



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 05 October 2023 in the Small Hall of the Village Hall, Gilberts Drive, East Dean, commencing at 6.30 pm

Councillors present: Cllr P Seeley (Chair), Cllr T Bryant (Vice Chair), Cllr M Bustard, Cllr G Fowler, Cllr C Lees, Cllr D White and Cllr P Hill

In attendance: County Cllr S Shing; District Cllr D Greaves (item C.821 - 826); S Adeniji (Parish Clerk)

There was one member of the public present

Public Session

Broadband and Mobile Phone Coverage: Mr Jonathan Greenway spoke regarding the poor quality of the village's broadband and mobile phone coverage. He explained that he had sent a report via email to the Parish Clerk. The email included a link to a video by Vodafone. According to Mr Greenway, the video makes reference to a Radio Area Network (RAN) and a potential grant. He wanted to know if Members had any questions about his suggestions.

The Chair thanked Mr Greenway for his email and explained that his email has been included in Agenda item 21 (correspondence to the Council) and will be discussed at the appropriate juncture. The Chair stated that the Parish Council will write to request a meeting with all the interested parties. Cllr Hill further explained that the issue was raised in a meeting with the local MP Maria Caulfield and she promised to contact Vodafone.

The Chair closed the Public Session and opened the meeting

C.821 Acceptance of apologies for absence: Cllr H Milligan and Cllr G Street

C.822 Declarations of Interests: - None

C.823 Minutes – the minutes of the parish council meeting held on 3 August 2023 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair. The Chair explained that as it had been two months since the last meeting, he had been through the minutes and identified two actions that were outstanding as follows:

C.811 Parish Emergency Plan ACTION: PS: Tidy up the contact list.;

C.818 e) ACTION: TB to look at the issue of land ownership and

C.824 Report of the Member of Parliament

The council took note of a written report from Maria Caulfield MP on general constituency matters.

C.825 Report of the County Councillor

County Cllr Shing reported on the following matters:

- a) C40 Jevington Road. Repair works have been started and will be completed in the week commencing 9th October.
- b) Polegate Traffic Light Signal is not working efficiently: - Highways will test and update the signal.
- c) The Gully on the C40 has been reported to ESCC, initial thoughts from ESCC is that the gully is blocked by a tree root. Cllr Hill explained that the issue may be because water can't flow uphill into the gully.
- d) C40: Wealden District Council (WDC) have been asked to sweep the road, but they insisted on a traffic order to close the road. Cllr Shing sent them an email advising them that the road would be closed in September so a traffic order was not needed.

Members questioned why Footpatch 25 was closed by ESCC Highways. Cllr Shing promised to look into this.

RESOLVED - That the report of the County Councillor be noted

C.826 Report of the District Councillor

Wealden District Council (WDC) Cllr Greaves reported on the following matters:

- a) WDC overview and Scrutiny Committee invited South East Water to one of their meetings. Assurances were sought by WDC from South East Water that their services will improve.
- b) A residents survey is being conducted by WDC, the survey will be conducted between 6th September and 25th October and will be conducted via telephone.
- c) WDC has converted its fleet of 33 waste vehicles to run on hydrogenated vegetable oil.
- d) On 12th September Cllr Greaves joined local parish councillors and 2 WDC Officers to inspect the problems with the Cuckmere by the white bridge.
- e) In August there were 2 successful fly-tipping prosecutions by WDC.

RESOLVED - That the report of the Wealden District Councillor be noted

C.827 Mowing Contract 2024, 2025 and 2026

The council considered the draft mowing contract that had been circulated to Members. Cllr Hill asked if, in the new contract, payments could be made monthly over the whole year rather than over 9 months as it would ease everyone's cash flow. This was agreed by Members. It was agreed that the tenders would be sent out to previous applicants, in addition to being placed on the parish website and the parish council website.

RESOLVED – To approve the revised tender documents for use for the next three-year period.

