

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

21st January 2019

held at the Amenity Hall, Stone Cross

149 Present

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

County Councillor T Liddiard, District Councillor L Clark, Ben Darley (Southern Water), Steve Anthony (Clancy Docwra). A Stevens (Clerk) and ten members of the public were also in attendance.

150 Apologies for Absence

Councillors G Parsons, R Perrin, T Comerford and P Marshall sent apologies for their absence which were duly accepted by the Parish Council.

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

151 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

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

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

Councillors agreed to the suggestion that some of the Full Council Meetings be swapped from the third Monday of the month to the second Monday of the month so that more meetings may be held in Westham Village Hall.

The Draft Maintenance Contract was circulated to Councillors in preparation for the next Full Council Meeting.

153 Disclosures of Interests

Councillor Blaker declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the item on grants because he is a Trustee of Stone Cross Memorial Hall. He did not take part in discussions or the vote.

The meeting was then suspended.

154 Sewer Work

Ben Darley from Southern Water and Steve Anthony from Clancy Docwra spoke about the the plans for a new sewer in Rattle Road;

- The sewer is to run along Rattle Road from the development site to the rear access gate to Pevensey Castle where it will join the existing sewer.
- Work is to take place in nominal 100m stages so it minimises disruption to local residents and parking.

- The sewer will take foul waste only. There will be a separate culvert for rainwater because combined systems are not allowed nowadays.
- The sewer will be gravity fed from the development to the existing pump and a rising main thereafter.
- A manhole will be built at the rear of the Castle and road closures will take place in the school holidays to reduce affecting school drop off and pick up times.
- There will be three way signals at Gallows Lane, when the scheme reaches that mini roundabout and traffic will be diverted via Peelings Lane, for those local residents who generally use the mini roundabout from Peelings Lane. Signs are now in place to look to advise traffic to use the by-pass.
- Trial holes are already being dug in such a way that only five or six parking spaces are lost at any one time.
- Traffic will be encouraged to use the by-pass and signage will be added pointing out that local business are still open.
- The school is assessing an option to have access to permits which allow parents/guardians to use the Pevensey Town Trust car park but the decision to progress these permits is with the school.
- The sewer is to follow the highway and work will take approximately fourteen months. They will try and find out why the decision to run it over the fields was discounted. Various options would have been considered, each would have been assessed and impact on their impact on the community would have been taken into account. One of the purposes of the trial holes is to check whether or not drilling is an option for the pipes rather than trenches – for the rising main section from the pump station to the rear of the castle. The section from the development to the pumping station will have to be open trench method.
- Residents asked to see the paperwork that approved the highway option.
- They are happy to return at a later date and update residents.

A complaint that some residents who live at the rear of the Village Hall are currently unable to flush their toilets will be reported to their colleagues.

Councillor Stevens thanked Mr Darley and Mr Anthony for attending and they both left the meeting.

155 Reports from the County Councillor

County Councillor Liddiard reported;

- The Core Offer consultation has now closed. The Core Offer is being submitted to Cabinet on the 22nd January.
- The walkway at Oak Tree Lane has now been cleared.
- A 40mph sign on Rattle Road has now been replaced.
- The dispute between the landlord of Pevensey Bay Library and ESCC continues.
- He has received a number of complaints about waste management and has referred them to Enforcement.
- He has referred complaints of loud noise from the Royal Oak to the District Council. Environmental Health is now understood to be monitoring the sound levels.
- The County Council is offering an Affordable Warmth Scheme to help keep residents warm and well.
- Fly tipping reported in Rattle Road and Peelings Lane was cleared within twenty four hours.
- Stock levels of grit at Highways are at maximum levels.

District Councillor Clark read from her report which said;

'In November the Overview and Scrutiny Committee heard a presentation about CCG's (Clinical Commissioning Groups). Although it was about the Wealden CCG area, which we do not come under, I was assured that all CCG's work closely together and the news is just the same.

There is a shared "accountable officer", Adam Doyle, who keeps a close eye on things. The CCG work closely with SECAMB and other ambulance services. They are looking at the voluntary services to fill in the gap in these times of greatly reduced funding. It is all about Social Prescribing, which is about health and exercise by prescription. Herstmonceux practice are already trying out a scheme whereby patients get to see a health coach, on one to one basis, as well as being invited to a "wellbeing" morning, where they will meet and talk to health specialists and learn about mindfulness and resilience. This is followed up by drop in support sessions. Wealden are rolling out a similar scheme in Hailsham soon, and I am speaking to Officers about how we can look at doing something here in our local surgery. I am currently working with our Stone Cross practice towards achieving this for us. It does mean crossing into another CCG area, but Wealden Council are very keen to support us.

