

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at 7.00pm on Monday, 03 October 2022

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

Present:

Cllr D Upton (Chair), Cllr D Axell, Cllr P Baldwin, Cllr N Beaney, Cllr F Durling,

Cllr M Fairweather, Cllr K Farley, Cllr C Hanson

ESCC Cllr D Shing, WDC Cllrs R Cade, P Doodes

Also at meeting: S. Sanders (Clerk)

Members of the public: three

Before the meeting started the Chair asked everyone to stand for a Minutes silence to be held in memory of HRH Queen Elizabeth II whose death was announced on 8 September 2022

373. Apologies

Cllr R Mayfield, Cllr J Hayward

374. Declarations of Interest

None

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

A member of the public asked for an update on the Community Governance Review that was being held by Wealden District Council. They were informed that this item would be discussed later with Cllr Cade giving the latest summary.

Another member of the public asked about dog bins / litterbins replacement in Adur Park.

376. Draft Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting 18 July 2022 to be agreed

The Minutes for the above meeting had been previously circulated to Councillors.

There were no questions.

Proposed: Cllr C Hanson

Seconded: Cllr K Farley

Unanimous Agreement

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 18 July 2022 be agreed

377. Reports from Wealden District Councillors:

Cllr Cade updated Councillors with the latest information regarding the Ukrainian refugees in the area. They were now entering the next stage as they move on from the first 6 months in this country.

Private rented housing was very stretched and many challenges were faced by refugees and Councils alike as the refugees tried to build a life here.

Cllr Doodes had previously sent out a report that had been circulated to all Councillors. She briefly updated the report including climate change details and air quality in the Wealden area.

Cllr Doodes encouraged Councillors to attend an open day at the Wealden Crematorium at Horam that was being held later that week.

Cllr Cade then updated Councillors regarding the Community Governance review (CGR). He said that Stage One had now been completed and at the Audit, Finance and Governance Committee Meeting on 21 September the Committee members voted to agree the recommendation to hold a parish wide ballot on splitting up the Parish Council. Dates for this ballot were not yet known but it would be held as soon as possible.

378. Adur Park update with financial agreement from Councillors if required to progress works:

Tender applications – The agreed tender had been placed on the Councils website and the Government Contract finder website. The closing date for tender applications is the 31 October with the successful application / quotation being chosen soon after the closing date. Work on the project is expected to start in the early Spring of 2023.

Fields in Trust application – An application was sent to Fields in Trust (FiT) to accept Adur Park as “field in trust” for perpetuity for the residents and users of the park. This would ensure that no development would take place. Councillors were informed that the parks in the Westham Parish Council was the only Council in the area that had previously not registered any parks with (FiT). The application was now progressing through the various stages towards completion.

Mound and Trench work at the Friday Street Entrance – The Clerk had supplied Councillors with designs and drawing of the type of trench needed to prevent travellers accessing the Friday Street entrance. This entrance would have to be closed

and access from Adur Drive used which may cause difficulties for cutting the grass by tractor as the Adur Drive entrance was more difficult to access.

Clearing of rubble left after travellers – The Council are aware that there is remaining rubbish left by the latest travellers. A quotation had been sought to remove the remaining rubbish but was over £3,500 so other quotations from rubbish removal companies would be sought. Another current problem with removing the rubbish / rubble from the field is that large vehicles cannot access the field due to the current weather that has made driving vehicles over the field challenging.

Regarding the broken dog and litter bins in Adur Park the Clerk replied that the Parish Council had now decided to buy replacement dog bins at a cost of over £550. One bin would be replaced and one bin repaired.

The Parish Council was informed that Wealden DC had informed the Council that they would replace and repair the broken bins free of charge but this has not materialised so the Parish Council has taken the matter into its own hands.

New play equipment and fencing around the play area – Quotations have been sought from play equipment suppliers for new equipment and fencing around the area. The Council were interested in installing the fencing straight away but after a short discussion it was decided that the surfacing needed to be replaced before a fence and new equipment be installed.

Quotations for surfacing would be sought for the November Council meeting.

Fencing request from a resident adjoining the park - A request had been received from a resident asking for fencing to be replaced along the Adur Park edge. Councillors said they would visit the site to inspect the issue.

379. Grant applications received from Cuckmere Buses and St Wilfrid's Hospice for consideration

Councillors has previously been supplied with details of the grant funding applications. All were in favour if the applications but asked if the Cuckmere Buses could be contacted so that a specific project could be identified for funding.

This would then meet the criteria laid out in the Councils Grant Funding policy. The Clerk agreed to contact Cuckmere buses for a specific project for the next Full Council meeting.

St Wilfrids Hospice application was to continue their outreach work with community nursing cars to visit patients 7 days a week in the Parish area. This application was agreed by Councillors.

Proposed: Cllr C Hanson

Seconded: Cllr D Axell

Resolved: That grant funding of £500 be awarded to St Wilfrids Hospice

380. Financial Expenditure to be agreed

- (i) Approval of the External Auditors report for the year ending 31 March 2022**
- (i) Income and Expenditure report for July and August 2022**
- (ii) Bank Statement for July and August 2022**
- (iii) Update on the new Metro Bank Account**

These finance documents had previously been circulated to Councillors.

Proposed: Cllr C Hanson

Seconded: Cllr P Baldwin

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: that the External Auditors Final Report for the year ended 31 March 2022 be approved

Resolved: that the above Financial Income and Expenditure Reports for July and August 2022 be approved.

Resolved: that the above bank statements for the July and August 2022 be approved.

Resolved: that the Metro Bank Account now up and running be use for BACS payments.

381. To resolve to exclude members of the press and public (public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960)

382. A short discussion was held on regarding payment scales and agency staff.

The meeting closed at 20.55 hours

