



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 13th June 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 M Bustard, Cllr C Lees, Cllr D White.

In attendance: County Cllr S Shing, District Cllr D Greaves, Julia Shelley (Locum Parish Clerk)

There were no members of the public present

The Chair closed the Public Session and opened the meeting.

C.981 Acceptance of apologies for absence: Cllr T Bryant, Cllr P. Hill, Cllr Larkin.

C.982 Declarations of Interests: - None.

C.983 Minutes of the parish council meeting held on 9th May 2024. The minutes of the parish council meeting held on **9th May 2024** were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

One amendment was noted. The Parish Council Planning Meeting minutes of 16th April, 2024 were not correct. The erroneous comment made referred to Crowlink Lane and not the track to Crowlink Corner. A letter of apology and clarification has been issued and accepted and the minutes have been corrected.

C.984 Councillor Co-option

It was resolved to co-opt Naomi Baker to the Parish Council.

C.985 Report of the Member of Parliament

None - Parliament dissolved awaiting General Election.

C.986 Report of the County Councillor

Councillor Shing reported on the following;

- Funding approved for the Household Support Fund, the funds (£3.9 million) will be spent to support children and families during the school summer holidays. One examples of how money is used is for additional food bank funding.
- East Sussex County Council (ESCC) has extended funding for the sexual health service.
- An extension (34 months) has been agreed to adult social care funding in East Sussex. The value of the contract is circa £31 million.
- Birth, deaths and marriages fees have been increased in line with other counties. This is the first increase for a number of years.

Cllr Shing met with ESCC Highways and local residents to try and resolve the ongoing issues on Upper Street and Southdown Way. To improve the drainage is a major job and due to the bus route access the work will need to be carried out overnight.

Cllr Shing has been appointed to the East Sussex Fire Authority Board and also as Deputy Major of Polegate.

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

C.987 Report of the District Councillor

1) Cuckoo Trail

Additional information here following on from last month's meeting - Outdoor gym equipment has been installed on the Cuckoo Trail in the stretch between Polegate and Hailsham. Completion was due by 17th May. Two cycle repair stations have been installed. They consist of giant air pumps and a stand with various tools including tyre levers as well as screw drivers and allen keys. One set of tools was stolen very shortly after installation (a cost of £200). The initiative has been funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and other improvements include improved picnic area, new signage and replacement of many of the benches.

2) Fly Tipping Intervention Grant

Some additional information here as well - 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 and the 'Household Waste Duty of Care'. We should see information in the form of an advertising campaign coming through in this respect in due course. Last year the Council cleared 677 fly-tips at a cost of £49,000

3) Proposed cycleway linking Uckfield / Lewes to be explored

A new cycle and pedestrian route which would run alongside the old railway line between Uckfield and Lewes is currently being explored.

This could provide an off-road surfaced route, similar to the existing Cuckoo Trail and Forest Way for walking, cycling and wheeling.

The nine-mile route will potentially link the two towns of Uckfield and Lewes and create an alternative cycling route to the A26 between the two towns, joining Isfield and Barcombe directly. The Greenway would form an important "green link" between the towns and villages along the route and support leisure journeys as well as commuter journeys, linking tourism hotspots such as the Lavender Line, The Laughing Fish, Barcombe Mills and the Anchor Inn on the River Ouse.

The former Uckfield to Lewes train line opened in 1858 to goods and passenger traffic, with stations at Isfield and Barcombe Mills but was closed in 1969 south of Uckfield. The route is safeguarded by protective policies within the current Local Plan that prevent

any development which would significantly prejudice the reinstatement of the former railway line to Lewes in the future.

However, at the Full Council Meeting on 15th May there was strong opposition because of the £15,000 cost of the feasibility study for a scheme which many Councillors felt never should and never would get off the ground.

4) Expenditure of over £1m to improve Wealden's sports facilities

In the last twelve months almost £1.5 million has been committed by Wealden District Council to improve outdoor sports provision and secure community use at educational facilities.

Hockey facilities at Hailsham Community College will be improved after Wealden District Council agreed to fund up to £216,406 towards improvements.

