



East Dean & Friston Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 01 February 2024 in the Small Hall of the Village Hall, Gilberts Drive, East Dean, commencing at 7.30 pm

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

In attendance: County Cllr S Shing, District Cllr D Greaves (item C.897 - 902); S Adeniji (Parish Clerk)

There were 15 members of the public present

Public Session

None

The Chair closed the Public Session and opened the meeting.

C.897 Acceptance of apologies for absence: Cllr G Street.

C.898 Declarations of Interests: - Cllr Bryant declared a non-pecuniary interest on agenda item 17 as he lives opposite.

C.899 Minutes of the parish council meeting held on 4 January 2024 –. The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 04 January 2024 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

C.900 Report of the Member of Parliament

The report from the MP was discussed. The Council expressed an interest in applying for a portrait of the King. **ACTION: SA to write to MC.**

RESOLVED - That the report of the Member of Parliament be noted.

C.901 Report of the County Councillor

East Sussex County Council (ESCC) Councillor Cllr Shing reported on the following matters:

- a) He reminded members that the ESCC consultation on its Local Transport Plan 4 will close on the 27th of February
- b) Following the heavy rain, he has been around to inspect flooding within the parish, this has been raised with ESCC Highways and remedial works are being carried out.
- c) That ESCC has overspent £16m on adult social care, this means the county council will be using its reserves for the first time. Council Tax will be raised by 1.99% and 2% for adult social care.

RESOLVED - That the report of the County Councillor be noted.

C.902 Report of the District Councillor

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

- a) Roadworks information – Friston Hill - Work will be carried out in the vicinity of 'Windy Ridge' between Sunday 18 February & Tuesday 20 February. The road will remain open with temporary traffic signals in place between 8pm and 4am.
- b) Southern Water – failings - Southern Water (which is responsible for wastewater and sewerage treatment across the Wealden district) had agreed to attend a meeting arranged to address concerns across Wealden including flooding, sewage seeping into people's homes, gardens and roads, the ongoing problem of discharges into rivers and waterways and the inability to deal with additional development. Shortly before Christmas Southern Water officials withdrew their agreement to attend the meeting

Wealden District Council and two dozen other local authorities have pledged to keep the pressure up on Southern Water and to hold it to account for constant failings.

- c) Wealden Community Sports Hub given planning permission - Full planning permission for the development of a new sports hub facility in Hellingly has been given the green light. The new 20 acre sports hub will include two full size floodlit artificial pitches, two multi-use games areas (MUGAs) (containing four dual floodlit tennis/netball courts), two padel tennis courts, a skate park, play facilities and a sports building providing changing rooms, toilets and café, alongside parking, landscaping, drainage, ancillary works and vehicular access via the A267.

The state-of-the-art hub will also accommodate a 206kWp solar array of photovoltaic (PV) panels over the parking spaces in the main car park - 60 spaces will have the ability to provide electric car charging with 20 spaces fitted with active chargers from the outset with the remaining 40 passive spaces being capable of being brought into use as and when demand requires to plan for future increase in uptake.

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

C.903 Update from the meeting of 4 January 2024

None as most of the items are on the agenda.

RESOLVED: under Standing Order 10(a) to change the order of business on the agenda to allow Council to consider Agenda 17 on road safety at Crowlink Friston

C.904 Road Safety at Crowlink Friston

Cllr Bustard introduced report 17 on road safety at Crowlink Friston. He explained that particularly around Christmas but also during the year, there are problems with people parking on the slip road by the church wall and also people parking inconsiderately along the side of the pond from the main road to the lake. This makes it difficult for residents to get by, in addition, emergency vehicles could be stopped from going down

to Crowlink. Cllr Bustard reported that people also park on the slip road and ignore the polite signs that were put up by the Parish Council. The Police are unable to help.

Cllr Bustard therefore proposes that the parish council:

- Formally ask East Sussex Highways to undertake a safety audit and press for yellow lines in the slipway and alongside the pond;
- Temporarily upgrade the Parish Council signs on the Flint wall to read “No Parking-Leave clear for Emergency Vehicles” (this may need the diocese’s approval). Erect identical (revised signs on the verge by the pond);
- Continue to liaise with the Church to achieve the best outcome for all stakeholders particularly around Christmas and during the year

Members noted that actions from ESCC Highways may take months, therefore new strongly worked signs are needed in the interim. It was also noted that ESCC may not be supported of the request for new signs but this does not preclude the Council from making a request.

RESOLVED – That the parish council will write to ESCC Highways to ask for a safety audit to be undertaken and request yellow lines in the slipway and alongside the pond.

RESOLVED – That the parish council will upgrade the signs on the Flint wall to read “No Parking-Leave clear for Emergency Vehicles” and erect identical (revised signs on the verge by the pond.