C.828 The Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm Order 202X

The council took note of Report 8. Members noted that the proposed wind farm is in West Sussex and not in the immediate vicinity of the parish. It was agreed therefore that the parish council will not be making a representation.

RESOLVED – To note the proposal and agree that the parish council will not make a presentation on the application.

C.829 Ecological Survey of Verges Assessment Report

The council considered the Ecological Survey of Verges Assessment Report produced by Laurie Jackson. The chair thanked Laurie Jackson for her report and explained that she had made an application to the County Council for suitable verges to be designated as wildlife verges. Members noted the additional opportunities highlighted in para 3.4 of the survey report as well as the conclusions of the report.

RESOLVED – To thank Laurie Jackson for the report and to note the road verge assessment report and its conclusions.

C.830 Review the meeting times

The council considered a proposal to review the start times of both the Full Council and Planning Committee meetings. The Chair noted that a change in the start time may make it easier for some Members to attend the meeting.

RESOLVED – To move the start time for Full Council meetings to 7.30 pm and the start time for the Planning Committee meeting to 7.00 pm. This will be reviewed in 6 months.

C.831 Parish Correspondence Address

The council took note of Report 11 and the need for a correspondence address for all the parish council's documents. It was agreed that the Chair will further explore the option of using the village Hall as a correspondence address.

RESOLVED – To consult the Village Hall on the feasibility of using the hall as the correspondence address for the Parish Council.

C.832 Repairs to 7 Acacia trees on Michel Dene Road and Lonicera hedging

Members considered report 12 which outlined a request from the Roads Company for repairs to 7 trees on Michel Dene Road. The chair explained that it was agreed that the liability for the first three trees on the right when entering the Estate belongs to First Steady (South East Tyres) and they have agreed to pay for these trees to be repaired. The request therefore, is for the parish council to pay for the repairs to the further 4 trees behind the shops as well as removing the hedgerow outside 9 Michel Dene Road at the junction with Wenthill Close.

Members agreed that as the trees are on Crown property, and as none of the three organisations can claim responsibility for the trees, the cost of repairing the 4 Acacia trees which is £1080 plus VAT as well as the cost of removing the hedgerow of £540 plus VAT should be split equally between the Roads Company, The Residents Association and the Parish Council.

RESOLVED – That the cost of the repairs to 4 Acacia trees and the hedgerow in Michel Dene be split between the Roads Company, The Residents Association and the Parish Council.

C.833 Environment Projects Funding Request

Members took note of Report 13 on a request from the Greensward Company for a donation of £450 towards re-seeding a portion of the Greensward. In discussion, Members argued that re-seeding a portion of the Greensward is an enhancement and not a core function, Members noted that the parish council already supports the Greensward as a Village Green and spends a significant amount on grass cutting in the Greenward. In addition, members also noted that the Greensward Company is a private company, and private companies should not be funded with public funds.

RESOLVED – That the application by the Greensward Company for a grant of £450 towards re-seeding a portion of the Greensward be refused.

C.834 Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) - EV charging

The council considered Report 14 on Wealden's District Council (WDC) invitation to apply for REPF funding for the installation of EV charging points in the parish council-owned car park. The Council noted that the Horsefields Car Park, East Dean is on the list of WDC's planned EV charging installations and that the Council could seek funding for other car parks, including the one at the shopping precinct. Members were not convinced of the immediate need or the usage of an EV charging at the Shopping precinct but would support the parish council registering an interest whilst this is further explored.

RESOLVED – That the Council will register an interest but a decision on which car park to apply for will be made at a later day.

C.835 Public Space Protection Order

The Chair informed Members that Wealden's District Council has responded negatively to a request for a Public Space Protect Order (PSPO) along Gildbert's Road and Birling Gap Road, similar to the PSPO around the Beachy Head Road that was introduced by Eastbourne Borough Council.

