



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 09 May 2024 in the Small Hall of the Village Hall, Gilberts Drive, East Dean, commencing immediately after the Annual Parish Council Meeting at 7.47 pm

Councillors present: Cllr P Seeley (Chair), Cllr T Bryant, Cllr M Bustard, Cllr G Fowler, Cllr D White, Cllr J Greenway, Cllr T Larkin and Cllr P Hill

In attendance: County Cllr S Shing, District Cllr D Greaves (item C.966 - 971); S Adeniji (Parish Clerk)

There were four members of the public present

Public Session

East Dean Pond. Mr John Wilton spoke, he stated that at the bus shelter at the bottom of the hill, over the Flint wall, there is a hole. The hole was the East Dean Pond, which local reports say was larger than the Friston Pond. The pond is marked on the 1936 ordinance survey map. The pond was sufficiently important to feature in a postcard from a photograph of 1910 of Gore Farm. It shows Gore Farm, where we now have Gore farm cottages. The Parish Council should consider reclaiming and refurbishing the pond.

The Chairman thanked Mr John Wilton for his comments and confirmed that the Parish Council would take the points raised on board

The Chair closed the Public Session and opened the meeting

C.966 Acceptance of apologies for absence: None

C.967 Declarations of Interests: - None.

C.968 Minutes of the parish council meeting held on 4 April 2024 –. The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 04 April 2024 were confirmed as a correct record, this will be signed later by the Chair.

C.969 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.970 Report of the County Councillor

Cllr Shing reported that

- Not much has happened since the last meeting because of the local election.

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- He has been approached by East Sussex County Council to take part in a promotional video encouraging people to stand in the County elections next May.
 - There was a full council meeting of ESCC held on Tuesday 7th of May and a new Chairman and Vice Chair were elected.
 - The new Exceat bridge is on hold because of a legal challenge.

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

C.971 Report of the District Councillor

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

- a) New funding available to help community spaces and facilities – WDC is inviting organisations such as Not for Profit organisations and town and parish councils to apply for grants between £1,000 and £20,000 for projects that will help Wealden residents improve and enhance green spaces and community assets, and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups.
- b) Hailsham Swimming Pool - Work to replace the pool surround is underway - the pool is currently closed – work to be completed on 20th May.
- c) Cuckoo Trail - Outdoor gym equipment is being installed on the Cuckoo Trail in the stretch between Polegate and Hailsham. Completion is due by 17th May.
- d) NHS Health Checks - 'One You East Sussex' is offering free NHS Health Checks to residents living in Wealden after the popularity of a similar programme delivered last year.

Cllr Seeley reported that the Parish Council have received correspondence from Mrs L.K about a lack of phone signal in the village the Parish Council will write to the Chief executive of Vodaphone and will include Cllr Greaves and MP Maria Caulfield in the conversation.

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

C.972 Council Insurance

Member took note of Report 7 containing a renewal quotation from Zurich Municipal, members noted that this is the second year of a three-year long-term agreement. Members agreed that the council should accept the renewal quotation of £1,583.70.

RESOLVED – To accept the renewal proposals from Zurich Municipal for the council's insurance 2024/25, commencing on 1 June 2024.

C.973 Future replacement of the cricket pavilion and the sports facilities at the Recreation Ground

Cllr Bryant introduced report 8 regarding the future replacement of the cricket pavilion and the sports facilities at the Recreation Ground. This will be a detailed topographical survey, at 1/200 scale details will include all boundaries, walls, fences, hedges, trees, kerbs, street furniture, changes of surface, overhead cables and the surface indication of underground services. The adjacent highways will be surveyed to near the kerb line

for the extent of the site. The plan position of the pavilion building will be captured, along with ridge and eaves levels.

He explained that a topographical survey is needed to enable the council to understand what it has got, where and what level it is at. A quotation has been received from a Surveyor for £750 to conduct the topographical survey. Once a topographical survey has been conducted, the services of an Architect will be engaged to design the sketches which will enable the Parish Council to decide on the replacement of the cricket pavilion.

RESOLVED: - That quotation of £750 for the topographical survey of the Cricket pavilion be accepted and the services of the Surveyor (K. A. Rylance Limited) be engaged.

C.974 80th Anniversary D-Day Celebrations. Evening of 6th June 2024

Cllr Seeley introduced report 9 outlining plans for the 80th anniversary of D-Day celebrations evening. Cllr Seeley reported that a small team comprising Mark Pankhurst, Jason Woodford (both East Dean Cricket Club), Cllrs Fowler and himself have progressed with the proposed celebrations and they now seek the Parish Council approval for the programme and funding.

