

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at 7.00pm on Monday, 15 November 2021

At Westham Village Hall, Westham

Present: Cllr HM Haffner (Chair), Cllr D Axell, Cllr N Beaney, Cllr F Durling,
Cllr K Farley, Cllr C Hanson, Cllr J Hayward, Cllr J Jones, Cllr D Upton
Wealden DC Cllr R Cade
Also at meeting: S. Sanders (Clerk)
Two members of the public
Absent: Cllr R Martin

287. Apologies

ESSC Cllr D Shing
WD Cllrs P Doodes, A Snell, A Douglas
Westham PC Cllrs P Baldwin, Cllr R Mayfield

288. Declarations of Interest

None

289. Questions from members of the public on matters on the agenda

There were no questions from members of the public on matters on the agenda

290. Draft Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 18 October 2021 to be agreed by Council

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

There were no comments from Councillors so it was agreed to accept and adopt the Minutes of 18 October 2021

Proposed: Cllr F Durling

Seconded: Cllr C Hanson

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2021 be agreed

291. For Approval by Council the RoSPA Water Safety Report 2021- Final Version

The Clerk had previously circulated the draft final version of the RoSPA Water Safety report to Councillors. All agreed it was a good report. Cllr Durling said that the Pond Working Group would be meeting in December to see how to progress any recommendations in the report. One Councillor asked how often water safety checks were carried out at the pond. Cllr Durling said she would find out and report back.

All Councillors agreed that it would be good practice to contact local schools in the New Year to encourage them to think about water safety. The Clerk informed the Council that water safety education in schools was carried out by the Fire Service and she would contact them in them in January.

It was then proposed to accept the draft final report.

Proposed: Cllr F Durling

Seconded: Cllr M Haffner

Unanimous Agreement

Resolved: That the draft final Water Safety Report with recommendations is agreed

292. For Approval by Council the Urban Grass Cutting Contract for 2021 – Self delivery Option (option 3)

The Clerk explained to Councillor the three options supplied by East Sussex County Council (ESCC) for urban grass cutting: **Option 1 – Standard, Option 2 – Extra Cuts, Option 3 – Self Delivery.**

In previous years 'Self delivery' Option 3 had been chosen by Councillors as the preferred method of grass cutting in the Parish.

***Self-Delivery - Option (option 3)** is the option being used by the Council this year. This meant that the Parish Council took on responsibility to deliver all 'urban grass cutting' in their area. This must include a minimum of two cuts over the course of the year. ESCC will not carry out any urban grass cutting in the area. ESCC would pay Westham Parish Council the sum of **£1,540** to do this. Councillors looked carefully at all the options comparing the benefits of each option. It was felt that if the Council was in control of the cutting schedule, then requirements from the Council including the length of the cut would be carried out.*

It was proposed that **Option 3 self-delivery** for the year 2022

Proposed: Cllr M Haffner

Seconded: Cllr J Hayward

Unanimous Agreement

Resolved: that 'Self delivery' Option 3 grass cutting schedule will be delivered in 2022

293. Tree work at Westham Village Pond

Cllr Durling outlined the winter work that was needed to be carried out. The large poplars need to be cut back along with the willows. A number of questions were asked by Councillors regarding the woodpile on the island and if more would be added.

The work would be carried out by Climpson Brothers- Tree Surgeons and would cost £1960.00 plus VAT. It was agreed that the work be carried out as soon as possible.

Proposed: Cllr M Haffner

Seconded: Cllr J Jones

Unanimous Agreement

Resolved: That the winter tree work at Westham Village Pond be carried out as soon as possible.

294. Development at Friday Street Farm

Councillors had been supplied with details of the proposed development at Friday Street Farm to be carried out in the future. The developers were now at a stage of negotiating with Wealden DC regarding the S106 agreement.

The Clerk had been contacted by the developers and asked if the Parish Council would wish to have the transfer of the public open space within the development and maintain it in the future.

After a short discussion Councillors decided to decline the offer.

Proposed: Cllr N Beaney

Seconded: Cllr C Hanson

Unanimous Agreement

Resolved: that Westham Parish Council decline the offer to have the public open space within the development transferred and maintain it

295. Amended parameters for Advisory groups

“A councillor, who is present at the group meeting, can give a report to the full council and give justification, if required, for advice and recommendations.”

To

“Advisory groups should agree a minute taker, and minutes of each meeting should be circulated to each councillor prior to the next Full Council meeting.”

Cllr Haffner introduced this amendment. Taking questions from Councillors he agreed that the amendment from Cllr Hanson that the amendment will read:

“Advisory groups should agree a note taker, and notes of each meeting should be circulated to the Full Council”

Proposed: Cllr C Hanson

Seconded: Cllr Hayward

Majority agreement with one against

Resolved: that, “Advisory groups should agree a note taker, and notes of each meeting should be circulated to the Full Council”

296. Chairman’s report on updated planning issues at Sharnfold Farm

The Chair informed Councillors of the latest information regarding the development at Sharnfold Farm. He thought that a new application for development would soon be circulated. Also, he had attended a Parish Forum along with Councillors from other Parishes. These meetings were enabled by Wealden District Council and attended by planning officers.

297. To resolve to exclude members of the press and public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960) - Not required

The meeting closed at 20.45hrs

