

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at 7.00pm on Monday, 17 April 2023

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

Present:

Cllr P Baldwin, Cllr N Beaney, Cllr L Comfort, Cllr K Farley, Cllr M Fairweather, Cllr C Hanson, Cllr J Hayward,

WDC Cllrs R Cade, Cllr P Doodes

Also at meeting: S. Sanders (Clerk)

Members of the public: Two

435. Apologies

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

Cllr Baldwin agreed to chair the meeting due to the absences. This was agreed unanimously by all Councillors present at the meeting.

436. Declarations of Interest

None

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

None

438. Draft Minutes of the Full Council Meeting 20 March 2023 to be agreed

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

Councillors agreed to approve the Minutes of the 20 March 2023

Unanimous Agreement

Resolved: to approve and adopt the minutes of the meeting 20 March 2023 as an accurate record of the meetings.

439. Latest update on the start date of the installation of the all-weather path and play area surfacing in Adur Park

The Clerk informed Councillors that the installation should have started earlier in March but due to the inclement weather the contractor were running behind their schedule. It is hoped that the above works will start imminently as the Clerk informed Councillors that there were concerns about the park being insecure. If work did not start soon then measures would be taken to secure the park from trespassers.

The Clerk will ask the contractors to firm up a start date and take precautions to secure the park.

440. Council to discuss replacement white lining of the car spaces at the Stone Cross carpark adjacent to the school

A Councillor had asked if the Council would consider re-whitening the car space lines on the car park adjacent to the school. Also, they asked if lighting could be considered on the pathway next to the school as the lighting is minimal in this area and of a concern in the dark nights.

The Council could see no problem in requesting a quote to re-whiten the lines in the car park but the lighting would have to be more carefully considered as to what type and where it could be placed. Solar lighting could be considered as linking up to the streetlighting supply would be quite expensive.

More information is required and this item would be progressed with the new Council.

441. An update on new developments in the Parish area

An email had been received from the developers of the field in Hailsham Road regarding the bus stops / shelters.

They were informing the Council that they had been advised by ESCC Highways that the Parish Council would be adopting the bus shelters and agreeing to the placement of bus shelters in Hailsham Road, Stone Cross.

Councillors were very concerned about this email as at an earlier Council meeting they had asked the ESCC Councillor for Stone Cross to intervene in this issue. Councillors had asked them to arrange a meeting with ESCC Highways representatives to discuss these bus stops but up to now this has not happened. There has been no contact from ESCC or the County Councillor since the January Council Meeting.

The developers have replied that they have been tasked with carrying out this work and did not make the decision. The decision alone was made by ESCC.

Without further information the Council is unsure of the next step but are upset regarding the complete lack of communication by ESCC and its representatives.

442. Financial items to be agreed

(i) Income and Expenditure Reconciliation reports for March 2023

The financial statements were circulated at the meeting for Councillors consideration and approval

Unanimous Agreement

Resolved: that the above Financial Income and Expenditure Reconciliation Reports for March 2023 were approved and signed by the Chair of the Meeting.

(ii) Bank Statements for March 2023

These finance documents were circulated at the meeting to Councillors.

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: that the above Bank Statements for March 2023 were approved and signed by the Chair of the Meeting.

(iii) Stone Cross invoice payment approval

It was agreed that to comply with the terms of the lease agreement that the Parish Council holds with East Sussex County Council (ESCC) and pay the invoice presented to the Parish Council by the school.

Councillors asked the Clerk to seek reassurances from (ESCC) that any forthcoming invoices will be detailed to support the amount requested.

Resolved: that the invoice is paid with immediate effect without prejudice

443. Butcher Field Agreement 2023/24

The Clerk informed Councillors that all rent had been paid by the tenant for the present year.

A Councillor asked the Council to consider changes to the Butcher Field agreement for the coming year as it was a public space and should be used for the benefit of the community. A short discussion was held with varying views given on how this might be achieved to accommodate the present tenant.

The Councillor said that they had various suggestions which they would circulate to all Councillors before the next meeting in May. They then asked that this item be included on the next Full Council agenda.

444. Update on Westham Village Hall parking concerns

Previously the Clerk had mentioned the concerns of residents with parking in particular a parking ticket that was issued to a member of the Village Hall Committee.

Councillors were informed about how problematic the parking is, but the problem was more of an access issue. The committee are back and forth all the time, mostly for 5 minutes letting people in and out. During the week caterers deliver for wakes and parties, bouncy castles, hall deliveries etc. If there is any parking reasonably nearby we use it, but there seldom is. Sometimes the closest parking is Pevensey Park road.

The Clerk had informed Councillors that parking problems in Westham village had still not been solved. The car park next to the Village Hall was permanently full in the day time from early morning with people from the primary school and commuters using the railway. It was a free car park with a “23 hour” limit which gave the village hall little chance of using it to load and unload.

At the previous meeting Councillors gave their support to the work the village hall carries out and would not want to see any decline in use of the hall due to the inability to park next to the hall to carry out their business.

After the last meeting, the Clerk said they would write to the Corporate Director who had responsibility for parking in Wealden. They were pleased to receive a fairly positive response from the Director stating that they would look at the suggestions that had been made. Consultations would be carried out during the next few months with a decision to making any changes to the parking order made in September.

The Clerk said they would keep Councillors informed of any correspondence received regarding this issue.

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

There were no confidential items to discuss

The meeting closed at 20.30 hours

