

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at 7.00pm on Monday, 19 December 2022

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

Present:

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

Cllr M Fairweather, Cllr K Farley, Cllr C Hanson, Cllr J Hayward, Cllr R Mayfield

WDC Cllrs R Cade,

Also at meeting: S. Sanders (Clerk)

Members of the public: two

394. Apologies

WPC Cllr P Doodes, ESCC Cllr D Shing, Cllr D Axell

395. Declarations of Interest

Cllr J Hayward declared a personal interest on item 8 of the agenda

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

A member of the public asked the Wealden DC Councillor about the cost of carrying out the Community Governance report.

397. Draft Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting 21 November 2022 to be agreed

The Minutes for the above meeting had been previously circulated to Councillors.
There were no questions.

Proposed: Cllr K Farley

Seconded: Cllr C Hanson

Unanimous Agreement

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 21 November 2022 be agreed

398. Reports from ESCC / Wealden District Councillors:

Cllr Cade informed Cllr that Cllr Doodes was unable to attend the meeting as they had two Parish Council meetings on the same night so had split the attendance. He thank the Chair for moving this item forward due to his attendance at a Parish meeting in Herstmonceux.

Cllr Cade said that he had recently attended a meeting with the Huw Merriman MP at Pevensey & Westham PC Primary School regarding parking in the local area and other issues. The meeting was attended by PCSO's for the area. One idea was for motorists to be educated in safe parking. The Police repeated that they would not enforce parking regulations in the area but agreed a advisory presence would be needed in during the coming months.

Cllr Cade then updated Councillors regarding the Community Governance review (CGR) which included a consultative ballot between the 1 -30 November. The Wealden District Council Audit, Finance and Governance Committee Meeting on 12 December where members will be considering recommendations with considerations from the CGR team had had to be cancelled due to the very poor weather conditions in the Wealden area. The meeting has been rescheduled to the 11 January 2023.

No County Councillors were present to update Councillors

399. Co-Option of a new Councillor

Mr Lee Comfort had come forward to be co-opted to Westham Parish Council.

His application was discussed by Councillors who agreed his local knowledge and experience would be an asset to the Council.

Proposed: Cllr C Hanson

Seconded: Cllr P Baldwin

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: That Mr Lee Comfort be co-opted to Westham Parish Council

- 400. Adur Park update with financial agreement from Councillors if required to progress works:**

Tender applications –Previously Councillors were supplied with a summary of work to be carried out. Formal in-depth details had now been supplied to Councillors so that a decision may be taken at this meeting . Cllr Baldwin opened the discussion on the tenders which were debated at length. The Council had taken independent advice from a local engineer before making a decision.

Proposed: Cllr P Baldwin

Seconded: Cllr C Hanson

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: That

- (i) Quotation one for £184,155.67 is accepted to go forward with the work by Spring 2023.**
- (ii) To accept the tender to install an all-weather path including all mound work around the Friday Street entrance.**

To enquire with Company One to obtain a quotation for fencing and playground surfacing

Proposed: Cllr P Baldwin

Seconded: Cllr C Hanson

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: That a playground surfacing quotation if comparing favourably is accepted

Work on the project is expected to start in the early Spring of 2023.

Fields in Trust application – A draft legal agreement had been sent to the Parish Council from 'Fields in Trust' for signing off. The draft copy would be scrutinized before it can finally be officially signed and agreed.

Mound and Trench work at the Friday Street Entrance – Councillors discussed this work and agreed that it should be carried out at the same time as the all-access all-weather path.

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.

It was agreed that one more quotation for the work should be sought off Company One for the surfacing and fencing work.

Councillors asked that this work be carried out at the same time as the path works.

401. Replacement of Butchers Field Fencing

Tender for Butchers Field Fencing

Recommendation for agreement to accept a tender for replacement fencing in Butchers Field, Westham (documents circulated at the meeting)

Councillors spoke at length about the need for replacement fencing in the field. Two quotations had been received which were discussed by Councillors with Quotation Two stating that work could be carried out straight away. This would then mitigate any problems with the start of the lambing season.

Also, the price for replacement posts / fencing which was required at Westham Village Pond were included in the quotation.

Both quotations had covered fencing replacement to the Southern post rail fence on Canon side of the road but Councillors had concerns over the ownership of this piece of land and this work was not included in the recommendation.

It was recommended that Quotation Two be accepted for the fencing and shrub clearance at the Northern Boundary of Butchers Field and associated works. Also, work to carry out replacing posts and fencing around Westham Village Pond was agreed

Proposed: Cllr C Hanson

Seconded Cllr M Fairweather

Majority agreement with one abstention

Resolved: That Quotation Two be accepted to carry out the clearance work and replacement fencing and associated works at the Northern Boundary of Butchers Field.

Also, agreed is replacement posts/fencing at Westham Village Pond

402. Parish Tree Inspections 2023

Recommendation for agreement to accept a quotation to carry out an inspection / survey of all the tree in the Westham PC area.

The Clerk informed Councillors that the Parish Council was due to carry out an inspection of all the trees under Parish ownership in the new year. The report would be brought to Council when it was received from the Arboricultural Consultant.

Two quotations had been sought which were then discussed at length with Quotation Two being agreed.

Proposed: Cllr F Durling

Seconded: Cllr J Hayward

403. Financial items to be agreed

(i) Income and Expenditure Reconciliation reports for November 2022

The financial statements were circulated at the meeting

Proposed: Cllr R Mayfield

Seconded: Cllr F Durling

Unanimous Agreement

Resolved: that the above Financial Income and Expenditure Reconciliation Reports for November 2022 be approved

(ii) Bank Statements for November 2022

These finance documents were circulated at the meeting to Councillors.

Proposed: Cllr J Hayward

Seconded: Cllr K Farley

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: that the above Financial Income and Expenditure Reconciliation Reports for November 2022 be approved

- 404. To resolve to exclude members of the press and public (public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960)**
- 405. The request from a resident of Dallaway Drive regarding damage to a conservatory was further discussed for a decision.**

The meeting closed at 20.50 hours