RESOLVED – That the council will continue to liaise with the Church to achieve the best outcome for all stakeholders particularly around Christmas and during the year

C.905 Wealden Communities Development Worker

The council received a verbal report from Melanie Nick the 3VA Communities Development Worker for Wealden on supporting local community or voluntary groups or people interested in setting up a new community group. The Chairman thanked Melanie Nick and invited her to take a table/stand at the forthcoming Annual Village Meeting.

RESOLVED – That the report from Melanie Nik be noted.

C.906 Wealden District Parish Conference

The council considered report 9 and decided that the parish council will send two representatives to the Wealden District Parish Conference to be held on the 14 of March 2024. Cllr Seeley and Bustard were nominated.

RESOLVED – That Cllr Seeley and Bustard attend the Wealden District Parish Conference.

C.907 South Downs National Park Board Councillor representative vacancy

The council considered Report 10 notifying the council of the Councillor vacancy on the South Downs National Park Board. The Council agreed that it would be in its interest to have a representation on the Board.

RESOLVED – That Cllr Tim Bryant is nominated as a candidate for the Councillor vacancy on the South Downs National Park Board.

C.908 ESCC Rural Grass Cutting Service

The council took note of Report 11 and considered the proposal by ESCC for its Rural Grass Cutting Service for 2024/25. The parish council noted that whilst there are environmental benefits from having just one cut, it is concerned about the effect of having just one cut on busy roads and junctions.

RESOLVED – That the parish council opts for no change in the rural grass-cutting service provided by ESCC.

C.909 East Dean & Friston Speed Limit Reduction

Cllr Seeley reported that he has received feedback from ESCC on proposals to reduce the speed limit on some roads within the parish. ESCC are suggesting conducting a few surveys and having measuring points at a few sites within the parish, this is a very expensive and unnecessary option. Cllr Seeley has suggested to ESCC that as there are only one or two entrances to the private estate there is no need for a survey to be conducted at many sites, it is hoped that there will be no more than 4 sites. The surveys will help ESCC in deciding whether there is a justification for reducing the speed limit.

Cllr Hill raised the possibility of applying for a zebra crossing on the main A259 as this would entail setting the speed limit to 30mph, members were unsure if a Zebra cross was included in the proposed A259 corridor plan. **ACTION: PS to investigate if a crossing is being considered as part of the A259 corridor plan.**

RESOLVED – That the parish council proceed with the traffic surveys subject to agreeing locations and costing, details of which should be brought back to a future meeting for approval.

C.910 Payments and Receipts

The council took note of Report 13 listing the payments to be made in February 2024 and noting receipts for January 2024. *[Note: the complete Payments Schedule is appended to these Minutes].*

RESOLVED – That the payments totalling £5,187.36 be approved.

C.911 Outdoor dining area adjacent to the café

Cllr Bryant introduced Report 14 and provided an update on the parish-owned land adjacent to Downland. Cllr Bryant reported that

- The parish council is obliged to give unrestricted access – vehicular and pedestrian – to the car parking areas, to the owners of the business premises;
- The parish council is also obliged to give unrestricted pedestrian access to the footpaths/paved areas in front of the commercial premises and along the west and east flank walls of the shop premises
- The removal of 2 parking spaces will be a fundamental departure from the rights that have been granted to the commercial owners; it could be a fundamental breach if the car spaces were covered over by whatever means

chosen and, even if the spaces were relocated nearer the roadway, this would still constitute a breach

- In order to carry out the work in a satisfactory legal way, the parish council would have to vary the rights of all parties; this would be an expensive process and the success/agreement of all parties is not guaranteed

Cllr Bryant concluded that because of the legal and logistical issues, moving two parking bays in the shopping precinct to make space for an outdoor dining area for the care is not something that a Statutory Authority such as the parish council should consider.

RESOLVED – That the parish council will not be proceeding with this proposal

C.912 Annual Village Meeting

The council took note of Report 15, which outlined a draft programme and schedule for the Annual Village Meeting 2024. Cllr Bustard requested a 15-minute slot for the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) at the AVM, An update would be brought to the March Council meeting.

RESOLVED – That the report on the plan for the Annual Village Meeting be noted.

C.913 Friston Pond

Cllr Hill reported that Friston Pond requires some maintenance as it has not been maintained for a long time. Formal quotations have been received from Climpson's for tree lopping to the tune of £1,450, if approved this can be done in February. Rustic Gardens have been approached to clear the roadside hedge, and they have suggested that it is in the parish council's best interest if the works were carried out on a daily rate basis. Cllr Hill suggested a budget of between £2,500 and £3,000 for clearing all the weeds, and the edges and disposal as a small digger will be needed to go around the edge of the pond. The total budget will be £3,000 plus £1,450.

RESOLVED – That the parish council proceed with the maintenance works on Friston Pond subject to a maximum cap of £3,000 to be spent on the clearing and dredging of the pond and £1,450 for the tree lopping a total of £4,500.

