

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at 7.00pm on Monday, 20 September 2021
at St Luke's Church Hall, Stone Cross

Present: Cllr HM Haffner (Chair), Cllr D Axell, Cllr P Baldwin, Cllr N Beaney, Cllr F Durling,
Cllr K Farley, Cllr R Mayfield, Cllr D Upton

Wealden DC Cllrs R Cade, A Douglas

Also at meeting: S. Sanders (Clerk)

Members of the public: 1

261. Apologies

County Cllr D Shing, WD Cllrs P Doodes, A Snell, Westham PC Cllrs J Jones, Cllr J Hayward

Absent: Cllr R Martin

262. Declarations of Interest

None

263. 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

264. Draft Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 26 July 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 26 July 2021

Proposed: Cllr F Durling

Seconded: Cllr N Beaney

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2021 be agreed

265. To approve Co-Option of a new Councillor for the Parish Council

Christine Hanson of Stone Cross put her name forward for co-option to fill one of the vacant positions on the Parish Council. Ms Hanson spoke at length to Councillors of her reasons for wanting to become a Councillor and serve on the Parish Council.

After a short discussion by Councillors, it was agreed that Christine Hanson be co-opted onto the Parish Council and that she is invited to take up the position immediately.

Proposed: Cllr M Haffner

Seconded: Cllr K Farley

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: That Christine Hanson is co-opted onto the Parish Council and invited to join the meeting.

Cllr Hanson joined the meeting.

266. Reports from advisory Groups

Adur Park - Cllr Baldwin had reviewed all the information from members of the public after ideas and suggestions had been asked for in the Parish Pump. He had put together a spread sheet that would be the basis of the groups work.

Cllr Baldwin stated that the drainage of the field is the first issue to be sorted and a surveyor should be engaged. Estimates for a drainage consultant should be sought.

Planning - Cllr Haffner informed Councillors that the Group had met. They all felt that there is such a short space of time for planning consultations to be returned. A longer period of consultation would be sought. Cllr Haffner then updated Councillors on the latest planning issues including a local planning application.

Standing Orders were then suspended so that a resident could ask Councillors for advice on a particular planning application. A length of 10 minutes was agreed.

Proposed: Cllr M Haffner

Seconded: Cllr P Baldwin

Unanimous Agreement

Standing Orders reinstated

Proposed: Cllr M Haffner

Suspended: Cllr P Baldwin

Unanimous Agreement

Butchers Field – Cllr Durling said that the Group would advise by December of any consultation on the future of Butchers Field.

Communications - Cllr Mayfield updated Councillors on the latest Communications meeting. A Parish Pump article had been submitted for publication to inform residents of the Councils work.

Westham Pond – Cllr Durling gave an informative and in-depth update on the latest pond working group meeting. She said that vegetation around the pond had been cut down recently and was looking in very good condition.

A few revisions had to be made to the RoSPA draft report. When the report is agreed it shall be posted on the Councils website. It was suggested to contact RoSPA about educational packs about water safety that could be distributed to local schools to highlight the precautions that should be taken around water.

Rural Roads Meeting -There was short report from a recent meeting arranged by the MP for Bexhill and Battle. It was very well attended by all Parishes with many questions asked about local concerns.

267. Confirmation of Councillor surgeries at Westham and Stone Cross

There was an in-depth discussion by Councillors about setting up Councillor Surgeries. As this was the first-time surgeries had been held there were many issues to consider including the venue for the surgeries and the frequency that they should be held. Westham Village Hall would be used for the Westham surgeries and Stone Cross surgeries could possibly be held on Fridays at St Luke's Church when a regular coffee morning is held.

The Clerk distributed a draft Risk Assessment policy document for holding Councillor surgeries that she asked Councillors to think about for the next meeting.

Finally, it was agreed in principle that Councillor surgeries should start but that more details will be needed before a final decision is taken.

Proposed: Cllr K Farley

Seconded: Cllr D Upton

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: that Councillor surgeries are agreed in principle but further information is needed before a final decision is taken

268. To confirm approval for Councillors email addresses to be published on the Council website

All Councillors agreed that this was a good idea and should be added to the website as soon as possible.

Proposed: Cllr M Haffner

Seconded: Cllr K Farley

Agreement with one abstention

Resolved: All Councillor email addresses be added to the Council website as soon as possible

269. To approve the parameters under which Advisory Groups operate

The Chair had previously circulated a document on which the details of the parameters of Advisory Groups operate. A lengthy discussion then took place regarding Terms of Reference of Groups and Committees.

It was agreed that at least one member of the Group should report advice or recommendations to Full Council for approval before any action is taken.

Proposed: Cllr M Haffner

Seconded: Cllr D Upton

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: that at least one member of the Group should report advice or recommendations to Full Council for approval before any action is taken.

270. Grant Applications

Three Grant Applications had been received. Two of the applications had been returned to the applicants so that more specific information could be obtained before a decision could be made to comply with the Council's Grant Policy

St Wilfrid's Hospice

Grant Application for £220 agreed

Proposed: Cllr B Mayfield

Seconded: Cllr P Baldwin

Unanimous Agreement

Resolved: That the St Wilfrid's Hospice Grant Application be granted for £220

271. Financial Expenditure for June and July 2021

The Clerk had previously circulated the financial expenditure for June and July 2021.

There were no questions from Councillors so the expenditure as agreed.

Proposed: Cllr B Mayfield

Seconded: Cllr M Haffner

Agreement with one abstention

Resolved: that the Financial Expenditure for June and July 2021 is agreed.

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

The meeting closed at 20.50 minutes