I sit on our local surgery's Patient Participation Group, and we had a very interesting and encouraging talk from Julie Tremlin who is tasked with the job of co-ordinating a venture that runs alongside this. Her remit is to go out and find volunteer groups, help people to set up a new group and put groups in touch with medical professional services such as doctors' surgeries. Social interaction is important to help keep us in good health, and with funding shortfalls hitting everyone, Julie's job is indeed very important. Julie will come to speak to any group who thinks they may be able to help.

I have always been proud of Wealden and how forward thinking the Council has been over the years. Yet again Wealden has been short listed for a national award. The 2019 Local Government Chronical Awards recognise Councils that provide the best examples of Local Government innovation and service delivery.

Wealden's "Drive to Digital" programme has been very successful indeed. Wealden is the only District Council to appear on the shortlist of 9 in the "Driving efficiency through technology" category. Over the last 3 years Wealden has developed initiatives to make services easier for the public to use, more responsive. Wealden offer 85 services on line, and at the same time are helping more people to get on line. In addition, it has increased Wealden's own efficiency which in turn is good news for the council tax payers. The judging took place on 11th January with a prestigious ceremony taking place in London on 13th.

Our Chairman, Chris Hardy, and his Vice Chairman Pam Doodes, both continue to work really hard visiting groups and businesses across the District. They have been heartened by the huge number of volunteers working to make their communities better places. If there is an event or group that would like to receive Chris or Pam they only need to ask for a visit.

Wealden has been working hard to provide more affordable housing across the District. They have drawn up an investment plan which will provide £95 million for this project. Of course home ownership is important to many, and Wealden's Local Plan strives to ensure that new development is properly managed. The Examination in Public phase of the plan will take place in 2019.

In 2019 Wealden will be launching a new service – the Crematorium, which has a contemporary design and will stand in 30 acres of landscaped grounds just outside Horam.

The crematorium is part of Wealden's commercial strategy which Wealden has adopted to help our Council be self-sufficient as we see more and more funding disappear. Add this to the investment Wealden has made in Vicarage Field, Hailsham, together with ownership of our successful Sussex Wealden Homes Ltd, and you can see that Wealden are determined to generate the income needed to provide services for everyone living across the district.

A continual income is so important, as Wealden are not only expected to provide statutory services, but we want to continue providing those important little extras. In 2018 many initiatives were seen across the district. Community Grants, Wealden's energy switch, street learning, fun and safety for children, summer activity days, careers fair and the great Wealden Spring Clean just being a few to mention. One initiative that is especially important to me is Wealden's Dementia Action Alliance. The Alliance goes from strength to strength with forums coming as close to us as Polegate, and I am anxious to bring the same to our villages.

The District Election, the running of which is one of Wealden's statutory duties, takes place on May 2nd 2019. It will see the number of Councillors reduced from 55 to 45. Westham will have one Councillor for the new Stone Cross Ward, and two Councillors for the Pevensey Levels Ward, of which Westham is part'.

157 Questions from Members of the Public

Mr McMillan, from Foxes Hollow Residents' Association, asked why there is an exit road on the Wells Estate when there was not one in the Plans, other than for emergency vehicles. The Parish Council agreed to support the Residents' Association when they take it up with the Site Manager. The Parish Council will also report the situation to Wealden.

Mr Haffner asked;

1: As the Parish Council declared in November 2018 that Butcher's Field must remain, and I quote, 'A green open space', will it now reject plans to plant more trees, and return to its published objective or restoring meadow plants? This was covered later in the meeting.

2: As there seems to be differences between what is said in Council Meetings and what is reported in the minutes, will the Parish Council consider recording the meetings to obtain a more accurate account? This will be an agenda item for the next Full Council Meeting,

The meeting was then re-opened.

158 Reports on Committee Meetings held

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

159 Reports from Outside Meetings

Councillor Stevens attended a Focus Group meeting about Rural Crime which was chaired by the Police and Crime Commissioner, Katy Bourne. The purpose of the meeting was to find out what residents want and how they would feel about a rise in the police precept.

Rural crime is now considered to be a priority because it is often linked to much larger crimes. A rise in the police precept is expected to result in more rural PCSOs and an improved 101 service.

It was also noted that;

- approximately 25% of calls to 101 are nothing to do with the Police, approximately 25% of callers just want updates and about 25% are internal calls.
- 35 officers are currently trained to deal with rural crime, and training is being given to another 95. All new recruits receive some training in rural crime.

Councillor Saxby attended;

- 1) The Patients' Forum at Stone Cross Medical Centre and they drafted the Terms of Reference for the Social Subscribing Group mentioned in District Councillor Clark's report.
- 2) The Hankham Village Society Meeting. The Society has three activities planned – a Summer Tea, a Quiz Night and a Christmas 'Do'. A recent Barn Dance was successful and raised £200 for charity.

