

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

Before the Meeting started the Chair asked that a minutes silence be held in respect of the death of the Duke of Edinburgh

Present:

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

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 A Douglas, A Snell

Also, at meeting: S Sanders (Clerk), 3 members of the public

225. Apologies:

Cllr J Belcher, Cllr N Beaney, WD Cllrs P Doodles, R Cade

226. Declarations of Interest:

None

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

None

228. Public Participation

None

229. Draft Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 15 March 2021

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

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

Proposed: Cllr R Mayfield

Seconded: Cllr F Durling

Unanimous agreement

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

230. Butchers Field

- (i) Agreement of the extension of the lease for one year to the current tenant due to the limited contact with residents for consultation regarding Butcher Field**

The Chair outlined the situation at the present time. There had been a letter received from the tenant with general concerns. The lease finishes at the end of June.

The Chair stated that a public consultation was not possible currently due to Covid 19 restrictions. A Councillor said that other possibilities were discussed including sectioning off part of the field for public use but the Clerk said that again this needed public consultation. Another Councillor said that it was part of the Pevensey Conservation area and visitors, tourists and the general public needed to be considered. However, there is a problem with public access. Councillors said they needed to see the lease. Another Councillor asked why it was not a 'rolling lease' and why it needed to be extended each year.

Following the discussion, the Chair proposed that the lease should be extended for one year.

Proposed: Cllr M Haffner

Seconded: Cllr F Durling

A vote was taken with one abstention and one against. The motion was carried.

Resolved: that the lease for Butchers Field should be extended for one year.

- (ii) A notice must be displayed warning the public that they enter the field at their own risk when the sheep and lambs are present**

The Chair informed the meeting that the leaseholder had already put a notice up at the field. After a short discussion it was agreed that the notice was appropriate.

The Chair proposed that the tenant exhibits the notice for the next year.

Proposed: Cllr M Haffner

Seconded: Cllr F Durling

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: that the notice is exhibited for the next year

231. Adur Park survey and quotations

The Clerk said that Councillors had been circulated with an email regarding the quotation. A Councillor agreed that the work needed doing because some trees were becoming overgrown as work had not been carried out for a time in the Park.

Proposed: Cllr A Livingstone

Seconded: Cllr R Mayfield

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: That the quotation is acceptable and the work to be carried out as soon as possible

232. Clerks Report

The Clerk said that the Westham Parish Council meeting would take place on Tuesday, 4 May 2021 at 7.00pm. The government Coronavirus Act which authorised 'zoom' meetings for Councils was due to expire on 7 May 2021 and local had been urged to hold their Annual Meeting by 'zoom' before the expiry date.

Meanwhile Hertfordshire CC with had taken the matter to the Administrative Court in London to clarify the situation with meetings after 7 May 2021.

233. Chairs report

With regard to Parish Planning Forum that morning and one of the outcomes was that the Wealden District Forward Plan will take another two years to complete.

A new officer with responsibility as Manager for Improvement and Planning, Mr Manny Singh, was introduced.

There was a brief report that PIP, Permission In Principle, might be introduced by Wealden, but the implication of this was not clear and needs further investigation. Further comments on "The Way Forward" (the District Plan consultation) can be submitted.

It was noted that a councillor was objecting to Planning Department's rejection of an application for a single house as it was outside the planning area. This was despite the application being supported by the Parish Council, yet applications for large development outside the planning area are being approved.

I have objected to Wealden myself on this very issue of inconsistency.

Regarding Butchers Field, the tenant had made a complaint about lack of democracy regarding decisions made at the last PC meeting, but it was pointed out that a decision on the formation of an advisory group was an internal Parish Council decision, as was the terms under which Butchers Field was offered for rent

The meeting closed at 19.34 hours