He further advised that in a recent meeting with the local MP Maria Caulfield, she expressed her strong support for the PSPO. According to her. She suggested that the Parish Council write to Wealden's District Council again, stating that the MP is in support of the scheme, in addition, a PSPO along Gilbert's drive will help Beachy Head. Depending on the response from WDC, the parish council may decide to organise and present a petition to the Cabinet. **ACTION: SA to write to WDC.**

RESOLVED – That the Parish Council will write to WDC asking them to reconsider their decision.

C.836 Appointments to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

The Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) Cllr Bustard, spoke to update Members on the progress of the group. He stated that the plan is to consolidate the village design statement into one policy, other items, such as tourism and housing needs will form the second section of the Neighbour Plan.

Cllr Lees has stepped back from the Steering group and will be replaced by Cllr White. He will be joined by three new resident volunteers Tim Pontin, Maria Stack and Karen Wintle.

A grant of £6,950 has been approved, the grant covers stage 1 work to be completed by the end of March 2024.

Cllr Bustard further explained that the open evening was a great success and was attended by up to 35 residents. The findings of the Open evening will be combined with the survey responses and will help form the parish priority statement. The key principles from the survey are that people want a friendly, inclusive village; healthy community; accessibility; mitigating climate change; affordability; wildlife-friendly parish; preservation of local character; promoting walking and cycling; and welcoming and safe for visitors. The draft parish priorities statement will be brought to the meeting of the parish council on the 2nd of November.

Cllr Bustard concluded that a list will be made of matters/issues arising from the survey that are not directly related to the Neighbour plan and will be passed on to the parish council for it to decide on how best to follow up.

RESOLVED – That the new appointments to the Steering Group be ratified and the update from the group be noted.

C.837 Payments and Receipts

The council took note of Report 18 listing the payments to be made in October 2023, and noting payments and receipts for September 2023. *[Note: the complete Payments Schedule is appended to these Minutes].*

RESOLVED – That the payments totalling £5,028.98 be approved.

C.838 Business In Progress

The council received and took note of Report 18 on progress made since the meeting on 5 August 2023. The following items were actioned:

a) Grant Awarding Process for 2023/24

Members agreed that the parish council should launch its grant process for the 2023/24 financial years.

RESOLVED – To approve the Grant awarding process for 2023/24. The cut-off date for receipt of applications is the 31st of December.

b) Repairs to the Cricket Club marquee store

Members noted that the repairs were for minor works to the Cricket Club Marquee store.

RESOLVED – To approve the repairs to the Cricket Club marquee store

c) East Sussex Association of Local Councils

The council was invited to appoint a second representative (in addition to the Chair) to vote on behalf of the council at the ESALC AGM on the 14th of November.

RESOLVED – That in the absence of Cllr Bryant (Vice Chair), Cllr Grant be authorised to vote at ESALC on behalf of the parish council.

d) Other Items

Members considered other items on the business in progress report.

RESOLVED - That the Progress Report be noted and action taken as discussed

C.839 Reports:

- a) Chair of the Council – The Chair gave feedback from a recent meeting with other Chairmen hosted by ESALC.
A list of enhancement requirements produced by the Cricket Club was circulated by Cllr Bryant, members noted that grants may be available to help with these proposals.
The Chair invited members to send him a list of what they would like to see included in next year's budget. A list will then be circulated together with rough estimates to all Councillors ahead of the meeting in November.
- b) Planning Committee – the council took note of the draft minutes of the committee meeting held on the 15th of August 2023 and 19th of September 2023
- c) Finance – the council took note that the bank balance at the end of June 2023 was £110,939.26. The Council noted the Budget Monitoring Report for September 2023
- d) Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – this has been covered in Minute C386 above.
- e) Rights of Way and Highways: Outstanding issues will be brought up at the forthcoming SLR meeting. Cllr Lees explained that Wealden District Council are officering to supply gates to replace stiles. This is a free service. Members expressed concern that Hob Ears and the bridleway are overgrown and not maintained. **ACTION: SA to arrange a meeting with the National Trust.**
A request for the plant pots at the Downlands Ways shopping precinct to be watered was discussed, it was agreed that even though the parish council made a donation towards acquiring the plant pots, they were not the responsibility of the parish council.
Cllr Hill stated that Chris Haffenden has committed to cutting back Footpath 25 within the next 10 days.
- f) Tree Warden: Cllr Hill said a correspondence has been received about a dead tree on Gilbert's drive. A response has been sent advising that the parish council will wait until the spring to see if the tree comes back to life. Planning permission has been granted for new trees on The Grange. Finally, a meeting with Climpsons has been arranged to look at the overgrown trees near Friston Pond
- g) Recreation Ground: - Cllr Fowler has asked for a copy of the playground inspection report. The parish clerk promised that this would be sent.
- h) Defibrillators: - Cllr Hill confirmed that they have all been checked and registered. The defibrillators are all up and running, new pads are not due until January 2024. Cllr Hill stated that the feasibility of installing a defibrillator at Friston, powered by a street light just south of the bus shelter will be raised