The works will comprise improvements to be made to the sand-based artificial grass pitch, used for competition hockey at the college, and replacement of the flood lights with energy saving ultra-low glare LED floodlights – which are estimated to give annual savings of £7,900 in utility costs. The total project cost is £291,406.

This funding is in addition to £311,000 being previously agreed in 2023 to improve the hockey pitch at Beacon Academy, Crowborough, in the north of the district. A further £300,000 has been allocated towards supporting the installation of a new 3G football pitch, at the Academy

Funding is being made available from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies and aims to help to improve the quality, accessibility, and protection of community-use sports facilities at educational sites.

The first round of the annual grant funding programme will be opened later this year and be available to local sports partners and organisations.

It will provide much needed financial support to deliver the priority projects listed within the Wealden Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy & Action Plan, agreed by sport's governing bodies and Sport England, and adopted by the Council in December 2023.

Sports that could benefit from the funding programme include football, rugby union, tennis, cricket, lawn bowls, hockey, netball and stoolball.

I shall look out for these 'grant funding programmes' in case it is of interest to ED&F Cricket Club and the Bowling Club if they are not already on the case. An allocation in this area would surely be appropriate as Hailsham and north of Hailsham isn't a great deal of use to our residents most of the time.

5) Cuckoo trail to temporarily partially close in the summer Sections of the trail will be closed in June and July so essential work can be carried out before the start of the summer holidays. The work is already underway and should be completed by 20th July. Bypass routes and diversions will be made available where possible.

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

Questions from parish councillors:

Has any analysis been done comparing the cost of flytipping against the income from charging for certain waste at council tips?

Cllr Greaves will raise the question with Wealden District Council (WDC).

The wall damaged in East Dean carpark belongs to WDC. The Chairman asked whether the Parish Council should arrange the repair?

Cllr Greaves recommended that WDC be left to take the lead on the repair.

C.988 Defibrillators Replacement

The paper by Cllr Hill was circulated previously.

Proposal: Adopt the recommendations in the report.

Approved

A few questions arose

- a) Inconsistency in the number of defibrillators on the asset list against the details in the report. The Chairman explained that two machines remain in store.
- b) It was suggested that the report take the opportunity to highlight offset in spending with new equipment as it will delay any requirement to purchase batteries.

Action: Cllr Hill was requested to find out if the replacements could be introduced over a period of time to avoid them all becoming obsolete in the same financial year in future.

C.989 Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024 (Report Item 9)

- a) To review and approve the draft Final Accounts 2023/24

Approved.

b) To formally confirm the effectiveness of the council's Internal Audit regime for the year 2023-24

Approved.

c) To consider and take note of the report of the Internal Auditor 2024

Noted.

d) To consider and approve the Annual Governance Statement 2024

Approved.

e) To consider and approve the Annual Accounting Statements 2024, with supporting end of year bank reconciliation and Explanation of Variances

Parish Council Agenda – 13 June 2024

Approved.

f) To approve the suggested period from Monday 17 June to Friday 26 July 2024 for the exercise of electors' rights in relation to the Unaudited Annual Return

Approved.**C.990 Payments and Receipts**

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

The Chairman identified one area of possible double billing with regard to Rustic Gardens.

Action: To be clarified with clerk and credit note obtained if required.

RESOLVED – That the payments totalling £ 7,741.22 be approved.

C.991 Date of next meeting: - Wednesday 10th at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall**C.992 Appointment of a Locum Clerk**

a) To confirm the appointment of a Locum Parish Clerk.

Julia Shelley was appointed as Locum Clerk at 10 hours per week.

b) To agree to proceed with the due process of advertising and appointing a Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer in conjunction with ESALC.

Agreed.**C.993 Urgent Items not on the Agenda which the Chair is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency but not decision.**

None.

