

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Stone Cross School, Adur Drive, Stone Cross

East Sussex BN24 5EF

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday, 18 November 2019

Present:

Cllr MH Haffner (Chair), Cllr F Durling, Cllr N Beany, Cllr J Hayward, Cllr D Upton, Cllr J Jones, Cllr K Farley, Cllr D Axell, Cllr R Mayfield

ESCC Cllr D Shing, WDC Cllr R Cade

In attendance: S Sanders (Clerk)

7 members of the public

92. Apologies – ESCC T Liddiard, WDC Cllr P Doodles, Cllr Belcher

93. Declarations of Interest

Cllr R Mayfield – Item 12 Allotments - Personal

94. Questions from members of the public on matters on the Agenda at the discretion of the Chairman –

A resident asked about hanging baskets being restored to lamp posts in Westham High Street. The Chair said that this item was not the Agenda for tonight, but it would be put on the Agenda for the next Full Council Meeting.

95. To receive reports from East Sussex County Council and Wealden District Council

ESCC Cllr Shing informed Councillors that the ESCC Highways department had now put the winter gritting programme in place. Details of the programme could be found on the highway's website.

Cllr Shing also spoke of the surface water flooding that had occurred in the Dittons Road / Shepham Lane area which had affected traffic. This had now been dealt with by ESCC who had carried out works to the drainage in the road.

Lastly, Cllr Shing mentioned Phase Two of the Eastbourne Town Centre improvements. Public exhibitions would be taking place towards the end of November with a public consultation in the near future.

WDC Cllr Cade spoke on several issues.

- (i) The Local Plan that has been delayed again.
- (ii) The delivery of garden bins had now been settled.
- (iii) A number of new initiatives to stop people becoming homeless in the first place.
- (iv) Climate Emergency proposals – including net carbon emissions. A specific group is to be set up and will hold initial discussions. Cllr Cade did say that Wealden DC cannot do this by themselves and they need the co-operation from Town and Parish Councils to cut the carbon footprint. A co-ordinated plan and strategy is ongoing.
- (v) Emergency Plan – this plan deals with large scale emergencies and is now up for review. Once it has been accepted and agreed a template will be available for all parish councils.

96. Co-option of Councillor

The Chair explained to Councillors that the leaflet drops regarding the council vacancies in the Stone Cross ward had been successful. Four applicants from the Stone Cross ward had been in touch regarding the vacancies. The Chair had contacted them and asked that they forward further details about themselves and why they wanted to be a Stone Cross Councillor. If everything was satisfactory then it was hoped that a co-option would be carried out at the December meeting.

The Chair then told Councillors that Cllr Ian Fenner who has represented the Westham ward had resigned. This resignation would trigger a Casual Vacancy in the ward which would require notification from Wealden DC to advertise the vacancy.

97. Minutes of the previous meetings held on 21 October 2019

The Chair asked that the Minutes of the above meeting be agreed as a correct record

To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 October 2019

Proposed: Cllr D Upton

Seconded: Cllr J Jones

Resolved: That the Minutes of 21 October 2019 be agreed

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: That Councillors agreed the minutes of the Full Council meeting of 21 October 2019

98. Committee Minutes / Working Group Minutes

- (i) To resolve the Minutes of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 16 October 2019**

The Chair asked all Councillors to agree the Minutes of the above committee

Proposed: Cllr R Mayfield

Seconded: Cllr N Beaney

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: That Councillors agreed the minutes of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 16 October 2019

- (ii) Finance & General Purposes Committee Vacancy**

Due to the resignation of Cllr Fenner there is a vacancy on the above Committee.

Cllr Mayfield, Chair of the above Committee asked for nominations for the vacancy.

Cllr D Upton was proposed by Cllr K Farley.

