

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at 7.00pm on Monday, 18 October 2021
at St Luke's Church Hall, Stone Cross

Present: Cllr HM Haffner (Chair), Cllr P Baldwin, Cllr N Beaney, Cllr F Durling,

Cllr C Hanson, Cllr J Hayward, Cllr J Jones, Cllr D Upton

ESCC Cllr D Shing. Wealden DC Cllr R Cade

Also at meeting: S. Sanders (Clerk)

Absent: Cllr R Martin

273. Apologies

WD Cllrs P Doodes, A Snell, A Douglas

Westham PC Cllrs D Axell, Cllr K Farley, Cllr R Mayfield

274. Declarations of Interest

None

275. 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

276. Draft Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 20 September 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 20 September 2021

Proposed: Cllr D Upton

Seconded: Cllr F Durling

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2021 be agreed

277. Grounds Maintenance Update

The Clerk updated Councillors on the grounds work that had taken place over the last few months. They were informed that two trees had now been felled in Darent Close, Stone Cross due to an ongoing subsidence issue which had been discussed at depth by Council previously. The trees had been removed as a prevention and new trees would be planted in their place as soon as possible. A Councillor asked whether root barriers had been present when excavations had taken place to ascertain the severity of the subsidence. This was a question that would have to be asked of Wealden DC as no information was available currently.

The Clerk then mentioned there was a large backlog of tree / shrub maintenance work that would be needed to be carried out during the winter months.

Cllr Durling said that it would be a good idea to have a small number of voluntary tree wardens for this area. This would be put forward on a future agenda.

278. Closure of Audit for the year ending 31 March 2021

The conclusion of Audit Notice and the External Auditors Report for the year ending 2020/21 papers had previously been circulated to Councillors. There were no questions from Councillors regarding the report.

Approval of the Report was proposed.

Proposed: Cllr J Hayward

Seconded: Cllr C Hanson

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: That the conclusion of Audit Notice and the External Auditors Report is approved by Council

279. Grant Application Update

Updated paperwork had been supplied by Wealden Citizens Advice in support of their grant application for £200. These have previously been circulated to Councillors.

After a short discussion it was agreed that the grant application should be approved.

Proposed: Cllr N Beaney

Seconded: Cllr F Durling

Majority agreement

Resolved: That grant funding of £200 be awarded to Wealden Citizens Advice

Also, revised details had been supplied by Cuckmere Buses in support of their previous grant application of £100. These details have also been circulated to Councillors.

After a short discussion it was agreed that the grant application should be agreed.

Proposed: Cllr M Haffner

Seconded: Cllr J Hayward

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: That grant funding of £100 be awarded to Cuckmere Buses

280. Approval of Financial Expenditure Reports for August and September 2021

The expenditure reports for August and September were agreed. No questions were asked.

Proposed: Cllr D Upton

Seconded: Cllr M Haffner

Unanimous Agreement

Resolved: That the expenditure for August and September 2021 is agreed

281. Approval to purchase and replace the goal posts in Adur Park

The Clerk explained to Councillors that the original goal posts in Adur Park were no longer suitable for use and showing signs of wear and had been dismantled and taken away. New posts had been sought through a number of companies. It was agreed to accept the quotation that included installation. The price was £1538.00

Proposed: Cllr P Baldwin

Seconded: Cllr J Jones

Unanimous Agreement

Resolved: That new goal posts be bought and erected in Adur Park as soon as possible

282. Approval to permit a resident to plant a tree (position to be decided) and / or place a plaque to her husband on Cannon Green

A discussion took place between Councillors regarding the placing of this tree and a plaque. This topic had previously been discussed by the Council but due to Covid-19 restrictions no progress was able to be made.

The Council finally made a decision that should be put to the resident for their consideration.

Options are:

Option 1: An existing tree could be used. This could be named

Option 2: A new tree be planted at the Northeast corner of Westham Pond

Option 3: Have a plaque by the Canon on Cannon Green

Option 4: a new tree to be planted opposite Butchers Field

These options will be put to the resident.

Before any tree may be planted the site will be subject to archaeological approval.

Proposed: Cllr F Durling

Seconded: Cllr N Beaney

Unanimous Agreement

Resolved: That the agreed options are put to the resident for their response

283. Reports from Councillors on outside bodies of any meetings they have attended

Cllr Haffner advised Councillors that he had attended a Wealden Parish Panel meeting via zoom. There had been a number of issues discussed by attending members.

284. Reports from Councillors on Advisory Groups

The Chair asked if there were any reports from the advisory groups.

Adur Park

Cllr Baldwin gave a short report on the progress with the improvements to Adur Park. He had sought information on how to start a major renovation of a sports field with all the steps that were needed. In the first instance a flood report should be sought from a consultant to ascertain if there were any problems with the ground which required improvements or new drainage. He also handed Councillors details of a MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) which are commonly placed in recreation parks.

Cllr J Hayward left the meeting at 20.15 hrs.

Westham Pond Working Group

It was reported that a working session had been carried out recently. Various tasks had been listed for winter work and would be carried out as soon as quotations were received and agreed.

Butchers Field

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the production of a leaflet to be delivered to residents in the Westham ward.

A final version of the leaflet would be sent out to all councillors in the next couple of days for their comment or agreement with wording. This final version would then be inserted in the 'Parish Pump' for delivery in the village.

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

Confidential Item

Council to agree a letter to be written from the Parish Council to Stone Cross School

The meeting closed at 21.00hrs