

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

8th April 2019

held at Westham Village Hall, Westham

208 Present

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

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

209 Apologies for Absence

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

County Councillor D Shing also sent apologies for his absence.

210 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Councillors considered a request from a member of the public to alter minute 200 to say Mr Evan Jones said the Working Group had their suspicions but they agreed Councillor Durling said it and the minutes were in fact correct.

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 18th March 2019 were then confirmed as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chairman

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

1. The paperwork is now in place, the site meeting with UK Power has taken place and the new bus shelters should be fitted in Stone Cross and Westham in May.
2. The Parish Council is currently talking to Network Rail to see if they will put 'cut engine' signs at the level crossing in Westham. Network Rail may want to know how many times the crossings are down in the hour and how long first.
3. It was also noted that the Parish Council will have uncontested elections in the wards of Stone Cross and Dittons. There will be a contested election in the ward of Westham. There will be five vacant posts and as a result Westham Parish Council is no longer eligible for the General Power of Competence.
4. One of the first things the new Council will need to do is appoint a new Clerk as the current Clerk announced her resignation.

212 Disclosures of Interests

There were no declarations of interest nor were there any changes to the Register of Interests.

The meeting was then suspended.

213 Sewage Works in Westham

Steve Anthony, Customer Service Manager, from Clancy Docwra provided an update on the

drilling works in Westham. He said the next stage is expected to take up to five weeks and it will involve road and level crossing closures but talks are have taken place with ESCC, the bus companies and local businesses to keep any disruption to a minimum. Diversions will be in place and pedestrian and motorcycle access will still be possible. Signage on the roundabout will divert traffic going to the crematorium.

214 Reports from the County Councillors

County Councillor D Shing sent a written report in which he provided the following update;

A27 Improvement Scheme (Polegate to Lewes)

Highways England held a Public Exhibition to report the progress of their scheme at the Polegate Community Centre on Saturday 16 March. During the exhibition, many residents expressed concerns that Highways England and East Sussex County Highways were not working together to improve our road network improvement. Highways England has separate improvement projects nearby in the Polegate and Stone Cross area.

In response, the County Highways have confirmed that they met with Highways England in early February to discuss their respective projects. They agreed that their schemes need to compliment each other and they will continue discussions in the coming months whilst both sets of designs are progressed to the detailed design stage. In the longer term, they also recognised that their delivery programmes for the next few years will benefit from collective discussions.

Changes to the bus services

Local bus operators are making a number of individual changes to service with different implementation dates, the changes are summarised in the attachments.

The main changes are:

- 11X (Brighton-Newhaven-Drusillas Zoopark-Polegate-Eastbourne) – new seasonal service
- 22A (Bexhill-Hollington-Hastings-Ore) – route between Bexhill and Hollington via Coombe Valley Way replaced by service 98 (see below)
- 23/23A (Hastings town centre-St Helen's-Conquest Hospital-St Leonard's- Hastings town centre) – revised route and timetable
- 47 (East Saltdean-Brighton) – revised route and timetable including extension to West Hove
- 98 (Hastings-Bexhill-Eastbourne) – the short journeys to and from Sidley extended via Coombe Valley Way to Hollington and Conquest Hospital
- 121 (Newick- Lewes) – withdrawal of some morning journeys
- 122 (Barcombe-Lewes) – extended on Saturdays to provide a new service for Plumpton Green
- 123 (Newhaven-Lewes) – will no longer divert from the C7 road in Piddinghoe
- 125 (Lewes-Eastbourne) – revised Saturday timetable including new service for Charleston Farmhouse
- 126 (Seaford-Eastbourne) – revised Sunday timetable
- 128/129 (Lewes town services) – revised timetables
- 143 (Lewes-Hailsham) – improved service
- 195 (Waldron-Eastbourne) – diverted to include Bodle Street Green en route (see also new service 196)
- 196 (Rushlake Green-Eastbourne) – replaces service 195 between Rushlake Green and Eastbourne

- 224 (Wadhurst-Rotherfield-Crowborough) – will no longer run on Mondays
- 261 (Uckfield-East Grinstead) – changes to times of morning journeys
- 270 (East Grinstead-Brighton) – the 18:35 journey from East Grinstead withdrawn (see 291 for partial replacement)
- 291 (Crawley-Tunbridge Wells) – new 18:33 journey from East Grinstead to Forest Row

There are also changes to seasonal services, including 6, 13X, 47, 49, 79, 124, 769 and Eastbourne Sightseeing.

County Councillor T Liddiard reported that;

- He has received some complaints about potholes in the Parish. He has taken up all of them with the officers who in turn will be taking the issue up with the contractors.
- He has spoken to the Highways Steward about the state of Hankham Hall Road and as a result it should be repaired soon.
- A bulb had blown recently in a red traffic light at Stone Cross crossroads but it was replaced the following day.
- He is working with Pevensey Castle to try and secure them more funding.
- He has received a number of calls and emails from residents who had blue badge issues, all of which have now been resolved.
- He would like to encourage closer links between the Parish Council residents and the Highways Steward.

215 Report from the District Councillors

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

216 Questions from Members of the Public

Residents;

- Asked for better parking enforcement in Westham because the inconsiderate parking is causing problems for residents, especially at school drop off and pick up times. Councillor Stevens said it could also stop the Emergency Services getting through.

