

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at 7.00pm on Monday, 26 July 2021
at Westham Village Hall

Present: Cllr HM Haffner (Chair), Cllr N Beaney, Cllr F Durling, Cllr K Farley, Cllr J Hayward, Cllr J Jones, Cllr R Mayfield, Cllr R Martin

Also at meeting: S. Sanders (Clerk)

Members of the public: 15

252. Apologies

Cllr D Axell

Absent: Cllr D Upton

253. Declarations of Interest

Cllr K Farley declared an Interest in Item 7 on the agenda and left the room before the item started.

254. 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

255. Draft Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 28 June 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 28 June 2021

Proposed: Cllr M Haffner

Seconded: Cllr J Jones

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2021 be agreed

256. Proposals to review the appearance of Westham Village Pond

The Chair spoke of the appearance of the pond and asked that the grass be mown down to the water's edge. A Councillor asked if this could be held over until after a RoSPA inspection that would take place in a few weeks.

Another Councillor spoke of the water quality that had been tested that day and showed good bio-data readings.

A Councillor said that there were positive changes seen in the pond. The azolla was a temporary problem that would be alleviated by the Beetles in the pond. Oxygen levels were good with abundant water life present including sticklebacks and mayflies.

The Chair then said that 3 years ago there were dead fish in the pond, due to too many ducks, too many fish and too many trees. It was a situation that could not continue and a pond management plan was agreed. The azolla weed that is now on the pond was relatively harmless and would disappear in time.

The Chair with approval closed the meeting at 19.20 so that any questions the public had could be asked and answered and would not be minuted. The meeting recommenced at 19.30.

The Chair then said there were 3 solutions for the treatment of the pond:

- a) The Beetles that eat the weed, b) Removal of the weed manually at regular intervals, c) Hire a specific boat that can remove all the azolla off the pond mechanically at a cost of £1600 per day.

After a short discussion it was proposed to wait for the RoSPA report for the work to the edge of the pond and that the Beetles be monitored to see how much of the weed is destroyed.

Proposed: Cllr M Haffner

Seconded: Cllr F Durling

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: To wait for the RoSPA report for the work to the edge of the pond and that the Beetles be monitored to see how much of the weed is destroyed.

256. A verbal report on the extensive health and safety work carried out at Foxes Hollow and Adur Park

The Clerk outlined the work that had been undertaken in the two areas mentioned. Considerable work was carried out in Adur Park to bring the trees and shrubs up to a satisfactory standard and was now completed.

Foxes Hollow is another area that has not had extensive work carried out in the tree belts and open spaces for some time. Work to rectify this had been carried out over the last couple of months to improve the area and it has now finished.

The Clerk asked if Councillors were happy for her to continue to work through a programme of improvements to Parish owned land including the Hamble Road area which had not been maintained for a number of years.

All Councillors agreed that the programme of works should continue.

Cllr Baldwin joined the Meeting.

257. Use of the Amenity Room at Stone Cross School post Covid restrictions

The Chair asked if all Councillors had seen the letter received from Stone Cross school regarding use of the Amenity Room. The Chair had asked for advice from the County Councillor who had informed them that the County Council would advise them.

The Chair of Finance asked that a small working group be formed to liaise with the school and County Council.

This was agreed by all Councillors.

Proposed: Cllr B Mayfield

Seconded: Cllr J Hayward

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: that a small working group be formed to liaise with the school and County Council over the use of the Amenity Hall

258. Approval of a Councillor to sit on the Westham Village Hall Committee

It was agreed that Cllr Jane Jones be appointed by the Council to sit on the Westham Village Hall Committee

Proposed: Cllr M Haffner

Seconded: Cllr F Durling

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: That Cllr Jane Jones be put forward by the Parish Council to sit on the Westham Village Hall Committee

259. Approval for the Chair to speak on planning matters on behalf of Westham Parish Council

The Chair asked permission from Councillors to represent the views of the Council in person at Planning South meetings held at Wealden District Council.

After a short discussion this was agreed.

Proposed: Cllr M Haffner

Seconded: Cllr R Martin

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: That Councillor Haffner represent the views of the Parish Council at planning committee meetings held at Wealden District Council.

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

Proposed: Cllr M Haffner Seconded: Cllr F Durling

Agreed with all in favour to continue the meeting *in camera*.

At this point the public and the Clerk left the meeting

The meeting closed at 20.15 hours