

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held by a zoom (virtual meeting) at 7.00pm on Monday
15 March 2021

Present:

Cllr HM Haffner (Chair), Cllr A Livingstone, Cllr F Durling, Cllr J Jones, Cllr N Beaney,

Cllr K Farley, Cllr D Axell, Cllr D Upton, Cllr P Baldwin, Cllr R Mayfield, Cllr R Martin,

Cllr J Hayward

SCC Cllr D Shing

WD Cllrs R Cade, A Douglas

Also, at meeting: S Sanders (Clerk), 2 members of the public

217. Apologies:

Cllr J Belcher, WD Cllr P Doodes

218. Declarations of Interest:

None

219. Questions and comments from the public relating to items on this Agenda:

None

220. Public Participation

None

221. Draft Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 15 February 2021

The Minutes for the above meeting had been previously circulated to Councillors.

The Chair stated that he wished to amend the draft Minutes to say that,
"The Chair then said that the main complaint from the parish councillors to the
Traffic Police is the noise and anti-social driving attributed to motorcycles."

It was then agreed to accept and adopt the Minutes of 15 February 2021

Proposed: Cllr K Farley

Seconded: Cllr J Hayward

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2021 be agreed

222. Procedural Matters for Resolution

- (i) Standing Orders for England 2018 (revised 2020)
- (ii) Risk Assessment of Financial & Non-Financial Internal Audit Controls
- (iii) Bank Reconciliation and Bank Statement (Current and Reserve Account) for January 2021
- (iv) Financial Regulations 2019
- (v) Agreement for Mulberry & Co to be the Councils Auditors for the year 21/22
- (vi) Code of Conduct 2019

The Clerk stated that procedural matters needed to be agreed annually. There were no changes from last year's procedures except for Standing Orders to include the Coronavirus legislation it was agreed that all matters should be voted for "en bloc"

Proposed: Cllr M Haffner

Seconded: Cllr F Durling

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: That the above Procedural Matters for 2020/2021 are agreed

223. Setting up of a Butchers Field advisory group to liaise with residents

The Chair explained that an Advisory Group is needed to find out what people actually want and would like in Butchers Field. The Councillors would liaise with residents and take their replies in to consideration.

Cllr Beaney volunteered to lead the group and liaise with Cllr Durling and Hayward. They will keep in touch with the Clerk by email and will report back to the Council either verbally or in writing in a couple of months' time.

The Clerk said that she would put details on the Pevensey Community site. Councillors will bear in mind that covenants on the land with their report.

To approve a letter to the tenant

A letter had previously been circulated to Councillors outlining suggestions for Butchers Field

Proposed: Cllr F Durling

Seconded: Cllr J Jones

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: All the above agreed

224. Chairs report

The Chair reported that a Council notice board had been placed at Stone Cross near Tesco's.

He said that he had received a number of suggestions from residents regarding the future of Adur Park. Suggestions included play areas and a running track but it depends on what is feasible.

The process is in hand to make Adur Park a Field in Trust so that it is legally protected for perpetuity so that it cannot be sold or compulsorily purchased. The Clerk added that Fields in Trust is a process that takes about 6 months. Minutes and deeds have to be submitted but Fields in Trust protects green spaces. The Clerk is already corresponding regarding the forms required.

When the process is completed a plaque or stone is usually put up stating that the park is now a Field in Trust.

Adur Park

Having inherited this area and discovering that there was Stone Cross Royals junior football club that did not play at Stone Cross I contacted them to find that they left because the pitch was too rough.

It occurred however that to spend a lot of money on bringing them back might not be what the residents wanted, so we have set up an Adur Park Advisory Group to look into the whole issue and report back to the full council.

It is unlikely that they can meet in the near future, but meanwhile we are asking residents and logging any feedback we receive.

This process will take time during which we are learning about how to contact our residents more effectively – but we have to start somewhere!

Once the group meet, we can then decide on how we progress further towards providing what the residents ask.

Some may be disappointed, however, because we are still constrained by financial restrictions.

Stone Cross

According to the Eastbourne Herald both the leader of Eastbourne Borough Council, Councillor Tutt, and a person by the name of Derrick Coffee are promoting a new station at Stone Cross. The first in a report and the second as a letter.

I have spoken to the two gentlemen, but neither can tell me where there is the space for building a new station.

In view of this residents have expressed their concerns, as the only obvious place to put it, and presumably the attached car park, is on the Southern end of Adur Park.

In my opinion the whole thing is pie in the sky as the proposals are based on 1980 plan made before Stone Cross was built up, and in any case do not appear to have the support of the rail companies.

However, we have now set in motion a process (Fields in Trust) that will give Adur Park the same legal protection as Princes Park and Hampden Park to prevent it from being sold for development by this and any other future parish council. Under the trust conditions it cannot even be subject to compulsory purchase.

The meeting closed at 19.27 hours