

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at 7.00pm on Monday, 16 September 2024

at The Amenity Hall, Stone Cross School, Adur Drive Stone Cross, BN24 5EF

Present: Cllr P Baldwin, Cllr L Comfort, Cllr F Durling, Cllr R Mayfield, Cllr P Quanstrom, Cllr D Upton*

(* denotes WDC Councillor)

Also at the meeting: S. Sanders (Clerk)

One member of the public

155. Apologies

Cllr D Axell, Cllr K Farley, Cllr M Fairweather, Cllr M Hallett, Cllr C Hanson

156. Declarations of Interest

None

157. Questions from members of the public

None

158. Draft Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 22 July 2024 to be agreed and confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair of the Meeting

The Minutes had previously been circulated to Councillors.

The Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Monday 22 July 2024 were agreed and signed as a correct record by the Chair of the Council

Proposed and Seconded

Majority decision – 1 abstention

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 22 July 2024 be agreed and signed by the Chair of the Meeting

159. To receive reports from East Sussex County Councillors and Wealden District Councillors

There were no East Sussex County Councillors present.

Wealden District Councillor Mark Fairweather had previously circulated Councillors with an update on the draft Local Plan and how the governments new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) may affect planning in the Wealden area.

Cllr Upton then gave Councillors a roundup of the latest issues at Wealden DC.

160. Support for Historical Buildings in Westham and Pevensey. The Parish Council working in partnership with Pevensey Parish Council
Recommendation

(i) To impose a weight restriction throughout Westham Village

(ii) To impose a 20 miles an hour speed restriction

Cllr Upton told Councillors that he had attended a meeting in Westham having been invited by Pevensey Parish Council.

They asked if Westham PC could give assistance with the imposing a weight restriction throughout Westham. The Mint House and other historical buildings are suffering due to the amount of HGV's. The walls of the building are being rattled as they travel along the High Street from the A27 / A259.

Tremors are felt when anything larger than a van passes the buildings.

Cllr Upton met with the management team to discuss what could be done to mitigate this issue. Traffic calming measures throughout Westham are one idea.

A letter has been drafted to properties in the area asking for their comments on the damage to the historical buildings by HGV's passing the buildings.

All this information will be collated and will guide how the information is quantified.

To have a weight restriction regulation introduced then there will be a need to rely heavily on the MP for Bexhill and Battle and the East Sussex County Council Head of Transport.

Due to problems with speeding a request for a 20 miles an hour limit on the High Street in Westham would be made.

This could also mitigate the damage to property as well as slowing down the traffic as there had been a number of accidents to buildings on the High Street due to large vehicles or traffic speeding.

Councillors then asked a number of questions including if English Heritage had been contacted.

Recommendation

- (i) To impose a weight restriction throughout Westham Village**
- (ii) To impose a 20 miles an hour speed restriction**

Proposed

Seconded

Unanimous Agreement

Resolved: to support and work with Pevensey Parish Council in introducing a weight limit throughout Westham Village.

Also to impose a 20 miles an hour speed limit throughout Westham Village.

161. Agreement that Butchers Field, Westham be registered as a Field in Trust

- (i) Recommendation that agreement by Councillors that the process to register Butchers Field as a Field in Trust begin as soon as possible**

All Councillors were in agreement that Butcher Field should become a Field in Trust and the process begin immediately.

Proposed Seconded

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: That Butchers Field become a Field in Trust

162. Proposed allotment site at the Wells Estate, Rattle Road, Stone Cross

Wealden DC Section 106 Agreement for allotment plots at the Wells Estate

Previously discussed at the July meeting.

The original Section 106 Agreement had been made in 2013. The development of the Wells Estate had finally finished in 2020.

Because of difficulties with the legal agreement from 2020 to 2024 the planned allotments had not been handover to the Parish Council.

Councillors then discussed the S106 agreement and the requirement for the Parish Council to take over a car park as well as the nine plots on the allotment site.

A number of issues would need to be clarified before any decision could be made. These included installing a water connection and security fencing of the site. A meter would be installed for water usage at the site. The water charge would be paid for by the Parish Council.

The water connection would be installed by South East Water to the edge of the site then a private contractor would be required to carry out the work to install piping and troughs / standpipes

Councillors agreed at this meeting that more accurate costs must be found for the water connection and the security fencing around the site.

Councillors then discussed the car park that adjoined the site and how it would be managed. It was now used by residents due to the length of time it had taken for the various issues connected to this site to be resolved.

An update would be supplied at the next meeting.

163. Clerks report to update Councillors on Parish matters

(i) Allotments Rattle Road

The Clerk informed Councillors that an inspection had been carried out to the Rattle Road allotments.

A small number of plots had not been worked and the plot holders would be contacted to see if there was a problem.

A vacant plot will be strimmed down so it can be let.

A few plots had varying amounts of rubbish on their plots. This will need to be cleared away before the spring.

For the next inspection plots will need to show signs of working. If the plot holder is unable to work their plot due to personal reasons then please let the Clerk know.

Barbecues are not permitted on the allotment site and if they are held the plot holders will be contacted and asked to desist from this practice. If continued they may lose their plot.

General grounds maintenance will be carried out including clearing the road to the allotment site of overgrown shrubs in the next few weeks. A skip will also be provided in the New Year so that general rubbish that has accumulated on the plots can be disposed.

(ii) Southern Water and the Pylon Field, Hamble Road

Councillors were informed that In March 2024 major work would be taken place on Council land at Rother Avenue /Hamble Field. The work was to install new sewer pipes from a main at Rother Avenue, Stone Cross to a new housing development on Dittons Road and would take a number of months.

The work has gone ahead with the Parish Council being promised by Southern Water that the contractors would put a small wooden picket fence around the children's play area in Hamble Field before they finished. This was to mitigate the loss of the field to residents for a number of months. The contractors have now left and the fencing has never happened.

Also, now residents that back on to the field where the work took place are experiencing flooding in their gardens and the field is as sodden mess. There is obviously a leak somewhere and there is concern about the waste of water.

Southern Water have been contacted numerous times for a response to emails sent by the Parish Council about these issues but none have been forthcoming.

The CEO of Southern Water has now been contacted for a response. The Parish Council are now waiting for explanations to what has happened.

164. Payment of Invoice for completion of the path work in Adur Park to be agreed

Recommendation: That the final invoice for completion of the path work costing £6823.87 (inc VAT) is agreed for payment

After a short discussion regarding the completion of the “snagging “issues of the path work it was agreed that the final payment should be made.

Proposed

Seconded

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: That the final payment of £6823.87 (inc VAT) is made to Southern Landscapes Ltd

165. Financial Items recommended for approval

(i) Reconciliation Reports for June and July 2024 for approval and resolution

The reconciliation reports were agreed by Council and signed by the Chair of the Council

Proposed and seconded

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: That the reconciliation reports for June and July 2024 are agreed

(ii) Bank Statements June and July 2024 to be approved

The bank statements were approved by Council and signed by the Chair of the Council

Proposed and seconded

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: That the bank statements for June and July 2024 are agreed

166. To resolve to exclude Members of the Press and Public (Public Bodies [Admission to Meetings] Act 1960

There were no matters to be discussed

The Meeting closed at 20.20 pm