

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 1st March 2018 in the Small Hall of the Village Hall, Gilberts Drive, East Dean, commencing at 6.30 pm

Councillors present: Cllr M Keller (Chair), Cllr T Bryant, Cllr D Clarke, Cllr B Greenwell, Cllr I Haydock, Cllr P Hill, Cllr A Hookham, and Cllr P Seeley

In attendance: None – apologies were received from the Parish Clerk, and the meeting was recorded

There were three members of the public present.

Public Session

Highway matters - Mr S Worsfold made the following points:

- Friston Hill road drain - still needed clearing
- ANPR camera – this had been renewed but the pole was still too tall. The Chair advised that the pole was a standard item
- Gilbert Drive parking – the verge was being damaged near the A259 junction
- Downlands Way car park was still littered with leaves
- Speed limit in the village – government policy was that 30 mph should be the norm in villages. Could the council use this argument?

The Chair stated that these items were on the agenda for the next county liaison meeting on 13th March 2018 and would all be considered.

Proposed bonfire event - Mr P Williamson requested that consideration be given to the detrimental effects of such an event on pets, horses and other animals. The Chair explained that the firing site would be on the field opposite the recreation ground, i.e. away from the main village, and that the display would concentrate on visual effects rather than explosions. No problems had been reported from previous similar events.

The Chair closed the Public Session and opened the meeting

The Chair announced the resignation of Councillor Stewart Fuller. The Council thanked Stewart for his many years of service, including his very effective chairmanship from 2014-2017, and his leading contributions in the areas of communications and finance. His hard work and dedication would be missed by many.

C.515 Acceptance of apologies for absence: - County Cllr S Shing; District Cllr J Wilton

C.516 Declarations of Interests: - None

C.517 Approval of the Minutes: - The minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

C.518 BUSINESS IN PROGRESS

The council considered report 4 on progress since the February meeting, and the following points were discussed:

- a) Hedge cutting on Footpath 19 – Cllr Hill advised that the vegetation obstructing the path outside No.50 Peak Dean Lane was really only a shrub and he would deal with it **ACTION: PH**
- b) East Dean Village Name Plate – it was agreed to go ahead with the suggested wording and design supplied by East Sussex Highways
- c) Play Project – members noted the advice of the Hon. Solicitor that the Gilbert Estate did not have a power of veto over the replacement of play equipment etc. The installation of the Kanope unit was scheduled for April. It was also noted that the cost of the materials for laying a new track to the play area would be approx. £2,176 plus VAT, including the provision of timber edging for the sides of the track. Materials would be supplied at cost by DJ Utilities, who would also supply free labour. Work on a new fence would be deferred until after the installation.
- d) Mowing Contract – in view of the county council’s decision to limit their financial support for verge cutting to two cuts per year, paying the parish only £341 instead of £1,499, members proposed to reduce the number of additional cuts the parish was prepared to pay for from ten to eight. **ACTION: KL to notify the contractor**
- e) Social Media – following the resignation of Cllr Fuller, the council would need to re-allocate responsibility for organising a new council website
- f) ESCC consultation on recycling of non-household waste – the consultation proposals had been amended to say domestic quantities of non-household waste such as plaster board and asbestos would still be accepted for recycling, but would be charged for. The parish would still object that safety could be compromised if the charge for depositing asbestos led to it being disposed of non-securely. **ACTION: KL**
- g) Village Hall – The Chair of the council had been accepted as a Trustee of the Village Hall. Wealden District Council had advised that the land on which the hall stood must be registered afresh as an asset of community value, as there was no renewal procedure. The triangle of land in the south east corner of the site was included in the lease of the whole site to the parish council, which had been registered; it was therefore surprising that the Land Registry had allowed the freehold of the triangle to be registered subsequently to the Gilbert Estate. The Hon. Solicitor had advised that the site be re-registered as an asset of community value using the original plan taken from the lease **ACTION: KL**
- h) Post Office – it was noted that Maria Caulfield MP had taken up this issue, and an update was awaited from the Post Office

