



**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022 in the Small Hall, the Village Hall, East Dean commencing at 6.30 pm.**

**Councillors present:** Cllr P Seeley (Chair), Cllr T Bryant, Cllr M Bustard, Cllr G Fowler, Cllr P Hill, Cllr M Keller, Cllr H Milligan, and Cllr S Thorogood

**In attendance:** K Larkin (Parish Clerk), and D Picknell (Admin Officer)

*There were no members of the public present*

#### **C.557 Election of the Chair of the Council**

Councillor Keller proposed and Councillor Hill seconded the motion that Councillor Seeley be appointed as the Chair of the Council for the forthcoming year.

**RESOLVED - The motion was put to the meeting and declared carried unanimously.**

*Following the election of the Chair, and pursuant to the provisions of Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1972, Councillor Seeley has made a Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the prescribed form before the Parish Clerk.*

#### **C.558 Election of the Vice-Chair of the Council**

Councillor Bryant proposed and Councillor Fowler seconded the motion that Councillor Thorogood be appointed as the Vice-Chair of the Council for the forthcoming year.

**RESOLVED - The motion was put to the meeting and declared carried unanimously.**

*Following the election of the Chair, and pursuant to the provisions of Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1972, Councillor Thorogood has made a Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the prescribed form before the Parish Clerk.*

**C.559 Apologies for Absence:** - Cllr C Lees

**C.560 Declarations of Interests:** - None

#### **C.561 Standing Orders**

The Chair noted that the National Association of Local Councils had just published an amended version of the Model Standing Orders, and proposed that this item be deferred to the June meeting **ACTION: KL**

#### **C.562 Financial Regulations**

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The council considered its Financial Regulations, and no amendments were proposed.

RESOLVED - To approve and re-adopt the Financial Regulations

### **C.563 Internal Auditor**

The council noted that a change of Internal auditor would be appropriate for the coming year, and requested the clerk to obtain quotes from potential auditors recognised by the East Sussex Association of Local Councils, for consideration at the June meeting. **ACTION: KL**

### **C.564 Planning Committee**

The council reviewed the Terms of Reference of the Planning committee, and no changes were proposed. The council reviewed the structure of the Planning Committee and agreed that all councillors should be members. Cllr Hill proposed and Cllr Keller seconded the motion that Cllr Bryant be re-appointed as Chair of the Committee, and this was agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED - That all councillors should serve on the Planning Committee

RESOLVED - That Cllr Bryant be re-appointed Chair of the Committee

### **C.565 Appointment of Lead Members**

The council noted that all previous Lead Members were willing to serve again in the same capacity.

RESOLVED - To re-appoint the following Lead Members:

- Rights of Way and Highways – Cllr Lees
- Recreation Ground – Cllr Fowler
- Environment – Cllr Bustard
- Tree Warden – Cllr Thorogood
- Defibrillators – Cllr Hill
- Social Media – Cllr Milligan
- Webmaster – Cllr Keller

### **C.566 Other Appointments**

The following appointments were reviewed and re-affirmed:

- a) External bodies (i) Village Hall Trust - by previous resolution the Chair of the Council was the council's nominated trustee on the Board of the East Dean Village Hall Trust, *ex officio*; (2) Sussex Association of Local Councils – Cllr Seeley (3) Wealden District Association of Local Councils – Cllr Milligan
- b) Parish Emergency Response Team – as designated in the revised Emergency Plan (March 2022)
- c) Hon. Solicitor – Mr David George
- d) Pavilion Caretaker – Mrs Jan Smith
- e) Custodian of the Flags – Mr Cliff Hirschfield

RESOLVED - That the above appointments be confirmed for 2022/23

**C.567 Council Policies**

The Chair proposed that the council should review one policy at each meeting until all had been considered. This was agreed. **ACTION: KL**

**C.568 Bankers and Signatories**

The council reviewed the current arrangements and no changes were proposed. Barclays would remain as bankers; the Clerk and Admin Officer would be authorised to make payments and Councillors Seeley, Thorogood, Keller and Hill would have access to view the accounts.

**C.569 Charity of the Year**

Two charities were put forward for consideration: the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance; and the East Sussex Wildlife Rescue and Ambulance Service. The chosen charity would receive a minimum of £500 from the grants budget, plus any proceeds from events.

RESOLVED - That the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance be chosen as the council's Charity of the Year 2022/23

**C.570 Dates of Meetings**

The council reviewed its pattern of meetings and agreed to continue with full council meetings on the first Thursday of the month (except September), and Planning Committee meetings on the third Tuesday of the month.

RESOLVED - That the pattern of meetings should continue as before

*There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.44 pm*

Signed..... (Chair)

Dated.....