at the forthcoming SLR meeting. Cllr Hill suggested that a training session is needed. **ACTION: PH to organise a training session on using Defibrillators**

- i) Downlands Estate Management Group:- The Chair reported that the next meeting will be on the 17th, immediately after the next meeting of the planning committee. The Chair further explained that from discussions with ESCC Highways, it may be possible to introduce a 20mph speed limit on the private estate without requiring a formal survey. An email will be sent to ESCC for clarification.

C.840 Correspondence

The council took note of Report 18 on correspondence received since the July meeting.

The Chair mentioned a recent correspondence received by Mr Williamson, wanting clarification as to why the Climate Friends group and the Residents Association were not included as joint applicants alongside the Parish Council. The Chair explained that this was because the application to designate wildlife verges was made to ESCC by Laurie Jackson.

Parking On Gilbert’s Drive – The issue of parking on Gilbert’s Drive does not fall within the purview of the parish council. This is a matter for the Gilbert’s Estate

Request for 20 is Plenty speed sign on the Old Willington Road: - As the Old Willington Road is a fully adopted road, the parish council is not allowed to put a 20 is plenty sign on this road. The Council will consider adding Old Willington Road when a formal request for 20mph on some roads within the parish is made to ESCC.

RESOLVED – That the Correspondence Report be noted

Exclusion of Public and Press

Under Standing Order 3(d) the Chair moved that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, by reason of its confidential nature:.

C.841 Clerk’s Probationary Period

RESOLVED – That the Clerk have successfully completed his probation period.

C.842 Date of next meeting: - Thursday 2nd of November 2023 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.27 p.m.

Signed..... (Chair)

Date.....

