

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, 20 January 2020

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, Cllr P Baldwin, Cllr A Livingstone

In attendance: S Sanders (Clerk)

ESCC Cllr T Liddiard, WDC Cllr A Snell, 3 members of the public

- 116. Apologies** – ESCC Cllr D Shing, WDC Cllr P Doodles. Cllr J Belcher had asked for a six-month sabbatical from the Council due to ill health. This was agreed by all Councillors. The Clerk asked all Councillors if they would refrain from contacting Cllr Belcher by email or phone whilst she recuperated.

117. Declarations of Interest

None

118. Questions from members of the public on matters on the Agenda at the discretion of the Chair

A resident of Hankham informed Councillors of their concerns of Planning Application WD/2019/2369/FR – Hankham Lodge, Hankham Hall Road, Westham – a retrospective application for the retention of two sheds.

119. Reports from the County Councillor and Wealden District Councillors

Cllr Liddiard briefed Councillors on the proposed ESCC Budget for the year 2020/21. He stated that this had been a welcome relief compared with previous years cuts.

In delivering services he said there had been much community involvement at different ways in providing these services. This had been a well-run exercise that had had positive outcomes.

Cllr Liddiard said that there had been problems in Hankham with commercial waste being dumped on rural roads in the area. The perpetrator had been identified and action would now be taken.

WDC Cllr Angela Snell informed Councillors that there would be no 'let up' in trying to identify the owners of the cars put up for sale by the traffic islands at Dittons Road.

She then told Councillors the latest information regarding the Wealden Local Plan and the outcomes from various meetings that had been held. She reminded Councillors that if they had concerns with a planning application that they should contact their Wealden Councillor and have the plan 'called in' for further scrutiny.

120. Co-option of Councillors – Westham Ward

One applicant had put their name forward to become Councillors for the above ward.

The applicant was: Mr Ray Martin.

The Chair asked the applicant to speak for two minutes about his interest in the Council and why he wanted to be a Councillor. He then asked for the applicant to leave the room for a short time for the Council to discuss the vacancy.

The Chair then asked for Standing Orders to be suspended:

Standing Orders suspended:

Proposed: Cllr Mayfield

Seconded: Cllr Beaney

After a short discussion in which Councillors discussed the vacancy,

Standing Orders were then reinstated:

Proposed: Cllr Mayfield

Seconded: Cllr Beaney

The applicant was then invited back into the room and informed that he was accepted as a co-opted Councillor by unanimous agreement.

Mr Ray Martin was then co-opted onto the Council for the Westham ward.

121. Minutes of the previous meetings held on 16 December 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 Monday 16 December 2019 at 19.30 hrs

Proposed: Cllr K Farley

Seconded: Cllr D Axell

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2019 be agreed

122. Committee / Working Group Minutes – Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 16 December 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 Monday 16 December 2019 at 19.00hrs

Proposed: Cllr R Mayfield

Seconded: Cllr D Upton

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2019 be agreed

123. Grant Funding Draft Policy

Councillors had previously been supplied with a copy of the draft policy. The Chair asked that if Councillors had no questions than the policy be agreed.

Proposed: Cllr K Farley

Seconded: Cllr M Haffner

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: That the draft Grant Funding Policy is adopted at this meeting. The Policy will be used for all new grant funding applications

124. Applications for Grant Funding 2019

Grant funding Applications had been received from several organisations. After careful consideration the following decisions were made:

Stone Cross Mill Trust	£450 agreed
Pevensey Villages	Application rejected
Friends of Pevensey Playgrounds	Application rejected
Hankham Village Society	£50 agreed (NOTE – for further discussion)
Wealden Citizens Advice	Councillors asked if a specific project could be funded – as they acknowledged the good work carried out by this organisation. It was agreed to defer this item to a later date.
Stone Cross Memorial Hall	Agreement to pay £1500 which had been approved by the last Council in January 2019 but had never been paid

Resolved: that Councillors agree to the above recommendations for funding

125. Adoption of draft Updated Financial Regulations 2019

The draft Financial Regulations had been previously circulated to Councillors for their comments. All Councillors were satisfied with the regulations.

Proposed: Cllr Mayfield

Seconded: Cllr Upton

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: that the draft Financial Regulations 2019 be adopted at this meeting.