The evening's entertainment comprises:

- Church bells are being rung at 6.30 pm at East Dean and Friston Parish Churches.
- A cricket match is to be played between 7 pm and 8.30 pm between the East Dean All Stars (5 – 11-year-olds) and parents.
- A bar will be provided by the Cricket Club at the Pavilion and catering (burgers etc) by Sheppards. This will run from 6.30pm to 10pm and a licence will be applied for by the Parish Council. **ACTION: SA to apply for a Temporary Entertainment Licence**
- Provision of PA will be by Derek Dury and Michael Keller to provide a recording of various music and speeches from the period.
- 2 bagpipers have agreed to come and play at various points in the evening for a fee of £200. These were the lead pipers at the village Queens Jubilee.
- The beacon will be lit by Maria Caulfield MP at 9.15 pm followed by fireworks with the closure of the event by 10 pm.
- A provisional budget of £300 for a suitable 'cake' of fireworks is proposed.

RESOLVED – Approve a funding budget of £750 which includes a provisional sum of £150 in the event that Cllr White is successful in locating a period vehicle that could attend the event.

C.975 Draft Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Seeley reported that he attended the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group open afternoon and he was very impressed with the attendance. Cllr Bustard presented the Draft Neighbourhood Plan, he explained this is a functional document, although that there are quite a few gaps in it which will be filled over the forthcoming months. Once completed the Neighbourhood plan will be sent to the SDNPA for further scrutiny, after

which it will go out to consultation. Cllr Bustard urged members to feedback if there are any policies that are missing from the draft plan

RESOLVED – To approve the draft Neighbourhood Plan.

C.976 Payments and Receipts

The council took note of Report 11 listing the payments to be made in May 2024 and noting receipts for April 2024. *[Note: the complete Payments Schedule is appended to these Minutes].*

RESOLVED – That the payments totalling £7,185.36 be approved.

C.977 Business In Progress

The council received and took note of Report 12 on progress made since the meeting April 2024. The following items were discussed:

- a) **Approve the expenditure of up to £1,000 for Neighbourhood Plan publicity**
Members considered and approved the expenditure of up to £1,000 for publicising and promoting the work of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

RESOLVED - To approve the expenditure of up to £1,000 for the publicity of the Neighbourhood Plan.

- b) To note that the final internal audit will be conducted by Mulberry & Co on 20 May. The Parish Clerk reported that the final internal audit will be conducted by Mulberry & Co on 20th May.

RESOLVED - To note the plans for the final internal audit of 2023/24.

- c) To note that the External Auditor PKF Littlejohn has issued the 2024 templates and the deadline for submission of our accounts is 1 July 2024. The Parish Clerk reported that the External Auditor PKF Littlejohn has issued the 2024 templates and the deadline for submission of our accounts is 1 July 2024.

RESOLVED - To note the External Audit arrangements for 2023/24.

- d) The council took note of the update from the Parish Clerk

C.978 Reports:

- a) Chair of the Council – The Chair reported that the Deputy Clerk's computer, screen and printer are available if any councillors need it. If there are no takers the Parish council will donate the kit to a local charity having cleaned up the hard drive.
- b) Planning Committee – Cllr Fowler confirmed that the meeting of the Planning Committee will be held on Thursday. The Parish Clerk confirmed that no planning applications have been received.
- c) Finance – the council took note that the bank balance at the end of April was £103,442. The Council noted and approved the Budget Monitoring Report and Bank Reconciliation Statement for April 2024.
- d) Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – Already covered above.

- e) Rights of Way and Highways: Cllr Hill reported that the timbers in the bus shelter at Friston on the south side are rotten. In addition, the notice board at the pond, one of the oak sections, is rotted. Rustic Gardens has given a quotation of £285 to replace and re-stain the whole of the bus shelter.

Cllr Hill reported that there has been an accident on Footpath, 25, which goes from upper street to the pond. Somebody fell off their bike into the shrubs and the footpath is sinking. East Sussex County Council (ESCC) have been contacted but to no avail. Cllr Hill stated that he has come up with an idea of putting a metal handrail for two lengths of 15 meters where the path is sloping. A quotation has been received from Rustic Gardens and he would like ESCC to match fund this. It was noted that there may be a dedication agreement in place. This will be raised at the next SLR meeting.

Cllr Hill reported that four hanging baskets will be put out across the parish and he is asking for volunteers to water them over the summer.