ANNEX

Payments - September/October 2023
Receipts - August/September 2023

PAYEE	DETAILS	SUB TOTAL	VAT	TOTAL	REF.NO	DATE APPROVED	NOTES
HMRC	Overdue payment to HMRC	9.41	-	9.41	2082	09/08/2023	Paid
Business Stream	Pavilion water services 30June-29July	29.72	-	29.72	2083	11/08/2023	Paid by DD
Alison Eardley	Neighbourhood Plan Consultant	500.00	100.00	600.00	2084	12/08/2023	Paid
ESALC	7 copies of Being a good Councillor	34.16	-	34.16	2085	12/08/2023	Paid
SME IT Solutions	Desktop PC for Parish Clerk	737.47	147.49	884.96	2086	18/08/2023	Paid
Tansleys Printers	NPSG Questionnaire	130.00	26.00	156.00	2087	18/08/2023	Paid
Parish Online	Parish Online - Digital Mapping	45.00	9.00	54.00	2088	18/08/2023	Paid
Vision ICT	Admin Fee	40.00	8.00	48.00	2089	18/08/2023	Paid
Tansleys Printers	Walking Maps x 3	300.00	-	300.00	2090	18/08/2023	Paid
PKF Littlejohn LLP	Professional services for AGAR	315.00	63.00	378.00	2091	18/08/2023	Paid
ESALC	2 copies of Being a good Councillor	9.76	-	9.76	2092	01/09/2023	Paid
Village Hall Trust	Hall Hire - August 2023	40.00	-	40.00	2093	01/09/2023	Paid
Grants (Eastbourne) Ltd	Ground maintenance - August	1,033.00	206.60	1,239.60	2094	01/09/2023	Paid
Laurie Jackson, Ecologist	Road verge assessment	535.00	-	535.00	2095	01/09/2023	Paid
Mrs Katrina Larkin	Deputy Clerk's Office Cost & Expenses Aug	38.78	-	38.78	2096	01/09/2023	Paid
Sam Adeniji	Clerk's Office Cost - Aug 2023	26.00	-	26.00	2097	01/09/2023	Paid
R Franklin	Cleaning of Bus Shelters	60.00	-	60.00	2098	01/09/2023	Paid
Wealden Borough Council	Dog Bins Quarterly Emptying Charges	275.00	55.00	330.00	2099	01/09/2023	Paid
HMRC	PAYE/NICS - August 2023	512.72	-	512.72	3000	01/09/2023	Paid
ESCC	Pension contributions - August 2023	568.44	-	568.44	3001	01/09/2023	Paid
L Durso	Boards for NPSG Open evening	30.00	6.00	36.00	3002	15/09/2003	Paid
M Bustard	Photos for NPSG Open evening	6.88	1.37	8.25	3003	15/09/2003	Paid
Vision ICT	Hosted email addresses Oct 23 - Sept 24	162.00	32.40	194.40	3004	15/09/2003	Paid
J Timberlate	Printing & Laminating for NPSG	41.00	-	41.00	3005	15/09/2003	Paid
Sadeniji/K Larkin	Net salaries (aggregated) - August 2023	1,891.44	-	1,891.44	3006/3007	28/09/2023	Paid
SLCC	CILCA Registration Fees Sam Adeniji	450.00	-	450.00	3008	25/09/2023	Paid
WDALC	Annual subscription 2023-2024	28.00	-	28.00	3009	05/10/2023	
Rialtas	Rialtas Training for Parish Clerk	250.00	50.00	300.00	3010	05/10/2023	
HMRC	PAYE/NICS - September 2023	433.52	-	433.52	3011	06/10/2023	
ESCC	Pension contributions - September 2023	568.44	-	568.44	3012	06/10/2023	
Mrs Katrina Larkin	Deputy Clerk's Office Cost & Expenses Sept	99.51	-	99.51	3013	05/10/2023	
Sam Adeniji	Clerk's Office Cost - Sept 2023	26.00	-	26.00	3014	05/10/2023	
Grants (Eastbourne) Ltd	Ground maintenance - September	923.00	184.60	1,107.60	3015	05/10/2023	
R Franklin	Cleaning of Bus Shelters	60.00	-	60.00	3016	05/10/2023	

Payments - September/October 2023
Receipts - August/September 2023

Wicksteed	Inspection of Playfield	112.20	22.44	134.64	3017	05/10/2023	
Janet Smith	Pavillion Cleaning Apr- July 2023	460.47	-	460.47	3018	05/10/2023	
Cllr P Hill	Winter Hanging Baskets	106.90	-	106.90	3019	05/10/2023	
	Support for service 41 for the quarter ended Sep 2023	422.90	-	422.90	3020	05/10/2023	
Cuckmere Buses	Hall Hire - September 2023 & Fob	85.00	-	85.00	3021	05/10/2023	
Village Hall Trust	Donation for Remembrance Day Wreath	50.00	-	50.00	3022	05/10/2023	
Royal British Legion	Not to exceed £696	696.00	-	696.00			
Councillors Allowance							

TOTAL 12,142.72 911.90 13,054.62

RECEIPTS

Wealden District Council	Payment of 2nd installment of precept	34,000.00	-	34,000.00	BGC		
			-				
TOTAL		34,000.00		34,000.00			