



East Dean & Friston P a r i s h C o u n c i l

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 04 April 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 G Fowler, Cllr D White and Cllr P Hill

In attendance: County Cllr S Shing, District Cllr D Greaves (item C.934 - 939)

Public Session

Mr Jonathan Greenway raised the following matters:

- The recently repaired Jevington Road is breaking up. He has tried reporting it online but to no avail. He has been given a telephone number to call.
- On the A259 from Seaford to Friston there is a new 40 sign on the right hand side as you approach Friston by the pond. But the one on the left hand side needs cleaning.

Cllr Shing asked Mr Greenway to email him with the details of the road that needs repairing, he explained that ESCC no longer cleans road signs except those where there is a safety issue.

The Chair thanked Mr Greenway for his contribution.

The Chair closed the Public Session and opened the meeting.

C.934 Acceptance of apologies for absence: Cllr M Bustard, Cllr Bryant and S Adeniji (Parish Clerk)

C.935 Declarations of Interests: - None.

C.936 Minutes of the parish council meeting held on 7 March 2024 –. The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 07 March 2024 were confirmed as a correct record, this will be signed later by the Chair.

C.937 Report of the Member of Parliament

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

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

C.938 Report of the County Councillor

County Cllr Shing reported on the following matters:

- Foster Children: Cllr Shing reiterated ESCC support and promotion for its local Fostering Services.
- He has attended several committee meetings including meetings to discuss funding for new projects such as the A22.
- One of the Highway Officers who regularly attends the SLR meeting has retired, a replacement has not been announced.
- There is a new Highway Steward.
- Cllr Shing stated that he has been told that ESCC have repaired Footpath 25, the Chair responded that this is not correct and the footpath has not been repaired. This will be added to the agenda of the next SLR meeting.

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

C.939 Report of the District Councillor

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

- a) Two programmes providing support and training to local businesses are available in East Sussex. These are called 'Ready to Grow' and 'Big Ambitions' respectively. The 'Ready to Grow' programme is for early-stage business owners who have been trading for less than 3 years. There are workshops and masterclasses, one-to-one support and networking opportunities. The 'Big Ambitions' programme provides up to 18 hours of expertise to businesses that are growing and likely to need to employ extra staff in the next 6 to 12 months and includes one-to-one action planning and specialist support.
- b) Possible changes to Rubbish and Recycling Collection days: To improve the efficiency of rubbish and recycling collection there may be some changes to collection schedules after April 15th. Cllr Greaves reported that he has been notified of collection days changing for parts of Friston. This will not affect the garden waste collection service which will continue as usual. Not all collections are changing - those who are affected will receive a letter and an updated collection calendar. For further information contact: www.wealden.gov.uk/collection-schedule-changes.
- c) Fly Tipping Intervention Grant: The Council have been awarded £20,000 to fund an engagement project to ensure that residents are well informed about the use of unlicensed waste carriers.
- d) Cliff Collapses: WDC have issued warnings about the dangers of people going close to cliff edges along the South coast. Local Councils have teamed up with HM Coastguard and landowners to launch a campaign reminding people of the risk posed by unstable chalk cliffs. The risk is not just with the cliff edges but also at the base of the cliffs.
- e) Climate Change Survey: WDC have released surveys to find out residents' opinions on climate change, this is to help the Council create a new climate change strategy.
- f) A22 overnight roadworks: There will be road works overnight on the A22 Hailsham bypass between Monday 22nd April and Friday 3rd May. There will be road closures and significant diversions – check it out on the ESCC website if necessary.

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

C.940 Update from the meeting of 7 March 2024

None as most of the items are on the agenda.

C.941 Plans for the Pavilion

The Chair noted that a report has not been prepared for this agenda item. Cllr Seeley stated that a written proposal is needed before the council can give its permission. The written proposal should include what is needed, the cost as well the details of the Architects that would be engaged to do the design. It was agreed that Cllr Bryant will be asked to produce the written report.

RESOLVED – That the Plans for the Pavilion be discussed at a future meeting.

C.942 Annual Village Meeting 2024

The council took note of report 9 regarding plans for the annual village meeting. It was noted that Cllr Seeley has agreed to buy the drinks and snacks, and Cllr Fowler has agreed to run the bar. Councillors were urged to help set up the hall on the afternoon of 12 April 2024.

RESOLVED – That the update on plans for the Annual Village Meeting be noted and the running order is approved.

C.943 South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) Renewable Energy Study

The council considered report 10 it was noted that the questionnaire is only available online. The Parish Clerk should be asked to complete and submit the questionnaire.

RESOLVED – The Parish Clerk completes and submits the on-line South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) Renewable Energy Study.

C.944 Adoption of a Privacy Notice

The council considered the draft Privacy Notice. No amendments were suggested.

RESOLVED – To adopt the Privacy Notice and approve its publication on the Council's website.

C.945 List of Small Contractors

The council took note of Report 12, the Chair reported that this is a work-in-progress and more work is needed in compiling a list of small contractors.

RESOLVED – To support the establishment of a list of small contractors to be shared with the Village Hall Trust but further work is needed.

C.946 Payments and Receipts

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

RESOLVED – That the payments totalling £16,128.97 be approved.

C.947 Business In Progress

The council received and took note of Report 14 on progress made since the meeting

on 07 March 2024. The following items were discussed:

a) Consider a grant application from Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance Charity for £350.00

Members considered and discussed a grant application received from Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance Charity for £350.00. Members noted that this is a very worthy cause.

RESOLVED – To approve the grant application from the grant application from Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance Charity for £350.00.