He said the Parish Council has already looked into the parking issue and the problem is that Wealden will not to decriminalise parking and the police will therefore not enforce it. The Parish Council considered providing bollards but was told permission would not be given because they stop cars being moved out of the way in an emergency. County Councillor Liddiard and Councillor Stevens offered to write to the District Council and the police and try again.

Residents were asked to report any anti-social parking via Operation Crackdown in the meantime.

- Thanked the Parish Council for the new bus stop in Eastbourne Road.
- Asked for a 'Westham sign for Eastbourne Road' to be an agenda item for the next meeting.

The meeting was then re-opened.

217 Reports on Committee Meetings held

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

218 Reports from Outside Meetings

Councillor Blaker attended the latest Stone Cross Memorial Hall Trustees Meeting. The Trustees are hoping to recruit more members and just have received £2000 from the Shepham Wind Farm.

Councillor Perrin attended two St John the Baptist Trust Meetings. All the Alms Houses have been inspected and were found to be in good order.

Councillor Saxby attended a Hankham School Governors' Meeting and is pleased to report the school is in safe hands.

Councillor Stevens attended a recent ESALC Training Day. New regulations came into force on 23rd September 2018 and as a result Parish Councils must publish an accessibility statement from 23rd September 2019 for any new websites, 23rd September 2020 for any existing websites and from the 23rd June 2021 it is highly likely they will also need to have a mobile app. He suggested that 'Accessibility Regulations' should be a regular item on the agenda so it is not overlooked.

219 Westham Pond

i: Insurance update.

The Parish Council's insurers have confirmed they will cover the ten previously named volunteers to work at the pond as long as they are not out of their depth or in anyway unsafe when doing work in the pond and all necessary risk assessments are taken and health and safety procedures are followed.

Councillor Garner said he has to point out the Risk Assessment provided by the Westham Pond Working Group is not up to scratch and the Parish Council is a corporate body and is responsible if things go wrong. He said the Rescue Plan must also be right. The Working Group said they would welcome any advice given.

ii: Pond Management Plan – update on volunteer work.

At the last meeting councillors resolved to carry out the works to the trees alongside the 'private path' and those on the corner of Mortain Road. They will see how these look and then consider precepting for the work to the trees on the corner of Montfort Close when they set the budgets in November. They subsequently received a request from a resident asking them not to pollard the trees because they said the trees provide shelter for visitors, including young babies, to the pond in the summer. The Pond Working Group considered the request but said the pollarding is necessary maintenance work but it will grow back quickly.

Councillor Durling said the volunteers hope to start work on the pond in two to three weeks' time.

220 Playparks - to consider providing a new playpark in Castle Bolton

The Parish Council has now received the Plans for a new playpark in Castle Bolton and they were circulated to the councillors before the meeting. The cost of providing the playpark, which will be a more inclusive one, can be met from the Section 106 monies from Adur Park and the Stone Cross Nursery site.

Councillors resolved to approve the work which includes a safety surface.

221 Trees for Hamble Road

The Clerk is liaising with the farmer and the contractor and is now waiting to get a date for the planting from the contractor. Councillor Parsons and Bruce would like to be on site when the planting takes place.

222 Fly tipping in the Parish

The incidents of fly tipping seems to be on the increase in Peelings Lane again.

Councillor Durling;

- suggested the Parish Council should raise awareness of it and encourage the public to report it direct to Wealden. She offered to draft a notice for the notice boards and the Parish Council's website.
- said that tree branches at the footpath end need removing. This matter is currently with the County Council who removed at least one of the trees.
- asked who owns the hedge and the trees at that end. Some are owned by the County Council, some are owned by home owners and a few are the responsibility of the Parish Council.

Councillor Stevens said there seems to be a growing number of incidents of horse droppings on the path between Tesco and Stone Cross School. These are being monitored for now but appropriate signage may have to be considered in the future.

223 Questions from Parish Councillors

Councillor Bruce said residents are being told by County that application forms for blue badges are available from local libraries but she asked people to bear in mind that libraries are now having to print them off themselves and the paper work is forty pages long. County Councillor Liddiard said he will see if he can do anything to help.

Councillors Bruce, Saxby and Perrin thanked the Clerk and all the outgoing councillors for the sterling job they have done particularly this year which was under the most horrific conditions. They said the abuse, rudeness and lies they have all had to put up with should not have to be tolerated and they will be sorry to see everyone go.

Councillor Durling said Mr Evan Jones is holding a presentation on Pevensey Levels on 13th April at 2.30pm at Westham Village Hall.

224 Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered;

WD/2019/0493/F - 14 Westham Business Park, Eastbourne Road, Westham, Pevensey, BN24 5NP - Change of use from B8 TO B2. Installation of commercial kitchen for outside catering company to include the installation of a commercial air extraction unit and flue – Westham Parish Council has no objections to this application as long as there is not a significant increase in the amount of traffic there as a result.

WD/2019/0588/F - 50 Patcham Mill Road, Stone Cross, Westham, BN24 5PA - Single storey side extension to replace existing timber framed extension – Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.20pm.