

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present:

Cllr HM Haffner (Chair), Cllr J Hayward, Cllr R Mayfield, 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 J Belcher

Also, at meeting: S Sanders (Clerk), 1 member of the public

197. Apologies:

WD Cllrs P Doodes, Cllr R Cade

Not present: Cllr R Martin

198. Declarations of Interest:

None

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

None

200. Public Participation

None

201. Draft Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 21 December 2020

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

It was then agreed to accept and adopt the Minutes of 21 December 2020.

Proposed: Cllr R Mayfield

Seconded: Cllr F Durling

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 December 2020 be agreed

202. Draft Budget 2021/22 and Precept 2021/22

Papers on these matters had been previously circulated. Members then reviewed the financial information provided by the Clerk

(i) Draft Budget 2021/22

Councillor Mayfield thanked the Clerk for her work on the draft Budget and noted that there would be a 0% increase in the Annual Budget. The Chair commented that the Council would normally increase its Budget in line with inflation. However,

the current rate of inflation is only just above zero percent. The Clerk added that a number of local councils and also Wealden District Council had also set 0% increases in their Budget.

The draft Budget was then proposed.

Proposed: Cllr M Haffner

Seconded: Cllr D Upton

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: That the Annual Budget for 2021/22 is agreed

(ii) Precept 2021/22

The Precept for £160,169 was proposed by

Proposed: Cllr M Haffner

Seconded: Cllr N Beaney

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: That the Precept for 2021/22 will be set at £160,169 with a 0% increase

203. Agreement of Expenditure for October and November 2020

The Clerk had previously circulated copies of Income & Expenditure and Balance Sheet for the year to 30 November 2020. There were no comments.

Proposed: Cllr M Haffner

Seconded: Cllr K Farley

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: That the above expenditure for October and November 2020 is approved

204. Agreement for winter maintenance to be carried out at Westham Pond

Cllr Jones had invited contractors to quote for the work to trees at the pond and had three replies. Quote A quoted £1,290 but had not taken up the offer of an onsite meeting with a member of the pond management group. Also, they have provided no information regarding the access to the island.

Quote B had quoted £2,600 plus VAT (approx £3,120). They had attended an on-site visit and could access the island. They had also made suggestions such as using

vegetable oil on the chain saw. The Council has used this supplier on previous occasions.

Quote C wished to put scaffolding up to reach the island before they even started the work. The cost of scaffolding alone was around £4,000.

After a short discussion the Chair proposed Option B (£2,600)

Proposed: Cllr M Haffner

Seconded: Cllr F Durling

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: All agreed that Option B at £2,600 as the preferred option

205. Dates of the next Meetings

The Dates of the next meetings are as follows:

15 February 2021

15 March 2021

19 April 2021

May Annual Meeting TBC also Annual Council Assembly

21 June 2021

19 July 2021

16 August 2021

20 September 2021

18 October 2021

15 November 2021

20 December 2021

The Chair added that 1 in 3 meetings should be held in Westham to provide representation in that area. However, this was not possible in the present circumstances. The Clerk added that until May 2021 zoom meetings would continue under the current Coronavirus legislation.

206. Chairs Report

The Chair stated he continues to put various reports in the Council noticeboards for the attention of the public.

He had no response to articles in the Parish Pump that was delivered to all areas of the Parish Council.

He reminded everyone that Wealden DC had set up a hub for vulnerable residents in the first lockdown. It still active currently.

He also reminded Councillors if they wished to have items on the Council agenda then the Council requires at least one weeks' notice as the agendas have to go on to the public notice boards. He said that all emails regarding the agenda should go to the Chair and the Clerk to keep both in the loop.

There had been a Planning Committee meeting on the 13 January but there was nothing concerning Westham PC to report. He stated that he had submitted comments regarding planning to Wealden DC, but this was his personal view and not the view of the Chair of the Council.

The meeting closed at 19.37 hours