors T Liddiard and D Shing.

157 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 15th January 2018 were confirmed as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chairman.

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

All matters' arising were covered elsewhere on the agenda.

159 Disclosures of Interests

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

The meeting was then suspended.

160 Reports from the County Councillors

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

'ESCC Council Tax Increase:

Full Council met on 6 February to discuss the budget for 2018/19. Savings of £17M and an increase of 5.99% was approved by the majority group, this equates to the average Band D household will have to pay £78 more a year – £1,393.

A number of motions were put forward by the various groups mainly to ensure that £79,000 would be reinstated for the Stroke Association, but unfortunately, they received insufficient support and the main motion was passed.

A council tax rise above 3% should require a referendum but rules allow an extra 3% precept for social care and includes the government agreed 3% adult social care levy.

Libraries

Cabinet will be meeting on Tuesday 6 March 2018 to discuss the proposed closures for the 7 libraries across the County and decide what closures will take place'.

161 Reports from the District Councillors

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

162 Questions from Members of the Public

Mr McMillan from Foxes Hollow Residents' Association thanked the Parish Council for cutting back the vegetation overhanging the wall at Foxes Hollow.

Mr Haffner;

- reported a large amount of litter on the Eastbourne Road. The Clerk will carry out a site visit as the area was only cleaned recently and she will send the litter picker back if need be.
- Asked for details on the Parish Council's expenditure and was referred to the Parish Council's website.

The meeting was then re-opened.

163 Reports on Committee Meetings held

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

164 Reports from Outside Meetings

Councillor Garner attended the latest Westham Village Hall Committee Meeting. Trustees thanked the Parish Council for their grant and work is expected to start on the toilets soon.

165 Emergency Plan

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

166 General Data protection Regulations

The current Data Protection Act is out of date and does not take into account Social Media.

The new regulations take effect from 25th May 2018 and return ownership of data back to the individual. After May individuals will have to give their consent when anyone wants to use their data, and for what they want to do with it.

Professional organisations (including Town and Parish Councils) will have an obligation to look after information.

Organisations such as Town and Parish Councils will need to appoint an independent Data Protection Officer. Solicitors at NALC and the SLCC agree this cannot be the Clerk. The role of the Data Protection Officer (DPO) will be to act like a policeman and protect the individual.

One solution is to appoint a Cyber Protection Solutions Company to be the DPO. They have discovery templates they can share which will find out where the data is and they can work out what to do with it. We can take our lead from them.

Any information held by the Parish Council will need to be encrypted because;

- If the Parish Council gets hacked the information will be unreadable it won't have to report it.
- If information is lost on a memory stick for example, no-one will be able to access the information on it.
- If the Parish Council loses someone's data and it is not encrypted they are entitled to compensation.

Consent to hold data will need to change. Individuals will no longer be able to tick a box providing general consent, they must specifically consent to the purpose the data is being used for and that consent must be recorded.

Parish Councillors may need to have separate Parish Council email addresses and their own personal devices will have to be encrypted if they hold Parish Council information.

Councils will also need to approve more policies (ie; Retention Policy, Privacy Policy).

Westham Parish Council has started to take the new regulations on board, the Clerk has attended training, the office computer is now encrypted and the contents are now stored on an encrypted memory stick.

Westham Parish Council resolved to appoint Satswana, a Cyber Protection Solutions Company recommended by SSALC, as its independent Data Protection Officer.

167 Bus Stops

Councillors resolved to consider replacing the plastic bus shelters in the Parish with ones which match the new shelters provided by the developers. The Clerk will bring a price for the matching shelters to the next meeting.

168 Overflowing Dog Bins

Councillor Durling sent a report to Councillors before the meeting which said;

'Many residents take a pride in their village and have spoken to me about this. Wealden District Council (WDC) say that one in five jobs in Wealden are supported by tourism and visitors provide income for the businesses in our Parish so cleanliness in our community is vital. Residents have reported frequently overflowing dog waste bins in the past 2 months and they are disgusted that the problem continues. I had a look round today and can list some of the hot spots.:-

1. Pevensey Park Road/Castle View Gardens bin. This was full and massively overflowing today This is reported as a frequent occurrence by dog walkers
2. Car park opposite Village Hall. Wealden DC bin sticker explaining the £75 penalty for not using the bin is partially faded and unreadable.
3. Pevensey Park Road/Rattle Road junction. WDC sticker faded partially unreadable.
4. Gallows Lane/Peelings Lane junction. WDC sticker faded partially unreadable. (This also has another a sticker which thanks people for using the bin, this sticker advertises a veterinary practice in Eastbourne but the sticker was dirty and difficult to read). There was a pile of dog poo on the edge of the pavement 2 metres from the bin
5. Peelings Lane/Gallows Lane junction. I saw this overflowing with piles of dog poo in bags on the ground 4 weeks ago. It is reported by dog walkers as a frequent occurrence. The WDC sticker is torn and unreadable.