126. Westham Parish Council Precept 2020/2021

Cllr Mayfield, Chair of Finance explained to Councillors the difficulty there had been in setting the Precept due to a lack of Budget Setting 2019/20 by the previous Council. Finally, it had been decided that an increase of 1.79% to cover inflation should be set. This was agreed by all Councillors. The total amount of Precept is £160,169.

Proposed: Cllr R Mayfield

Seconded: Cllr N Beaney

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: that a Precept amount of £160,169 be sent to Wealden District Council

127. A request from the Hospital of St John the Baptist for an extra Trustee

After a short discussion Councillors decided that they were unable to commit to this position, but they did ask for further information on the organisation. It was hoped that an extra Trustee would come forward in the future.

128. Butchers Field

This item was deferred to the February Full Council meeting for further discussion

129. Change of Meeting Venues throughout the year 2020

Council to agree the following Recommendation:

“To change the agreement to hold alternative meetings in Westham and agree to hold the Full Parish Council Meeting there in March, June and November “. (This equates to roughly one in three. October is not available.)

Proposed: Cllr M Haffner

Seconded: Cllr K Farley

Unanimous Agreement

Resolved: That the change to the alternative meeting dates are agreed

130. Essential tree works at Westham Pond including the Island, and the Montfort Close area

Cllr Durling provided Councillors with details of the maintenance work required at Westham Pond. Cllr Durling had two quotations with one quote much cheaper. All Councillors agreed that the work should be carried by the contractors with the more reasonable quotation but asked to see the Contractors Public Liability Certificate and the tree surgeons' qualifications.

It was suggested that it would be a good idea to add a Procurement Policy to the new list of policies that the Parish Council was now developing.

131. Planning Issues

WD/2019/2575/F for FRAMPTON, HANKHAM STREET, HANKHAM, BN24 5AY – PROPOSED FRONT PORCH, TIMBER CLADDING TO FAÇADE, LOFT CONVERSION

NO OBJECTION

WD/2019/2343/MFA for STONE CROSS GARDEN CENTRE, DITTONS ROAD, STONE CROSS, BN24 5EP - VARIATION OF CONDITION 3 OF WD/2018/0931/MRM (RESERVED MATTERS PURSUANT TO OUTLINE PERMISSION WD/2015/1721/MAO (OUTLINE APPLICATION FOR HOUSING - 44 NO. UNITS AND AMENITIES) TO REFER TO THE WHO ENVIRONMENTAL NOISE

OBJECTION – The Planning Authority should make sure that the variations of condition 3 should ensure that the quality of life for residents is taken into consideration.

WD/2019/1958/F for 10 BLATCHINGTON MILL DRIVE, STONE CROSS, BN24 5QA – PROPOSED SINGLE STOREY SIDE EXTENSION ALONG WITH THE PROVISION OF A NEW ACCESS PATH PROVIDING ACCESS AROUND THE PERIMETER OF THE EXTENSION PROVIDING ACCESS FROM FRONT TO THE REAR GARDEN INCLUDING THE ERECTION OF NEW FENCING AND GATE TO SIDE.

NO OBJECTION

**WD/2019/2369/FR for HANKHAM LODGE, HANKHAM HALL ROAD, WESTHAM, BN24 5AG –
RETROSPECTIVE APPLICATION FOR THE RETENTION OF TWO SHEDS**

OBJECTION – The development is outside the development boundary. Is the position of the sheds shown on the map accurate?

The height of the sheds is of an inappropriate size – they are not sheds.

Drainage could also be a problem with run off.

If any permission allowing retrospective use of these buildings is given, they must be used for storage only.

WD/2019/2624/32 for LAMBOURN AVENUE, STONE CROSS, PEVENSEY, BN24 5PQ

**REMOVAL OF EXISTING CONSERVATORY AND CONSTRUCTION OF SINGLE STOREY SIDE
EXTENSION**

NO OBJECTION

WD/2019/2599/FA for EASTBOURNE HEIGHTS, OAK TREE LANE, EASTBOURNE, BN23 8FB

**VARATION OF CONDITIONS 1 & 2 OF WD/2017/2472/FA (REMOVAL OF CONDITIONS 1 & 2 OF
K/1955/0500 (CARAVAN SITE)) TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL UNITS TO 117**

OBJECTION – Loss of essential green space and potential reduction of health and wellbeing of the residents. Reinforced by previous restrictions of mobile homes in 2017 that there should not be more than 107 mobile homes.

The meeting closed at 21.30 hours.

The date of the next meeting is the 16 February 2020

