

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

20th November 2017

held at Westham Village Hall

117 Present

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

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

118 Apologies for Absence

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

County Councillor D Shing and District Councillor D Dear also sent apologies for their absence.

Pursuant to minute 132 (ii) it was resolved that this item would be considered with the public and press excluded as matters related to contracts and legal matters affecting this Council. (Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 Sec 1 Para.

119 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 16th October 2017 were confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

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

All matters' arising were covered elsewhere on the agenda.

121 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.

122 Report from the County Councillor

County Councillor Liddiard said he met the Highways Steward and they looked at;

1: signs in Dittons Road and Rattle Road which need cleaning or replacing.

2: potholes which need filling.

3: yellow and white lines which need repainting.

4: cats eyes which need repairing.

5: the zebra crossing in Westham High Street which needs repainting.

6: the Linkway pavement which needs repairing.

7: the possibility of providing two more disabled parking bays.

8: streetlights in Pevensey Park Road which need fixing.

The Highways Steward agreed all these issues will be addressed.

County Councillor Liddiard has also;

1: asked the Police and Wealden to address the issues of car for sale at the Dittons Road Roundabout because they distract motorists.

2: taken a hard stance over the proposed library closures.

3: asked Highways to adopt a more common sense approach with their grass cutting and weeding contracts so both are carried out on a more regular basis.

4: noted the schools in the Parish have improved their SAT's results and that Polegate Primary and Willingdon Secondary Schools are to be enlarged to cope with increasing pupil numbers.

6: noted that the new School Funding Formula will be announced on the 27th November.

7: asked Police to carry out extra patrols to safeguard pedestrians from cyclists.

Councillor Lovell asked that County take into account that when they replace signs some of will be changing soon.

123 Reports from the District Councillor

District Councillor Clark read from her written report in which she said;

'I would like to bring you up to date with Wealden's position not only on the Pevensey Bay Library but in fact all the libraries that are under threat.

Following the meeting between Wealden and East Sussex Officers, it was decided that as there has been a lot of interest in the ESCC consultation on libraries, the Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny was asked if he would include this subject on his agenda. The meeting took place last week.

The report to Overview and Scrutiny was very clear in saying that Wealden will work with ESCC whenever possible. Unfortunately, this does not include any financial contribution. Wealden, like all Councils, are now working hard in the face of huge cuts, and are unable to find any monies to provide services other than those they are responsible for. It has to be noted that if Wealden were to give funds to Pevensey Bay then of course it would have to give funding to all the libraries.

I was the only Committee Member with a library in my ward. Considering all the libraries under threat and not just Pevensey Bay, Members showed understanding of how people felt, and spoke in favour of East Sussex not closing the libraries. At the end of the debate it was made clear that Wealden cannot and will not be offering any financial commitment to any of the libraries.

I have since had a conversation with Simon Potter from ESCC and I have asked for further information and figures, which he has promised to bring to the next Friends of Pevensey Bay working party meeting which is this Friday. If Council would like an update I will email the Clerk after the meeting.

As was discussed at the working party meeting for the Friends of Pevensey Bay Library, ESCC make it very clear that this is a consultation and no decisions have been made. They suggest options including a "community funded" library and a "community run library". Community funded is where the community pay East Sussex to run the library, and the latter, as the title suggests, would be a library run completely by the community. Stephen made it clear that ESCC will do whatever they can to help, and this was the basis to some of the questions I put to him.

It would be very difficult to raise enough funds to run a community funded library, and also very hard to find someone with a real commitment to take over starting up and running a community run library. Experience in fund raising would be essential as this would be on going. Recruiting and organising volunteers is another aspect that requires experience. There is much to think about.

It is not realistic to believe that libraries could remain open other than if the communities took one of these options. ESCC have no choice but to make savings'.

124 Questions from Members of the Public

Ms Martin from Friends of Pevensey Bay Library asked;

1: What kind of community group/partnership arrangement would the Council consider be best suited to overseeing and managing a joint funded approach to keeping the library open, and is the council able to contribute CIL funds towards one-off set up costs?

