

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at 7.00pm on Monday, 21 February 2022

At the Amenity Hall, Stone Cross School, Adur Drive, Stone Cross, BN24 5EF

Present:

Cllr D Upton (Chair), Cllr R Mayfield, Cllr N Beaney, Cllr F Durling, Cllr D Axell,

Cllr K Farley, Cllr C Hanson, Cllr J Hayward, Cllr J Jones, Cllr P Baldwin

Wealden DC Cllr P Doodes

Three members of the public

Also at meeting: S. Sanders (Clerk)

307. Apologies

ESSC Cllr D Shing,

WD Cllrs R Cade, A Snell, A Douglas

308. Declarations of Interest

None

309. Questions from members of the public on matters on the agenda

Two members of the public spoke of their concern over the consultation process that was carried out to find out residents views over the future of Butchers Field. They felt the consultation did not consider everyone living close to Butchers Field. Some residents close to the field were not asked for their views as they lived in a neighbouring parish.

310. To receive a report from Wealden District Council

Cllr Pam Doodes had previously circulated a report from Wealden District Council to Councillors. At this meeting she updated Councillors about the availability of Grants from the District Council and how access to grants was being improved. Also, she spoke of the number of residents who had contacted District Councillors due to the recent storms. She said that Council workers had made the greatest efforts to keep services going during this time. If any refuse collections had to be cancelled then would be caught up with in the following 7 days.

311. Butchers Field Consultation updated report by the Advisory Group

Recommendations arising from the updated report for agreement by Council

Due to public interest in this agenda item the Chair agreed that the item be brought forward.

The Butchers Field Advisory Group outlined to Councillors the next proposals for the Butchers Field project. The group agreed that the 60/40% split was the only option for the field and that had been agreed in principle at the last meeting.

The Chair then invited each Councillor to comment on the proposals and their general views on the project.

A number of issues were raised including the speed of the consultation that did not include all the parish and was felt to be only inclusive of Westham. A number of Councillors thought the project should be paused so that further consultation should be considered for the whole of the parish. It was also thought that the Parish Council should be seen to support local businesses.

After a lengthy discussion the following two recommendations were put forward:

- (i) The project will be paused with the caveat that the field should be closed to the public if Public Liability Insurance is not available

Proposed: Cllr D Upton

Seconded: Cllr D Axell

Majority vote - 7 votes for with 2 abstentions (1 person did not vote)

Resolved: The project will be paused with the caveat that the field should be closed to the public if Public Liability Insurance is not available

- (ii) That the licence for the tenant be extended for a further 12 months from 1 July 2022 until 30 June 2023

Proposed: Cllr R Mayfield

Seconded: Cllr K Farley

Majority vote – 6 votes for with 4 abstentions

Resolved: That the licence for the current tenant be extended for a 12 months from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

312. Draft Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 17 January 2022 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 17 January 2021

Proposed: Cllr C Hanson

Seconded: Cllr R Mayfield

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2022 be agreed

313. Financial Items for discussion and recommended for approval:

(a) Agreement of Expenditure for October and November 2021

The Clerk had previously circulated copies of Income & Expenditure and Balance Sheet for the months December 2021 and January 2022. A question was asked by a councillor regarding monthly balances. The Clerk explained that some cheques are cashed by the payees more quickly than others so there is a delay in deducting the amount from the Councils financial accounts. There were no other comments.

Proposed: Cllr F Durling

Seconded: Cllr R Mayfield

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: That the above expenditure for December 2021 and January 2022

(b) Financial report on expenditure up to 21 February by the Clerk

The Clerk circulated to Councillors the latest expenditure report for tree works in the Parish. The Parish Council is responsible for many of the trees in the area and maintaining them has been expensive.

The Budget had been exceeded due to the amount of remedial work that the Council had been forced to take due to a lack of maintenance to trees in recent years. Places such as Adur Park has had no work carried out for a long time. A number of local pathways have had to have large amounts of overgrown shrubs cut back so that walkers can pass without problems.

It is hoped in the coming year that financial expenditure on trees and grounds maintenance will return to a nominal level.

314. To resolve to exclude members of the press and public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

Proposed: Cllr D Upton

Seconded: Cllr R Mayfield

Unanimous agreement

315. To discuss a contract on Council maintained land

Councillors discussed a letter that had been received from the owners of the land regarding an agreement made in 1963 between the owners and the Parish Council.

316. To approve a letter to ESCC Education Authority

Cllr Karen Farley left the room

A discussion took place over the use of the Amenity Hall and it was agreed that a letter be sent as soon as possible to the ESCC education authority.

Proposed: Cllr C Hanson

Seconded: Cllr P Baldwin

The meeting closed at 20.55hrs

