

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

19th March 2018

held at the Amenity Hall, Stone Cross

182 Present

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

District Councillor Clark, A Stevens (Clerk) and one member of the public were also in attendance.

183 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillors G Parsons and R Perrin and were accepted by the Full Council.

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

184 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 were signed by the Chairman.

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

All matters' arising were covered elsewhere on the agenda.

186 Disclosures of Interests

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

The meeting was then suspended.

187 Reports from the County Councillors

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

Libraries update:

East Sussex County Council's Cabinet made the decision earlier this month to close all seven of the proposed libraries within the consultation and is now open to groups to submit expressions of interest to run a community library. In the absence of any viable bids to run the library, it is anticipated that the libraries will close around the first week of May.

Crossing at Dittons Road / Golden Jubilee Way Roundabout:

Following safety concerns for pedestrians using the roundabout at Dittons Road and Golden Jubilee Way, the matter has been passed on to County Highways again for them to investigate and an update to the Parish Council will be provided accordingly.

Vehicles advertised for sale on grass verge at Dittons Roundabout:

The matter has been raised with Wealden District Council again and an update will be provided as to whether any action can be taken.

188 Reports from the District Councillors

District Councillor Clark reported that;

- Wealden District Council has increased its share of the Council tax by 2.7%, ESCC by 6% and the Fire Authority by 2.9%. Sussex Police and Pevensey Parish Council have increased their precepts too.
- The Standards Committee met on the 5th March. Members dealt with twelve complaints last year, seven of which were about Parish Councillors. They discussed the Ethical Framework and agreed more training is needed and that Code of Conduct Training should be mandatory. They would also like sanctions to be enforceable.
- Wealden has 2.9% unemployment but has no job centres. More outreach workers have been promised.
- She attended a meeting where the speaker was James Davey from SECAMB. He described the changes taking place within the Ambulance Service.
- Wealden has produced a film on how to help relieve pressure on Doctors Surgeries.

District Councillor Clark then left the meeting.

District Councillor Dear sent an email in which she presented her response from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to her complaint about the amount of illegal parking in Wealden.

The PCC said that parking enforcement has not been decriminalised in both the Wealden and Rother Districts as it has been elsewhere in the County. This means that Sussex Police remain responsible for parking enforcement which is a full time responsibility.

Chief Constable York made the decision that his officers would not enforce parking unless it was causing danger by either obstructing the highway or could cause injury to someone by obstructing a pavement.

Wealden have now reviewed the introduction of Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) but concluded that a CPE model is not an option for the rural Wealden environment.

189 Questions from Members of the Public

Mr McMillan from Foxes Hollow Residents' Association asked;

- when the grit bins are being refilled. The bins will be refilled in time for next winter.
- when the ditch that runs through Foxes Hollow is being cleared of litter. The Clerk will ask the Community Payback Team.

Mr Daines sent a written request in which he asked if the Parish Council would have any objections if Westham Conservation Group explored setting up its own Speedwatch Team in Westham. Councillors agreed they had no objections.

The meeting was then re-opened.

190 Reports on Committee Meetings held

Councillors resolved to adopt the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee

Meeting held on the 19th March 2018 and after hearing details of the figures concerning the urban verge cutting, accepted all the recommendations. This means that Westham Parish Council will take over responsibility for the verge cutting at a cost less than that which ESCC is offering,

Councillor Stevens said he asked the Joint Action Group if they will fund a camera to help stop the litter problem on the Eastbourne Road but the answer was no.

191 Reports from Outside Meetings

Councillor Blaker said there have been no Stone Cross Memorial Trust Meetings since the last Full Council Meeting.

Councillor Stevens attended the ESCC Review of its Flood Strategy and the situation at Hankham has been noted.

Councillors Durling and Walker attended the ESALC Spring Conference. Presentations from the event have been circulated to all Councillors.

Councillor Saxby met Ms Bergin from ESCC who looked at the verge problems in Hankham but warned that there is probably no money in the pot to rectify them. County Councillor Liddiard had been unable to meet Councillor Saxby because had to attend another meeting but Councillors asked that he remains involved.

192 Emergency Plan

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

193 General Data Protection Regulations

The Clerk met Satswana and has since drafted an Action Plan, two Privacy Statements, a Data Retention Policy and a Data Protection Policy. All of which have been approved by Satswana.

Councillors agreed to consider the documents after the Regulations become law in May in case there are any late changes needed.

194 Bus Stops

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. They accepted the price from Littlethorpe.

Councillors also asked the Clerk to ask ESCC when they are replacing the bus shelter by the chip shop in Westham which was blown down in the storms a few years ago.

195 Overflowing Dog Bins

Wealden sent an update on the Parish Council's request for new stickers on the dog bins in Westham. They have had a look at these bins and replaced some of the stickers and said the sticker on the green bin in no 5 is not one they have put on but they believe it was on the bin when it was installed and they don't have replacements. These large green bins will eventually be replaced as the waste is too heavy to empty so they would hope the new bins will have nice new stickers on them when they are installed.

It was also noted that the dog bin outside Eastbourne Property Shop has now been moved in accordance with the Parish Council's request.

196 Firework Display

The Council's insurers confirmed that as long as Stone Cross PTFA and its contractors have their own insurance the car park can be closed, but Councillors are still concerned about the event and asked the Clerk to ask the PTFA;

- 1) Where exactly is the 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?

197 Consultations:

- i: ESCC Library Commissioning Strategy – to comment on the revised Commissioning Strategy – Westham Parish Council had nothing new to add to its previous comments but Councillors understand that bids are being submitted to the County Council from Community Groups who would like to take over Pevensey Library.
- ii: Traffic Sensitive Streets – Westham Parish Council had no comments to make about the Review, the details of which can be found on the ESCC website.

198 Grit Bins

The Parish Council received a request from a parent at Hankham School asking it to provide a grit bin near the school.

Councillor Saxby said that he has spoken to the school and they will only grit school premises and there will be no-one to grit the roads and pavements.

Westham Parish Council therefore resolved not to provide a grit bin.

Councillor Durling asked if the Parish Council can provide more grit bins in Westham and will suggest suitable locations in time for the next meeting.

199 Questions from Parish Councillors

Councillors noted the litter situation seems to be getting worse in Westham. Councillor Durling said the Westham Conservation Group cleared Eastbourne Road in early March, and it appears to have been cleared again.

Councillor Beaney asked the Clerk to find out what is happening about three cars in Eastbourne Road which appear to have been abandoned.

200 Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered;

WD/2018/0365/F - 1 Stour Close, Stone Cross, BN24 5QU - Single storey rear and side extension – Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

WD/2018/0216/F - The Dell, Dittons Road, Stone Cross, Pevensey, BN24 5EP – Proposed extension to existing garage to create squash court and changing facilities – Westham Parish Council objects to this application because it is far larger than it needs to be for its intended use.

WD/2018/0140/FR - Land at rear of 31, 33 & 35 Rattle Road, Westham - Retrospective application for new vehicular access to provide access to an adjoining owner's land, defined with a fence and with new dropped kerb to existing unadopted road – Westham Parish Council objects to this application because it restricts access to the ditch which needs clearing when Westham floods. Councillors also questioned how access can be granted when the road is unregistered and therefore permission has not been given from the land owner and why such an access is required to a barn that is just for agricultural use.

WD/2018/0454/F - 50 Patcham Mill Road, Stone Cross, Westham, BN24 5PA - Two storey side extension and single storey front extension – Westham Parish Council has no objections to this application on any planning grounds.

There being no further business, this meeting closed at 8.40pm.