Councillors agreed this will be an item at the next Full Council Meeting.

2: Would the Council consider raising the precept for 2018-2019 to provide £2000 towards the first year's operating costs to add to the contribution proposed by Pevensey Parish Council and conditional on the County Council providing a resource package to help.

This was covered later on in the meeting.

Mrs Bounds asked;

1: The Parish Council to have more meetings in Westham. The Parish Council is currently discussing next year's booking arrangements with the hall with a view to having more meetings in Westham.

2: County Councillor Liddiard to look at the state of the drains and the road in Pevensey Park Road because they are getting worse. County Councillor Liddiard confirmed he will and that quotes have been sourced with a view to getting them repaired soon.

Mr Evan Jones asked;

1: The Parish Council to commission a professional report before it considers whether or not to slope the banks of the Westham pond and offered his services to the Parish Council

2: If the Parish Council would consider employing a team of volunteers to manage the pond.

The meeting was then re-opened.

125 Reports on Committee Meetings held

The minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on the 13th November 2017 were adopted by the Full Council.

126 Reports from Outside Meetings

Councillor Garner;

- attended the recent Westham Village Hall Committee Meeting and said that although the hall ran at a loss last year, the current Trustees are committed to turning it around.
- announced that the Chairman, Councillor Keith Stevens, has recently been appointed as Vice Chairman to the National Association of Local Councils.

127 Precept 2018-2019

Westham Parish Council resolved to accept the recommendations made by the Finance and General Purposes Committee. The recommendations were as follows;

1: The following grants will be awarded in 2018-2019;

Cuckmere Community Bus	100.00
First Responders	1250.00
Hankham Village Society	180.00
Stone Cross Memorial Hall	1500.00
Stone Cross Mill Trust	450.00
Westham Village Hall	1500.00
Wealden Citizen's Advice	500.00

A grant will not be awarded to the Pevensy and Westham Forest Community Group because they felt the Group has sufficient funds to buy the insulation and plants.

A grant will be awarded to the Royal British Legion of £25 as a donation for this financial year and £50 each year thereafter so a wreath can be laid from the Parish Council at the Annual Memorial Service.

A grant will be awarded to a Community Group should Pevensy Library close. The Parish Council agreed to award up to £2000, which will be payable once the Group has secured the remaining £29000.

2: Councillors resolved that subject to any late government legislation, the precept for 2018-2019 is increased by 1% to £150574 to help keep the precept in line with predicted expenditure.

128 Emergency Plan

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

129 Westham Pond

Councillors considered a request from a resident to slope the banks at Westham Pond so the ducks can get out easier.

Councillor Garner explained the wire and banks were installed as a recommendation and are there to protect the faggots which hold the planting at the top of the revetment. This course of action was recommended by Land and Water to avoid destruction by the wildfowl on the pond. Councillors agreed to ask Land and Water to review the work and referred the matter to the Parks and Open Spaces Committee. Councillor Durling suggested there is also an ongoing Management Plan.

Following a request from a resident Councillors also 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.

130 Street Lights:

i: 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.

The majority of residents voted in favour of and Councillors therefore resolved to move the lamp posts off private land and fit new ones.

ii: The Clerk read out the following from ESCC Lighting Supervisor which was noted by Councillors;

'I am writing to you to highlight the fact that the Orange SOX lamps are being phased out of production with the result that it is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain replacement lamps.

We have been advised that any orders after the next 12 months may not be fulfilled.

We are looking at some cost effective ways for you to replace your existing stock of approximately 17 Sox lanterns

The first is a basic new LED lantern that would deliver energy savings.

The second option is an Led lamp installed in a second-hand lantern which would again deliver energy saving but at a lower price than the having a new lantern.

We are currently putting together the prices along with details of the potential energy savings which once finalised I will be happy to arrange a meeting with you to go over the details'

131 Risk Assessment

- i: Councillors resolved to accept the recommendations made in the Annual Inspection and asked the Clerk to instruct the contractor to go ahead with the work.
- ii: Councillors asked the Clerk to get a price to cut back the vegetation and report back to the next Full Council Meeting.

