

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

At Westham Village Hall, Peelings Lane, Westham BN24 5HE

Present: Cllr D Axell, Cllr P Baldwin, Cllr L Comfort, Cllr F Durling, Cllr M Fairweather*

Cllr K Farley, Cllr C Hanson, Cllr R Mayfield, Cllr P Quanstrom, Cllr D Upton*

(* denotes WDC Councillors)

Six members of the public

Also at meeting: S. Sanders (Clerk)

29. Apologies

Cllr A Taylor, WDC Cllr C Primett, ESCC Cllr D Shing

30. Declarations of Interest

None

31. Questions from members of the public

A member of the public spoke in support of blocking off Peelings Lane at Wood Sage Way and Banner Way. They were concerned about the amount of traffic that was traversing the narrow roadway and then becoming stuck. It was unacceptable that walkers had to experience being pushed into bushes and hedges to avoid vehicles.

32. Draft Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 19 June 2023 to be agreed and confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair of the Meeting

Proposed and Seconded

Unanimous agreement

33. To receive information and raise any questions to ESCC / Wealden District Councillors present

Councillor Fairweather reported the Wealden DC had resolved to hold Southeast Water to account. Excessive water outages were experienced in the north of the district.

34. Update on the consultation of varying the parking hours on the Wealden car park at Peelings Lane, Westham

The Clerk informed Councillors that information had been received from Wealden DC regarding the consultation to change the time limit on the parking bays at the car park at Peelings Lane, Westham.

The proposal was 20 bays - 3 hours (applies between 8.00am – 18.00pm, Monday to Saturday

5 bays – 23 hours

Wealden DC confirmed that this was not a confirmed change as public consultation is required on this amendment and any complaints / proposals will need to be taken into account, before it is legally approved.

Councillors then discussed the proposals at length with the following resolution being conveyed to Wealden DC.

Resolution: That all bays are made 3 hours with no 23 hour bays. One bay reserved specifically for use by the Village Hall Committee

Proposed and Seconded

Unanimous agreement

35. Council to discuss a motion received by a Councillor for:

Westham Parish Council resolve to write to East Sussex County Council (Highways Department) to ask them to investigate: i) the desirability of, and ii) the practicalities of blocking access to Peelings Lane at: Wood Sage Way, Banner Way by means of lockable bollards to make the section of Peelings Lane between them a " No Through Road" to motor cars

Initially, to erect signs at the Gallows Lane and Banner Way ends saying, "Single Track Road" and "No passing places"

Councillors discussed this item at length.

Peelings Lane is owned and maintained by East Sussex County Council Highways and improvements or changes have to be submitted to them for agreement.

Throughout the years attempts had been made by previous Councils to have restrict traffic in Peelings Lane by various methods but all have been discounted by the County Council. The County Council have rejected all suggestions due to cost and

time. The Parish Council was informed by a Councillor that attitudes had now changed and there was an emphasis on stopping cars going down certain roads.

Vehicles now have problems traversing Peelings Lane with pedestrians squashed against the banks of the lane. This has not stopped vehicles driving into the rear entrance of Banner Way. If a person had a pram, pushchair or wheelchair there would be no safety area to stand.

Various suggestions were made including lockable bollards and making Peelings Lane a 'Greenway' which is usually a shared-use path along a strip of undeveloped land, in an urban or rural area, set aside for recreational use or environmental protection.

Councillors discussed setting up a small working group of Councillors to look at all aspects of safety in Peelings Lane and how safety could be improved including preventing access to Peelings Lane at Banner Way and Wood Sage Way. Ultimately all recommendations would have to be forwarded to the County Council.

This group would report back to the September Full Council meeting.

Resolved: That a small working group of Councillors be set up to look at all aspects

Proposed and Seconded

Unanimous agreement

36. Update on the ongoing works in Adur Park to install an all access, all weather path including new surfacing and fencing of the children's play area

Councillors were told that the contractor were making steady progress and had started to put on the Agri-flex topping on the new path around Adur Park. Currently, work had not started on surfacing and fencing the childrens play area but after checking with the contractors this would start in the next few weeks. A Councillor asked if a 'no motorbikes' sign could be added to the signs at both entrances to Adur Park after seeing a number of bikes being ridden around the park.

37. Agreement by Council to change the Nat West bank mandate to two signatories

Councillors were asked to consider changing the Nat West mandate so that two signatories were needed instead of three. This was for ease of using the account in the future.

Resolved: That the Council signatories for the Nat West bank account be changed from three to two as soon as possible

Proposed and Seconded

Unanimous Agreement

38. To consider a grant funding application from Wealden Citizens Advice

Councillors were very supportive of the grant funding application but felt that more specific information was required.

The Councils grant funding policy asks applicants to apply for a specific project in the parish area.

The Clerk was asked to contact the applicant and ask for more detailed information with the application being reconsidered at the September Council Meeting.

39. To resolve to exclude Members of the Press and Public (Public Bodies [Admission to Meetings] Act) 1960

No item to discuss

The Meeting closed at 8.35pm