- f) Recreation Ground: - Cllr Fowler reported that the Cricket Club have ordered new benches for the Recreation Ground and wanted the permission of the Parish Council. It was agreed that permission should be granted. The electric heater in the changing room no longer works. **ACTION: SA to find out the Electrician last used by the Parish Council.** Cllr Fowler highlighted that some maintenance work is required, this will be carried out by him in the next coming weeks. The verge along the Cricket Club needs maintenance and the entrance to the Cricket ground needs maintenance. **ACTION: PS and TB to follow up.** The Cricket Club have asked for signs asking people to take their dog pool with them. The tap in the Gent's toilet is leaking and a plumber will be contacted.
- g) Tree Warden: Cllr Hill reported that two of the elm trees planted by the Parish Council about five years ago outside the Fridays have died and have been removed by Rustic Gardens. There is a fallen hedge by Footpath 25. The cost of these two issues is £300.00.
- h) Defibrillators: - Cllr Hill reported that the four defibrillators are scheduled for maintenance and replacement pads and batteries later in the year. He stated that he had received an email stating that 3 of the 4 defibrillators are out of date and have been superseded by a new model. Cllr Hill indicated that there is £4,000 set aside for defibrillators. A report will be prepared and presented at a future meeting.
- i) Downlands Estate Management Group:- Cllr Seeley and Cllr Hill attended the last meeting on the 16th of April. Cllr Seeley reported that he has received the report from East Sussex, and it looks as if the 20 miles an hour is viable and it's now with the police.

C.979 Correspondence

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

a) Query regarding Minutes P.574 19th December 2023 and P.601 14th April 2024 SDNP/24/00159/DCOND

The council's response to the email are noted below:

- This minute of the 14th April meeting refers to the proprietary works being carried out in Crowlink Lane and not to her private access. The minute of the 19th of December is an update from the Enforcement Officer and it states that there was no breach of the Planning condition.

b) Disability access at the Downland Shops

The council acknowledges that the parking space is not fit for wheelchair users and there is an issue for wheelchair access to all the shops. The issue of parking at the shops was discussed and it was agreed to set up a working group of three Councillors two of which are Cllr Seeley and Cllr White to look at parking and disability access at the Downland Shop Preceint.

The remaining emails were noted.

C.980 Date of next meeting: - Thursday 13th June 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.19 p.m.

Signed..... (Chair)

Date.....

Payments - May 2024
Receipts - April 2024

PAYEE	DETAILS	SUB TOTAL	VAT	TOTAL	REF.NO	DATE APPROVED	NOTES
Clr Seeley	Village Meeting Refreshments	210.25	-	210.25	3124		Already Paid
K Larkin	Office Cost March	38.78	-	38.78	3125		Already Paid
Cuckmere Buses	Support for Bus 41 Q4	357.80	-	357.80	3126		
Tansleys Printers	A5 Flyers for Village Meeting	50.00	-	50.00	3127		Already Paid
Tansleys Printers	100 Booklets for Village Meeting	144.00	-	144.00	3128		Already Paid
EDF	Electricity Mar 24	65.61	3.24	68.85	3129		Already Paid
ESALC	Membership	528.04		528.04	3130		
S.Adeniji	May Salary	1,237.49		1,237.49	3131		
Grantsd Eastbourne	Grounds Maintenance	680.00	136.00	816.00	3132		Already Paid
Nima	East Dean Cricket And Bowls Club A5 Leaflets	97.00		97.00	3133		
PHO Plumbing Services	Recreation Grounds leak	288.00		288.00	3134		Already Paid
East Dean & Friston Village	Hall Booking	195.00	-	195.00	3135		
Wealden District Council	Village Hall Lease	375.00		375.00	3136		Paid by DD
HMRC	PAYE & NICs for March	469.70		469.70	3137		
Business Stream	Office Cost	50.45		50.45	3138		Paid by DD
EDF	Electricity Apr 24	62.50	3.12	65.62	3139		
ESCC	Pension contributions - March 2024	601.99		601.99	3140		
SME LTD	Anti Virus	36.00	7.20	43.20	3141		
R Franklin	Cleaning Bus Shelters Feb	60.00		60.00	3142		
S Adeniji	Office Expenses April	37.99		37.99	3143		
Zurich Insurance	Insurance for 2024/25	1,583.70		1,583.70	3144		
K Larkin	Office Cost April	76.75	-	76.75	3145		
TOTAL		7,035.80	149.56	7,185.36			

RECEIPTS			
HMRC	VAT	3,781.67	3,781.67
WDC	Precept	36,750.00	36,750.00
SDNF	CIL	767.21	767.21
P Seeley	Village Meeting Refreshments	30.00	30.00
TOTAL		41,328.88	41,328.88