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- i) Highway matters – the A259 verge had been damaged during the replacement of the ANPR camera and should be reinstated **ACTION: KL to investigate responsibility and ask for reinstatement.** A draft agenda had been circulated for the next county liaison meeting on 13th March 2018, and this was approved.
 - j) General Data Protection Regulation – current actions to edit and reduce the records should continue **ACTION: KL**
 - k) Best Kept Village Signs – a quote was being obtained for removing these signs and making good **ACTION: PS**
 - l) Trees at entrance to Micheldene Road – a fresh enquiry had been made about the safety of these trees, and a report should be obtained. **ACTION: KL**

RESOLVED – That the Progress report be noted and action taken as discussed

C.519 APPOINTMENT OF TREE WARDEN

Mr Peter Williamson kindly volunteered to take on the role of Tree Warden. He stated that he would wish to support the restoration of tree cover in the parish where possible. These were aims also supported by the council, which had re-planted disease resistant elms to compensate for those lost, and had planted a Biodiversity Strip at the recreation ground. It was agreed unanimously that Mr Williamson be appointed. **ACTION: KL to supply background information.**

RESOLVED – That Mr Peter Williamson be appointed Tree Warden with immediate effect.

C.520 FIREWORKS PROPOSAL 2018

The council considered Report 6 from the Working Group, advocating the organisation of a Firework display combined with the lighting of a Village Christmas tree and carol singing on Saturday evening the 1st December 2018. There would be a torchlit procession from the car park to the recreation ground where there would be a firework display, followed by a procession back to the village hall for the lighting of a Village Christmas tree and the singing of carols. There would be no bonfire and the firework display would be mounted by a professional contractor. Members were generally supportive of this proposal, provided that the event could be based at the hall rather than the recreation ground; that there was sufficient stewarding and parking available; and that there was support from residents. It was agreed that the Working Group should continue with preparations, and have full proposals ready to put before the Annual Village Meeting.

RESOLVED - That the report of the Working Group be noted and that full proposals be put to the Annual Village Meeting 2018 for approval.

C.521 HIGHWAY DRAINAGE

The council considered Report 7 concerning a request from the Gilbert Estate that East Sussex Highways be granted an easement to install a soakaway in the north east corner of the recreation ground adjacent to Gilberts Drive, in compensation for run-off land lost to the highway through the development at The Fridays. The Planning Committee at their meeting on 20 February had recommended that the

request be approved, subject to payment of a £3,000 facility fee plus all legal costs by the Gilbert Estate. The approval would not result in the council ceding ownership of any land. **ACTION: KL to contact the Estate**

RESOLVED – That East Sussex Highways be granted an easement to install a soakaway in the north east corner of the recreation ground, subject to a payment of £3,000 and all legal costs by the Gilbert Estate.

C.522 PARISH EMERGENCY RESILIENCE PLAN REVISION

The Chair invited all members to complete the actions agreed at the February meeting and forward individual reports to the clerk one week prior to the April council meeting, so that a full report could be prepared for the Annual Village Meeting. Cllr Greenwell confirmed that he would undertake a review of the council's Risk Assessment. **ACTION: all councillors**

C.523 ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING 2018

The council took note of the responses received from village organisations and the topics proposed for discussion. The Chair had compiled a draft agenda on this basis. The council would report on the progress of the Play Project and the Friston Build-out, and formally launch the new Grant Scheme. In addition, topics for debate would include the Village Hall (at the request of the Hall Trustees); the Emergency Plan; the introduction of the new Facebook page; the Fireworks event; and Data Protection issues (particularly the implications for email circulations by the parish council and Residents' Association). All were reminded that items for inclusion in the Annual Village Report should be ready by 29th March. The agenda would be reviewed at the meeting on 5th April 2018.