Councillor Walker attended 'Discover Gatwick' at Gatwick Airport. He said the event was quite illuminating on proposals for reconstructing future Air Traffic Control particularly in our area in terms of flight paths. Apparently leaving the EU will have no impact on European Airspace. It was also noted that 47% of the business has been sold to another organisation.

The meeting was re-suspended.

160 Westham Pond

1: Terms of Reference

Councillors considered and the Terms of Reference circulated by the Horse Pond Working Party and resolved its Terms of Reference will be;

A maximum of 5 voting members. Minimum of 3.

At present members are:-

Fiona Durling- Chairperson, and Parish Councillor. Previously Chairperson of The New Forest Area Conservation Volunteers

Theresa Bruce – Communications, and Parish Councillor

Evan Jones – Honorary Biodiversity Officer. Currently also the professional, Biodiversity Officer for the Pevensy Farmers Group.

To form a view of the desirable future of the village horse pond taking into account its special importance in terms of visual amenity, biodiversity and heritage.

To direct the evolution of a positive and cost effective Westham Parish Council Pond Management Plan. Short medium and long term objectives aimed at achieving a beautiful and bio diverse pond will be designed. This will be brought to the Full Council for approval.

To monitor the pond and bring recommendations back to the Full Council. To continue to monitor the condition of the pond in the future and recommend any necessary modification of the plan to the full council.

To be aware of the best advice and views and of residents, councillors and experts.

Frequency of reporting back to the full Parish Council, at least quarterly with an annual written report.

Frequency of meetings:- as needed initially.

Establishment and leadership of a volunteer practical working group, a maximum 6 to 8 hand picked people (from a pool of 15). Low risk gardening type tasks would be formally risk assessed. Insurance could be provided by an extension of the existing Parish Council Policy.

To be involved in conjunction with the Parish Clerk in exploring pond maintenance options with contractors and outside agencies after works are approved in principle by the Parish Council.

The Working Party will bring a comprehensive Risk Assessment and Method Statement to the next Full Council Meeting for approval. The Risk Assessment, Method Statement and list of volunteers will then be sent to the Parish Council's Insurers.

2: Draft Management Plan

Councillors considered the Draft Management Plan circulated by the Horse Pond Working Party. The Working Party answered councillors' and residents' questions and agreed some changes to the opening statements. Councillors resolved that the amended Plan will be added to the website to allow members of the public the chance to comment on it once Mr Jones has sent in a final version of the map. The Draft Management Plan will then be brought to the next Full Council Meeting for approval.

County Councillor Liddiard offered to arrange a meeting with the Working Party and the Biodiversity Officer at ESCC if they would like him too.

The Clerk will arrange for Chaffins to meet the Working Party and the Tree Warden to get prices to pollard the trees mentioned in the Plan.

Residents also asked what is happening with the de-silting and the inlet pipe. Mr Evan Jones said the pipe is a separate issue from the Plan however the intention is to plant reeds at the top end of the pond and it might be necessary to remove some more silt. He said he will look into claims the pipe is by the 'No Fishing' sign and asked residents for any evidence regarding the inlet pipe to be sent to him.

3: Ownership Sign

This item was deferred until the next meeting, to allow Councillor Parsons to be present.

The meeting was then suspended again.

161 Play Parks

Councillor Walker has spoken to the occupants of fifteen houses at Castle Bolton and they all agree that new play equipment is very much wanted and needed. The Clerk will send him the names of some appropriate installers so he can get ideas and prices.

162 Grant Requests

Councillors considered a grant request from Stone Cross Memorial Hall and agreed to award the Trustees £1500 towards the costs of replacing the water and heating systems.

Councillors also considered a grant request from Eastbourne Area First Responders and agreed to award them £500 towards the costs of equipping a First Responder.

163 Butcher's Field

Councillors considered an offer from a local farmer who has twenty silver birches he would donate to the Parish Council for planting in Butcher's Field.

Councillors resolved that whilst they appreciate the offer, the play park at Hamble Road would be more suitable and they agreed to plant them there instead, if this is acceptable to the local farmer.

164 Questions from Parish Councillors

Councillor Walker reported an overhanging tree in Castle Bolton. The Clerk will report it to the Tree Warden for action.

Councillor Beaney asked;

- if someone will distribute The Pump at Castle Bolton. Councillor Walker said he will.
- if the Parish Council would like The Pump delivered to the two new estates in Rattle Road. The Clerk will see if they each have a Management Committee and ask them. He said funding would also be required.
- If the verge at the High Street end of Peelings Lane is being reinstated. County Councillor Liddiard will ask the Highways Steward to see if it will. He will also ask her to find out if the County Council will put bollards there.

165 Planning Applications

The following planning application was considered;

WD/2019/0022/F - Hankham Hall Cottage, Hankham Hall Road, Hankham, BN24 5AH - Alterations and a first floor extension to form bedroom & dressing room, single storey extension to form entrance hall & WC – Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.05pm.