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

C.948 Reports:

- a) Chair of the Council – The Chair reported the Deputy Clerk would be leaving at the end of April.
The Chair gave an update on preparations for the 80th D-Day anniversary on the 6 June. The Cricket Club is on board and has agreed to host a friendly match. The Chair has written to David Baker about ringing the bells at 06:30pm. The bells are going to be rung in East Dean and also at Friston Church. The beacon will be lit at 09:15pm. The Cricket Club will run the bar but the Parish Council would need to apply for an alcohol license nearer the time. The local MP Maria Caulfield has agreed to attend the event. A Public Address (PA) system is needed. It was suggested that Derek and Stuart should be contacted. **ACTION: PS to contact Derek and Stuart about using their PA system.**
- b) Planning Committee – Cllr Fowler confirmed that the last meeting of the planning committee was cancelled due to absences and the fact that there was only one application. Cllr Fowler reiterated the need for the Parish Clerk to attend the next meeting of the Planning Committee as he would be taking over the responsibility for the Planning Committee.
- c) Finance – the council took note that the bank balance at the end of March 2024 was £70,639.29. The Council noted and approved the Budget Monitoring Report and Bank Reconciliation Statement for March 2024.
- d) Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – The Chair reported that the NPSG will be doing a presentation at the Annual Village Meeting, the Chair stated that Cllr Bustard is keen to have a permanent display in the village hall for a period of time.
- e) Rights of Way and Highways: There are no major Rights Of Ways and Highways issues. Cllr Hill reported that two planters near the shops which were provided by the Residents Association have been completely smashed. It was agreed that these should not be replaced.
- f) Tree Warden: Nothing to report. Cllr White gave an update on the free trees received by the Parish Council, he reported that most of the trees have been given away. There are 15 small trees left, these have been planted in pots and will be given away when they have grown to a reasonable size.

- g) Recreation Ground: - Cllr Fowler reported that there was some confusion on whether Jan Smith is retiring. The Chair confirmed that she is staying on. Cllr White reported that a new shed is needed for storing the marquee. Cllr White agreed to write to the Village Hall Trust to ask for another shed. **ACTION: DW to write to the Village Hall Trust.**
- h) Defibrillators: - All defibrillators are working, the next expenditure is three sets of pads and batteries in August. Cllr Hill reported that he is yet to contact ESCC Highways about installing a defibrillator in Friston and needing a power supply from the street light. It was agreed that Cllr Hill should contact Cllr Shing and ESCC Highways. **ACTION: PH to contact Cllr Shing about the power supply for a new defibrillator at Friston.**
- i) Downlands Estate Management Group:- The next meeting is on Tuesday the 16th of April at 6.00 pm just before the meeting of the planning committee. Cllr Hill and Cllr Seeley will be attending. Cllr Seeley reported that ESCC Highways have carried out the traffic surveys in Upper Street, Lower Street, Mitchell, Dean and Windmill, the Parish Council have asked if it could have the results before the 12 April Annual Village Meeting.

C.949 Correspondence

The council took note of Report 17 correspondence received since the March meeting. The following matters were discussed:

a) Email received from Mr J.M regarding the Build Levy.

The Chair reported that this is an issue for the Roads Company, this should therefore be reflected in the response. It was noted that the Parish Council supports the introduction of a Road Levy in principle..

b) Email From M-J H regarding the state of verges on Crowlink Lane.

The Chair reported that a resident in Crowlink had a swimming pool built and had enormous trucks going up and down and one of those great a big concrete pumping crane, it was this has chewed up the verges on Crowlink Lane.

C.950 Date of next meeting: - Thursday 9th May 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.33 p.m.

Signed..... (Chair)

Date.....

ANNEX

		Payments - April 2024			Receipts - March 2024		
PAYEE	DETAILS	SUB TOTAL	VAT	TOTAL	REF.NO	DATE APPROVED	NOTES
Hailsham Roadway Construc	32 Sussex Gardens to Downs View Lane	1,767.00	353.40	2,120.40	3106		Already Paid
Alison Eardley Consulting	ED & F Neighbourhood Plan	6,550.00	1,310.00	7,860.00	3107		Already Paid
Grants Eastbourne	Grounds Maintenance	770.00	154.00	924.00	3108		Already Paid
Climpsons	Micheldene Road trees cut	900.00	180.00	1,080.00	3109		
HRMC	PAYE & NICs for March	469.24		469.24	3110		
EDF	Electricity Feb 24	64.74	3.24	67.98	3111		
S. Adeniji/K Larkin	April salary	1,847.88		1,847.88	3112/3113		
Wealden District Council	Parish Confernece	60.00		60.00	3114		
Rialtas	Making Tax Digital for VAT Annual Subscripti	110.00	22.00	132.00	3115		
Rialtas	Software Annual Support and Maintenance	192.00	38.40	230.40	3116		
East Dean & Friston Village	Hall Booking	40.00	-	40.00	3117		
Rustic Gardens	Pond works & Woodchip	1,975.00	395.00	2,370.00	3118		
ESCC	Pension contributions - March 2024	601.99		601.99	3119		
Groundwork UK	Refund oif underspent NP grant	226.94		226.94	3120		
S Adeniji	Office Cost	49.98		49.98	3121		
Clr Hill	Timpsons 2 No A4 laminated signs	138.00		138.00	3122		
Clr Hill	ESK for compost etc	30.56		30.56	3123		
TOTAL		14,026.33	2,102.64	16,128.97			
<hr/>							
RECEIPTS							
HMRC	VAT	430.32		430.32			
TOTAL		430.32		430.32			