Proposed: Cllr K Farley

Seconded: Cllr J Jones

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: Cllr Upton is the new member of the Finance & General Purposes Committee

99. Street Naming and Numbering – Development at Uplands Farm, Westham

The Developer has proposed 6 new street names for the development. The Council are asked as a matter of courtesy to comment on the names: Towers Road, Fortress Avenue, Saxon Crescent, Anderida Close, Bailey Lane, Heritage Drive

Proposed: Cllr K Farley

Seconded: Cllr N Beaney

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: That Council agree to the proposed 6 new street names

100. Urban Grass Cutting Contract 2020

This Item had been discussed previously at the Parks & Open Spaces Committee meeting on 16 October 2019. Councillors at that meeting had discussed the options and decided to recommend to Full Council Option 3.

***Self-Delivery - Option (option 3)** being the option 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. Finally, the Committee agreed to recommend to Full Council **Option 3 self-delivery** for the year 2020.*

Proposed: Cllr R Mayfield

Seconded: Cllr D Upton

Resolved: That Councillors agree to Option 3 of the ESCC Grass Cutting Contract 2020

Unanimous agreement

101. Policies – Standing Orders 2018 version

The Chair supplied all Councillors present with a hard copy of the Standing Orders 2018 (S/O). He then went through the S/O page by page so that amendments that had been made were discussed.

Several amendments were made that will added to the S/O in due course.

After each page was agreed all Councillors agreed that the S/O be adopted.

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: That Standing Orders 2018 be adopted, and each Councillor will then be supplied with an updated copy for their records.

102. Reports from Councillors on outside bodies

No reports

103. Resurfacing to the lane to allotment land off Rattle Road

The Clerk updated Councillors on the maintenance works that had recently been carried out at the allotment site. After many months of negotiations there were now final preparations being made to renew the road surfacing by BT.

This road work needed approval by Council and the deeds require a proportional cost to be made by the Council towards the road works. This was agreed by Council, but Councillors needed confirmation on a few issues from BT regarding future maintenance of the roadway including:

Assurance that the Parish would not be expected to contribute to any further failure for at least ten years as a reasonable reflection of the quality of works and the minimal wear and tear by the allotment holders.

To be informed of the exact date of commencement so that we can arrange independent quality assurance to satisfactory specifications with a reasonable retention until works are completed and fault-free for three months

Proposed: Cllr N Beaney

Seconded: Cllr J Jones

104. Groups – to resolve that there is no set number of Councillors on an Advisory or Working Group

After a short discussion it was agreed at a minimum of one Councillor should be on an advisory or working group.

Proposed: Cllr D Upton

Seconded: Cllr N Beaney

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: That a minimum of one Councillor should be on an advisory or working group.

105. Advisory Groups - to resolve to set up a Planning Advisory Group

The Chair explained to the Council that a Planning advisory Group was required because of the large and complex planning applications that were being sent to the Parish Council for comment.

All Councillors agreed that it was a good idea and the Chair should proceed in setting up a group.

Proposed: Cllr J Hayward

Seconded: Cllr K Farley

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: That a Planning Advisory Group be set up as soon as possible

106. Planning

(i) Update on current planning issues

The Chair appraised Councillors of concerns of the disproportionate amount of building in the Stone Cross area.

(ii) Please see the documents on the Wealden District Council Planning website. A hard copy of the plans will be available to view at the meeting:

WD/2019/2260/F 43 Pevensey Park Road, Westham BN24 5HW

No objection – The Council can see no material planning objection to the application

APPROVALS

WD/2019/1967/F 28 Beechfield Close, Stone Cross, Westham BN24 5FH
Approved

WD/2019/2039/F 6 White Clover Close, Stone Cross, Pevensey BN24 5GH
Approved

WD/2019/1898/F 2 Uplands Cottage, Rattle Road, Stone Cross, BN24 5DT

107. To resolve to exclude Members of the Press and Public (Public Bodies [Admission to Meetings] Act 1960)

108. Confidential Matters

Staffing Issues – Agreement to set up a Staffing Committee for future staffing issues

The meeting closed at 21.30 hours.

The date of the next meeting is the 16 December 2019