C.524 PLANNING APPLICATION

The council was asked to ratify the recommendation of the Planning Committee at their meeting on 20 February that the following application be supported:

SDNP/18/00817/TPO - 25 The Ridgeway Friston BN20 0EU

Notification of intention to 1No Cedar (T1) remove all lower deadwood and ivy, 1No. Ilex (T3) raise crown by approx. 2m and reduce crown by approx. 3m. 1No. Lawson Cypress (T23) remove at source 2/3 limbs. 1No. Corsoam Pine (T10) raise crown by approx. 3m, reduce crown by approx 3m and remove all dead, dying and dangerous branches. 1No. Lawson Cypress (T13) and 2No. Thuya (T17 and T21) raise crowns by approx. 3m and remove all deadwood.

RESOLVED - To recommend that the application be approved

C.525 PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS

The council considered Report 11, the Schedule of Payments and Receipts for March 2018 [Note: the complete Schedule is published on the council website]. It was noted that a donation of £1,000 had been received from Scotia Gas Networks towards the play project, which was much appreciated. A response should be received from Rampion as to a possible further grant from the Sussex Communities Fund by the end of March.

RESOLVED - That the Payments totalling £1,943.04 be approved and the clerk be authorised to make the payments online

C.526 URGENT ITEMS

The Chair stated that following the resignation of Councillor Fuller a potential candidate had already come forward. Wealden District Council had been asked to supply notices of the vacancy in the usual way. The tasks undertaken by Cllr Fuller would need to be reallocated, in particular his work as Lead Member for Finance. Cllr Keller would prepare the summaries of council business for the Parish Magazine; Cllr Hookham would take on the website and other communications; and Cllr Seeley would consider taking on the email circulation list. Other tasks included editing the Rendezvous newsletter, and putting up notices.

C.527 REPORTS:

- a) County Councillor – None
- b) District Councillor – None
- c) Chair of the council – None
- d) Planning Committee – the council took note of the draft minutes of the committee meeting held on 20 February 2018.
- e) Finance - the balance in hand at the end of February was £42,038.56. A question was raised as to whether this included the payment for the Kanope play equipment. [*Note by the Clerk: it has been paid for and is included*]
- f) Rights of Way and Highways – see Progress report, above
- g) Recreation ground – the Lead Member reported that the pavilion would shortly be re-opened for the new season. The Cricket Club had invited the council to field a team for a cricket fun day in May. Members supported the idea of the fun day but could not field a complete team.
- h) Village Events – see Items C.520 and C.523 above
- i) General Data Protection Regulation – it was noted that the requirements to be placed on parishes were still not confirmed, but that one possible way forward could be for clerks to be Data Protection Officers subject to completion of approved training commensurate with the demands placed on their parishes

RESOLVED – That the above reports (a) – (i) be noted

C.528 CORRESPONDENCE

The council considered report 14 by the Clerk, and the following matters were noted:

- a) The Biodiversity Strip – the hedge had not been trimmed in January/February, which was apparently needed to encourage it to thicken and provide a better habitat. The Lead Member for the Recreation ground would inspect the hedge once spring growth had appeared and report back. He would also see if the grass dump in the south west corner of the ground could be dispensed with.

ACTION: BG

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- b) South East in Bloom – the publicity for the new event should be passed on to the Gardening Club **ACTION: KL**
 - c) Mobile Library – it was noted that ESCC still intended to discontinue the Mobile Library service.
 - d) Ceremonial Events Protocol – the Chair proposed that the recent communication from Wealden District Council should be referred to a Working Group for consideration, and this was agreed. The council’s Flag Master and the Rector should be invited to participate. All councillors would be welcome to participate. **ACTION: MK/PH**

RESOLVED – That the Correspondence report be noted and action taken as discussed.

C.529 Dates of next meetings

Parish Council - Thursday 5th April 2018 at 6.30 pm in the Village Hall
Annual Village Meeting – Thursday 26th April 2018

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.23 pm.

Signed..... (Chair)

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