C.914 Day 80 – 6th June 2024

The council took note of Report 18, which outlined details for celebrating the 80th anniversary of D-Day on the 6th of June 202. The council noted that the event is an opportunity to light up the bacon and to organise an event on the cricket grounds. It was agreed that the events would be led by the parish council and Cllr Seeley and Cllr Grant will take the leading role.

RESOLVED – That Cllr Seeley and Cllr Grant will lead the preparation for the 80th anniversary of D-Day.

C.915 Business In Progress

The council received and took note of Report 14 on progress made since the meeting on 07 December 2023. The following items were discussed:

- a) **Application from the East Dean & Friston Bowling Club for a grant of £700**
Members considered and discussed the application from the East Dewan & Friston Bowling Club for a grant of £700 for the replacement of the Electric Fence; the

replacement of the water filter, and buying protection mats. Members noted that the application was received after the deadline for grant applications.

RESOLVED – To approve a grant of £400.00 to the East Dean & Friston Bowling Club.

b) East Dean & Friston Village Fete 2024

RESOLVED – To note the date for the East Dean & Friston Village Fete 2024 as Saturday 20th July 2024.

c) Clerk Report

Cllr Seeley reported that following on from his email to Maria Caulfield MP, an engineer from Sky will be visiting him to follow up on the issue of interruptions on landlines in the village.

RESOLVED – That the Clerk's report be noted and action taken as discussed.

C.916 Reports:

- a) Chair of the Council – The Chair reported the sad news regarding the Parish Flag Master.
The Chair reported that he has received a letter of resignation from the Deputy Clerk with effect from the end of April.
- b) Planning Committee – Cllr Grant reported that no meeting was held in January, and the next meeting will occur on the 20th of February.
- c) Finance – the council took note that the bank balance at the end of January 2024 was £98,677. The Council noted and approved the Budget Monitoring Report and Bank Reconciliation Statement for January 2024.
- d) Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – A report has been circulated by the Deputy Clerk on the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Open Day. The NPSG will work with Officers on how the Council's website can be used to promote the workings of the steering group better.
- e) Rights of Way and Highways: The footpath between Peakdean and Michel Dene road has been repaired. Road signs on Michel Dene Road and Ridge Way have been reset in concrete. The footpath between Sussex Gardens and Downviews Lane is unusual as it's the only concrete path in the parish and the surfaces are breaking up. A quotation will be requested from Roadways for repairing this. The parish council's new noticeboard will shortly be going up.
- f) Tree Warden: Cllr Hill read out a letter of thanks from a resident, expressing gratitude for the work done on Twitten 19 the steps between Michel Dene and Peak
- g) Recreation Ground: - Cllr Grant is liaising with the Cricket Club and the new Ground Maintenance Contracts to agree on when the 1st grass cut of the season will be.
- h) Defibrillators: - All defibrillators are working, the next phase will be replacing batteries later in the year. Cllr Seeley reported that the East Dean Care Home has been using the defibrillator situated at the village hall, and as there is a spare defibrillator unit, the parish council can donate this to the care home on

the basis that they pay for the battery and the pads and stop using the defibrillator at the village hall.

- i) Downlands Estate Management Group:- Nothing to report.

C.917 Correspondence

The council took note of Report 22 correspondence received since the January meeting. The following matters were discussed:

a) Email received from Mr W.

The council response is that the emails from ESCC should be forwarded to Mr W as requested.

C.918 Date of next meeting: - Thursday 7th March 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.36 p.m.

Signed..... (Chair)

Date.....

ANNEX

		Payments - February 2024			Receipts - January 2024		
PAYEE	DETAILS	SUB TOTAL	VAT	TOTAL	REF.NO	DATE APPROVED	NOTES
Business Stream	Water Charges for Pavilion	169.29		169.29	3072		Paid By DD
Climpsons	Cutr down hedge in Michel Dene Road	540.00	108.00	648.00	3073		
Cuckmere Buses	Support for Service 41 for Q3	500.90		500.90	3074		
East Dean & Friston Village	Hall Booking	89.00		89.00	3075		
HRMC	PAYE & NICs for January	848.84		848.84	3076		£469.24 + £379.6 due in dec
ESCC	Pension contributions - January 2024	601.99		601.99	3077		
K Larkin	Office Cost & Mileage	51.56		51.56	3078		
S. Adeniji/K Larkin	February salary	1,847.88		1,847.88	3079/3080		
S. Adeniji	Office Cost	34.99		34.99	3081		
Wealden District Council	Quarterly Emptying Bins	275.00	55.00	330.00	3082		Plad by DD
R Franklin	Cleaning Bus Shelters Decv & Jan	120.00		120.00	3083		
EDF Energy	Pavillion Electricity	108.76	5.44	114.20	3084		
TOTAL		5,018.92	168.44	5,187.36			
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RECEIPTS							
TOTAL		-		-			