132 Wind Turbines

i: Following the last meeting the Clerk contacted the owners of the Wind Turbines who reported the following outcomes;

'Shepham currently powers 3,680 homes powered annually which saves 6.3 tons of co2 per year.

We have set aside funds for Stone Cross Primary to receive a visit to the wind farm each year, including a workshop. The sessions are designed to help children understand the importance of renewable energy in modern day society and give them a good understanding of the impacts of climate change. All teaching follows The National Curriculum and links to subjects including science, maths and geography. We had the first

visit back in July and had great feedback from parents and teachers'.
Councillor Stevens suggested Hankham School might like to also visit the Wind Turbines,
Councillor Bruce asked if Councillors can.

ii: The Clerk said they also have Community Benefit Funds which will be available to the Polegate and Stone Cross communities. These funds will be managed by a Working Group, the group will be set up away from the Parish Council, have a separate bank account but will be run by the Clerks who will also be signatories. The group will accept applications from their communities and will award funds to the most suitable causes without reference to the Parish Council. This is not best practice and is against the advice of SSALC's solicitors. Councillors resolved not to go ahead on this basis.

133 Questions from Parish Councillors

Councillor Blaker asked that the dog bin which has been moved recently in Adur Park is moved again so it is nearer the path.

Councillor Bruce had previously reported to the Clerk that someone has filled the ditch on the corner of Peelings Lane and Ketcham Corner with cut vegetation which if not removed will cause flooding problems. The matter has been referred to the County Council for action.

Councillor Durling agreed to email her suggestions for spending the CIL Money to the Clerk for Councillors to discuss at the next Full Council Meeting.

Councillor Marshall asked if residents are allowed to cycle in Adur Park. They are.

Councillor Saxby asked District Councillor Clark to get the Hankham Hall road sign replaced because it has been hit by a lorry or a tractor.

Councillor Stevens asked;

- if everyone is happy for the Clerk to work one day a week at home. All agreed. It will normally be Fridays.
- if in principle the Parish Council has any objections to the Pevensey Village Partnership erecting an artificial snowman on the Village Green in Westham. Councillors agreed they had no objections in principle as long as ESCC agree but they would like to know more about them.

134 Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered;

WD/2017/2449/F - 7 Banner Way, Stone Cross, Westham, BN24 5FE - Single storey rear extension – Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

WD/2017/2338/AIR - St Lukes Church Parish Centre, Rattle Road, Stone Cross, Westham, BN24 5EB - Retrospective application for 1 X illuminated sign – Westham Parish Council objects to this application because Councillors feel the sign distracts traffic and is not in keeping with the character of the church.

WD/2017/2438/F - 2 Mayfield, Foords Lane, Hankham, Pevensey, BN24 5AL Erect conservatory at rear – Westham Parish Council has no objections to this application on any planning grounds.

WD/2017/2182/F - Glyndley Manor, Hailsham Road, Stone Cross, Pevensey, BN24 5BS - To erect a wooden garage on site for the purpose of using it alongside the Training Centre at Glyndley Manor for creativity purposes – Westham Parish Council objects to this application because it is a garage in name only. It is not going to be used as a garage and if it were it is too large,

WD/2017/2623/F - 22 Castle View Gardens, Westham, Pevensey, BN24 5HP - Erect a single storey extension at front - Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

WD/2017/2352/F - Down Ashe, Peelings Lane, Westham, BN24 5AD - Proposed 2 bay garage with storage - Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

WD/2017/2591/F - 24 Pride View, Stone Cross, BN24 5GF - Removal of existing conservatory and construction of single storey rear extension and porch to front - Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

WD/2017/0276/F - The Paddock, 96 High Street, Westham, BN24 5LJ - Conservation, repairs and alterations to a garage/store to create two additional bays and replacement of the roof – Westham Parish Council has no objections to this application as long as it complies with the Listed Building Requirements.

There being no further business, this meeting closed at 8.50pm.