

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at 7.00pm on Monday, 22 July 2024

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

Present: Cllr P Baldwin, Cllr F Durling, Cllr M Fairweather, * Cllr C Hanson,

Cllr R Mayfield, Cllr P Quanstrom, Cllr D Upton*

(* denotes WDC Councillor)

Wealden DC Cllr C Primett

9 members of the public

Also at the meeting: S. Sanders (Clerk)

146. Apologies

Cllr D Axell, Cllr L Comfort, Cllr K Farley, Cllr A Taylor

147. Declarations of Interest

None

148. Questions from members of the public

One member of the public asked to speak on Item 7 (i)

149. Draft Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 17 June 2024 to be agreed and confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair of the Meeting

The Minutes had previously been circulated to Councillors.

The Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Monday 17 June 2024 were agreed and signed as a correct record by the Chair of the Council

Proposed and Seconded

Majority agreement - 1 abstention

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 17 June 2024 be agreed and signed by the Chair of the Meeting

150. To receive reports from East Sussex County Councillors and Wealden District Councillors

There were no East Sussex County Councillors present.

Wealden District Councillor Chris Primett updated Councillors on the working party that had been set up to review the number of Councillors that sit on Wealden DC and the size of the wards.

He said that the size of some individual wards had increased in population. These were Hellingly, Polegate and Stone Cross. Boundaries may change in some wards by the next local elections.

It was hoped that each ward should be the same size. Cllr Primett said that he would report back when further information was available.

Wealden District Councillor Mark Fairweather informed Councillors that normal business had restarted after the general election. Committees were now starting up but the Planning Committee meetings had gone ahead throughout the run up to the election.

151. Co-option of a new Councillor for the Westham ward

Mr Mark Hallett had put his name forward for co-option to the Parish Council for the Westham ward.

He introduced himself to Councillors and talked about his interest in joining the Council.

He hoped that he could help progress many of the projects that the Council were working on.

152. Westham matters

(i) Review of the new parking order at the Peelings Lane car park

A member of the village hall committee had asked to speak on this item before it was discussed by Councillors.

They said that on the whole they were satisfied with the parking arrangements and the loading bay that had been marked out at the entrance to the car park.

The loading bay was a helpful addition to the car park and was being used by traders in the village. There has been a suggestion that a 20 minute limit should be placed on the loading bay but at the moment it was working well and not needed.

Cllr Upton (Chair of the Council) asked if a designated parking spot was required for the village hall. It was decided that a specific parking spot was not needed at the moment.

(ii) Update from the April Meeting by Cllr Fairweather on the draft Local Plan / Peelings Lane

Cllr Fairweather reported that the consultation had formally closed in May.

The collating of the comments would take time as around 1500 people had commented and each comment had to be examined. The planning section have been shorthanded for the analysis stage of the process. Advertising had been carried out for planning policy officers and the Council had been heartened to see how many applications they received.

No information on various sites will be available until the autumn and it will be after Christmas 2024 that anything can be stated publicly.

With the change of government, the planning regulations and a review of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) may well be carried out in the coming months. More information on changes are awaited.

153. Clerks report to update Councillors on Parish matters

ADUR PARK - vandalism – childrens play area – Adur Park. Graffiti on the equipment. To remove the cost was £260

EQUIPMENT - Roundabout replacement of bearings £4100

The contractors had identified a problem. which was the roundabout was installed with no drainage on what is very hard clay soil. When it rains all the water just pools in the bottom of it. This needs attending to as the bearings will wear out in a short time.

Vandalism - The gates to the play area have been pulled back so hard that the mechanisms have failed.

One has been adjusted but the other seems to have been hit by something mechanical.

The contractor said that this equipment supplied and installed is not covered for any sort of vandal or accident damage hence they use very heavy and expensive kit such as these gates which usually give long, reliable service.

The repairs to the soil dressing and seeding has been carried out; the rubber repaired.

ALLOTMENTS - Theft from the allotments and neighbouring gardens. Persons seen at night in the gardens that back on to the allotments.

Network Rail are carrying out work to the embankment on the railway line by the allotments throughout the winter. The allotment road will be used to deliver the hard core to the railway line.

HAZELBANK – application for 12 houses at the rear. The application has been returned as incomplete.

DALLAWAY DRIVE – tree removal refused.

WESTHAM HIGH STREET - Residents are very concerned about overnight parking of lorries. It is getting worse. Vehicles left in the layby Eastbourne Road. Also, fly tipping. Operation CRACKDOWN is for abandoned vehicles not parked cars.

ESSC LIGHTING /ROADS– no parish contact at all. Unsure what is happening.

MEETING WITH THE POLICE – met with one of the local pcso's to talk about local concerns. This included anti-social behaviour during the summer holidays.

154. Wealden DC Section 106 Agreement for allotment plots at the Wells Estate

The original Section 106 Agreement had been made in 2013. The development of the Wells Estate had finally finished in 2020.

Because of difficulties with the legal agreement from 2020 to 2024 the planned allotments had not been handover to the Parish Council.

Councillors then discussed the S106 agreement and the requirement for the Parish Council to take over a car park as well as the nine plots on the allotment site.

A number of issues would need to be clarified before any decision could be made. These included installing a water connection and security fencing of the site.

Further information would be found for the next Council meeting in September.

155. Financial Items recommended for approval

(i) Reconciliation Reports for April and May 2024 for approval and resolution

The reconciliation reports were agreed by Council and signed by the Chair of the Council

Proposed and seconded

Majority agreement – 1 abstention

Resolved: That the reconciliation reports for April and May 2024 are agreed

(ii) Bank Statements April and May 2024 to be approved

The bank statements were approved by Council and signed by the Chair of the Council

Proposed and seconded

Majority agreement – 1 abstention

Resolved: That the bank statements for April and May 2024 are agreed

- 154. To resolve to exclude Members of the Press and Public (Public Bodies [Admission to Meetings] Act 1960**

There were no matters to be discussed

The Meeting closed at 20.00 pm