Perhaps Parish Councillors could find out about other bins in their area.

Some Contributing Factors :-

A resident said that a new contractor has taken over the dog waste collection service and this new contractor is not so efficient.

The WDC stickers on the bins which raise awareness are unreadable

Some dog walkers are not aware of health hazards of dog poo eg; TOXICARIASIS infections especially in children. Eastbourne Borough Council has displayed small A5 posters with photo of a child with an infected eye . This urges people to put dog poo in the bin, ANY BIN.

The number of houses and dogs in the area is increasing rapidly.

Some Possible Remedies:-

Parish Council (PC) to ask WDC for an update on the contract and other factors.

PC to request new stickers to replace the faded and torn ones. I would be happy to apply the new stickers.

Raising awareness of the health hazards of dog poo in some way and also that dog poo can be put in any bin.

PC to find out how often each bin is emptied and replace those that fill up and overflow with bigger bins to be funded by sponsorship from local vets.

Empty the bins that frequently overflow more frequently'.

The Clerk contacted the Waste Manager at Wealden District Council who said;

'I can advise the situation we had a few months ago regarding the dog waste bins was resolved. Some bins have been replaced while others have been adjusted.

In the last week or so however we have been seeing some more overflowing bins. This has been due to some teething problems following a reorganisation of the street cleansing service. The aim is to make this more effective and efficient however we have been experiencing some issues at a few locations while the crew become familiar with the changes. Where we are made aware of problem bins we ensure Kier return to empty asap and we have received an assurance they are working hard to overcome this and expect the service to be operating correctly within a matter of days.

Concerning the Pevensey Park Road and Peelings Lane bins I understand these were emptied today (15th February). The majority of bins are emptied on a weekly basis however, in some more popular locations this can increase and may also vary depending on the seasonal use. I'm afraid you are correct that large dog waste bins are not feasible due to manual handling issues with the weight of dog waste being close to 1 kilo per litre.

Turning to the stickers and action by Eastbourne Borough Council I will have to defer to my colleagues in street scene enforcement whom I have copied in and hopefully they will be able to reply shortly'.

The Clerk will report back when she hears back from the Street Scene Officers. In the meantime Councillors agreed that the Peelings Lane/Gallows Lane is emptied more

frequently. They will report any others which need emptying more often back to the Clerk. Westham Parish Council currently pays for the emptying of 15 litter bins and 19 dog bins in the Parish.

The Clerk reported there is a constant problem with dog mess on the path between Tesco and Stone Cross School and it is walked into the school and residents' cars on a regular basis. Councillors resolved to move the dog bin which is currently outside Eastbourne Property Shop, alongside the path by the car park to see if it helps solve the problem. The landlord of the Mimram Road shops and the Directors of Eastbourne Property Shop have no objections to the bin being moved.

169 Verges in Westham

The Clerk said the verge on the corner of Peelings Lane and Westham High Street is in a poor state because it has been badly churned up by vehicles and a resident has asked if the Parish Council will put bollards there.

The Clerk has asked ESCC to reinstate the verge once the nearby building work has been Completed and the Council will monitor and review the situation from there.

170 Firework Display

Friends of Stone Cross School would like to run a family firework evening at the School. After discussing it with the company they would employ to facilitate the evening, they said they would need the public car park adjacent to the school to be closed as part of their risk assessment and they asked what they need to do in order to get approval to have the car park closed.

Councillors were concerned that closing the car park would affect neighbouring properties because those attending the event would have to park in nearby streets. They were also concerned about their liability and asked the Clerk to contact the insurance company for advice and report back. They also asked to see the company's risk assessment.

171 Allotment Charge Review

Councillors resolved that the allotment charge for 2018-2019 will be £15 per allotment.

172 Questions from Parish Councillors

Councillor Durling reported a problem with litter in Westham. She will email the Clerk a list of the roads which need attention so the Clerk can send the litter picker there.

Councillor Saxby;

- said the roads in Hankham are still in a very bad state of repair. The Clerk will arrange for him to meet County Councillor Liddiard to get them repaired.
- asked for a Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting in March to discuss the reduction in urban verge cutting services by ESCC.

Councillor Bruce reported that some of the street lights in Peelings Lane and Castle View Gardens have been replaced with white lights and asked when the rest will be. The Clerk will find out and report back.

Councillor Beaney reported two cars which appear to have been abandoned on the Eastbourne Road to ESCC and said they should be removed soon.

Councillor Walker said he is attending the Discover Gatwick Day and asked Councillors if they had any questions they would like him to ask.

173 Planning Applications

The following planning application was considered;

WD/2018/0004/F - 15 Springfield Close, Westham, BN24 5JF - Construction of single storey flat roofed garage extension to replace existing established car port – Westham Parish Council objects to this application because it is not in keeping with the neighbouring properties and is not within the existing building line. They also asked when planning permission was granted for the car port.

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