

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held by a zoom (virtual meeting) at 7.00pm on Monday
19 October 2020

Present:

Cllr HM Haffner (Chair), Cllr J Hayward, Cllr D Upton, Cllr R Mayfield, Cllr D Axell, Cllr A Livingstone, Cllr F Durling, Cllr J Belcher

Also, at meeting: S Sanders (Clerk)

2 members of the public

171. Apologies:

Cllr N Beaney, Cllr K Farley

Not present: Cllr R Martin

172. Declarations of Interest:

None

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

A resident of Westham enquired about the costs to remove the teen shelter as it was valued between £8,000. It was explained that this was the original cost but has now had 9 years of wear and tear and had recently been damaged.

The cost of replacement is cheaper than the cost of repair.

174. Public Participation

None.

175. Draft Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 21 September 2020

The Minutes had been previously circulated. The Chair requested that the in the fourth sentence from the end it should read "The Chairman suggested that we may need to form a Adur Park Advisory Group."

It was then agreed to confirm the Minutes.

Proposed: Cllr F Durling

Seconded: Cllr J Hayward

Unanimous agreement

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

176. Proposal for the removal of the Teen Shelter in Adur Park

The Chair outlined that the cost of a replacement shelter would be between £2.5 and £5k and suggested Council had 3 alternatives, either to remove it completely, move it to another site or repair it. Councillors asked that a replacement shelter at another location in Adur Park could be discussed at another meeting,

The Clerk added that repairing the shelter would be difficult as it would have to be dug up, repaired, and put back. The Chair proposed that the Shelter should be removed

Proposed: Cllr HM Haffner

Seconded: Cllr R Mayfield

In favour: Cllrs, Upton, Durling, Axell, Belcher, Livingstone

Against: Cllr Hayward

The proposal was carried to remove the shelter

177. Proposal for tree works to closed land between 7 – 9 Tillingham Way

Councillors Baldwin and Jones joined the meeting at this point

The Chair explained that a problem had arisen today as there had been information that Bats had been roosting in the trees on the above land and an inspection would need to take place before the Council could move forward on this item.

He said that if no further work were required then Councillors could approve the proposal on grounds of health and safety. The Clerk said that Councillors could give approval a report on the Bats. A Councillor said it would cost a lot of money to remove the oak tree as it was in a ditch and hedgerow area. She suggested that we may need to find another contractor and compare estimates. The Clerk added that to work on the trees the contractors would need the appropriate insurance cover and certificates for this type of project.

A Councillor suggested contacting Wealden DC for contacts.

The Chair explained that the expenditure is an investment for the future because up to now the Council has been 'firefighting' and needs to plan for the future.

Councillors asked if the quotation included the damaged oak tree. The Clerk replied that it did. The Tree Officer at Wealden DC has been notified that this oak tree has a TPO.

The Chair proposed provisional expenditure for the works to be carried out conditional on Bat activities in the area. Should further expenditure be necessary the item should be brought back to Council.

Proposed: Cllr M Haffner

Seconded: Cllr F Durling

Unanimous approval

178. Brief Report on the planning committee decision on the development of housing south of Dittons Road

The Chair said that the provision of housing had been agree but what was in dispute was a Reserved Matter concerning design and layout.

He had written to all District Councillors suggesting they reject the application, but they approved it. However, they may change the colour of the houses later. He said that he will continue to try to get them to look at their decision particularly on the external appearance and to follow their own local planning guide more closely.

The meeting closed at 19.32 hours