C.994 Reports:

a) Chair of the Council - none.

b) Planning Committee - none.

c) Finance – none.

d) Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group report

Cllr Bustard reported the following;

- Following their co-option Cllr Baker will join the Neighbourhood Planning group
- The grant process has been re-opened and an application on behalf of East Dean and Friston is being prepared by the consultant.
- The South Downs National Park will be sent the draft of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan for scrutiny. A response should be received by the 16th July 2024
- It is proposed to start the community consultation sessions in September 2024. Two are planned - an afternoon and an evening session.

- Cllr Bustard has reviewed Neighbourhood Plan content on the Village Website and will co-ordinate with Gillian Carstairs to arrange an update. It is important that all websites and public sourced information align in content.
- The landlords of the two empty commercial units in the village have been approached with a view to displaying Neighbourhood Planning information.

e) Rights of Way and Highways

Cllr White is enjoying his new duty, the grass on the estate will require a second cut shortly. Cllr White highlighted a number of issues.

The tarmac between Peakdean Lane and The Brow has two broken steps.

Micheldene to Peakdean Lane path, the angle irons are a potential risk if a walker fell.

Action: Councillors asked to review when passing for discussion next time.

Tarmac from The Link to the Downs. Three gates require work (possibly under repair agreement with tenant farmer).

Action: Clerk to contact and ask for repair and if possible include cycle friendly gates.

f) Recreation Ground

Cllr Fowler reported that the water leak has been repaired.

He took the opportunity to acknowledge the success of the D-Day celebration. The Pavilion heaters still need repair.

Action: Clerk to supply electricians details.

g) Tree Warden

Cllr Greenway has cleaned the village sign, unfortunately soon after the sign was hit by an East Sussex County Council contractors vehicle. Cllr Greenway is pursuing the contractors to ensure it is repaired.

Jonathan Timberlake has shared a Village Green update. This highlights Friston Green to which it is hoped to add benches making a greater feature of the area.

Action: Cllr Greenway to meet with Jonathan Timberlake.

h) Downlands Estate Management Group - no update received.

Action: Cllr Seeley to request update on traffic control conversations.

C 995 To discuss a report by the clerk on correspondence received, and to consider further action

The clerk circulated a request by Wild Business to the Parish Council OS Mastermaps to support their climate survey.

Request **refused**.

C 996 Asset List

Cllr White noted that some items need to be added new village sign, benches. The value of adding the date of installation/age of items to aid budget management was discussed and agreed.

Action: Cllr White and Cllr Fowler to begin work on this.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 10th July 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

Signed..... (Chair)

Date.....

C 990 Appendix

PAYEE	DETAILS	SUB TOTAL	VAT	TOTAL	REF.NO
Cllr Fowler	Repairs to Pavilion	343.75	-	343.75	3146
Grants Eastbourne	Grounds Maintenance	770.00	154.00	924.00	3147
Cllr Seeley	Fireworks	253.00	-	253.00	3148
Rustic Gardens	Remove 2 trees on Gilbert Drive	300.00	60.00	360.00	3149
Cllr Seeley	Pipers for D-Day 80	200.00	-	200.00	3150
Rustic Gardens	Repair bus shelter	660.00	132.00	792.00	3151
Climbsons	Pond Tidy up	1,450.00		1,450.00	3152
ESALC	Councillor Training	40.00	8.00	48.00	3153
Mulberry & Co	Internal Auditor Fees	119.60	23.92	143.52	3154
East Dean & Friston Village Hall	Hall Booking	63.00	-	63.00	3155
ESCC	Pension contributions - May 2024	417.06		417.06	3156
EDF Energy	Electricity May 24	17.21		17.21	3157
R Franklin	Cleaning Bus Shelters Feb	60.00		60.00	3158
HMRC	PAYE & NICS for May	460.64		460.64	3159
S Adeniji	Office Expenses May	47.68		47.68	3160
K A Ryland Ltd	Topographical survey works at East	795.00	159.00	954.00	3161
Cllr Bustard	NPSG Refreshments	5.51		5.51	3162
ESCC	Undertook x4 7 day speed surveys	1,288.00	257.60	1,545.60	3163
TOTAL		6,946.70	794.52	7,741.22	
RECEIPTS					
East Dean Cricket Club		900.00		900.00	
TOTAL		900.00		900.00	