

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at 7.00pm on Monday, 20 March 2023

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

Present:

Cllr D Upton (Chair), Cllr D Axell, Cllr P Baldwin, Cllr N Beaney, Cllr L Comfort, Cllr F Durling, 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: Four

426. Apologies

Cllr K Farley, Cllr R Mayfield, ESSC Cllr D Shing

427. Declarations of Interest

None

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

None

429. 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.

Cllr Axell asked the Clerk to amend the Minutes to show that she and Cllr Farley were present at this meeting.

Proposed: Cllr D Axell

Seconded: Cllr J Hayward

Unanimous Agreement

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 20 March 2023 be agreed

430. Reports from ESCC / Wealden District Councillors:

There was no ESCC Councillors present at the meeting.

Wealden Cllr Cade and Cllr Doodes informed Councillors that due to the impending local elections they would not issue a report but would be happy to answer any questions that Councillors may have.

A Councillor asked about the lack of communication from Planning Enforcement on a number of local issues and what could be done to elicit action from them.

Councillors were told that on Saturday 25 March the first draw of the Wealden Lottery would be carried out. A number of groups and associations would benefit from the draw now and in future draws.

A question had been asked that it would help if people could be educated about parking and contact the police if they see anything that they think is a safety issue such as parking on the pavement and if they could supply photographic evidence.

Reporting anti-social driving or abandoned vehicles in Sussex to "Operation Crackdown" was mentioned as the way forward..

431. An update on Parking/traffic/road surface issues in Westham, the High Street and pond area

The Clerk then brought up the concerns of residents with parking in particular a parking ticket that was issued to a member of the Village Hall Committee.

Apparently they was parked at the side of the hall which adjoins the car park, and on the double lines. They did appeal explaining the problem but the appeal was refused. My concern though was going forward, as the appeal comments said if we are not parked "wholly in a bay" there is no right of appeal nor exceptions and we will be fined.

Obviously everyone knows how problematic the parking is, but the problem is 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 informed Councillors that they have come up in the past with some workable suggestions but all were turned down flat. In this current climate the hall can't afford a £30 "surcharge" for every delivery and in good faith they cannot accept hirers who will need a delivery and will get a fine.

The Clerk said 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.

Councillors support 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.

A Councillor brought up the problems householders were having with the disruption on the installation of Lightning Fibre. Complaints had been received complaining about non communications about the road works taking place.

432. An update on new developments in the Parish area

Dittons Road development Stone Cross.

The Clerk and Cllr Hanson met with a team from Southern Water regarding a project that will be carried out during the next few months. It includes laying piping across Parish Council land (locally known as the Pylon Field) to the new development south of Dittons Road. This will lead to some inconvenience for users of the pathway from Rother Avenue to the field beyond as the work will take 6 to 8 weeks to complete. Also, the dog bin will have to be moved from this path for the duration of the work. Southern Water have been asked to replace the dog bin in the previous position when the work has been completed.

Southern Water have been asked to carry out a letter drop to all the houses in the area to inform them of what's going on before the work is carried out. Also, they were asked if they would compensate for the inconvenience to the residents by installing a fence around the play area at Hamble Road. The Clerk was told that this would have to be discussed at another level before it could be agreed.

Southern Water will give notify the Council when the work is to commence.

433. 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

Proposed: Cllr C Hanson

Seconded: Cllr D Axell

Unanimous Agreement

Resolved: that the above Financial Income and Expenditure Reconciliation Reports for March 2023 be approved and signed

(ii) Bank Statements for March 2023

These finance documents were circulated at the meeting to Councillors.

Proposed: Cllr P Baldwin

Seconded: Cllr J Hayward

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: that the above Bank Statements for March 2023 be approved

(iii) Stone Cross School invoice

A Councillor updated everyone on the invoice that had been received from Stone Cross School. A letter had been written to ESCC and a acknowledgement had been

received. Negotiations were ongoing and Councillors would be updated at the next meeting.

434. Adur Park update with a recommendation for financial agreement from Councillors to progress works with the play area surfacing in Adur Park

The work to Adur Park was due to start in early April and Councillors wanted to agree the final details which included the play area. The details had been discussed at length in previous meetings which included the work being carried out in three separate stages.

Proposed: Cllr C Hanson

Seconded: Cllr L Comfort

Unanimous agreement

Resolved: that the surfacing to the play area in Adur Park go ahead

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 20.45 hours