



**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April 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 K Godden (Items C.534 onwards), Cllr B Greenwell, Cllr P Hill, Cllr A Hookham, and Cllr P Seeley

**In attendance:** District Cllr J Wilton (Items C.530-C.533); County Cllr S Shing (Item C.543b); and K Larkin (Parish Clerk)

*There were three members of the public present.*

### **Public Session**

Mrs Joan Colin raised the following matters:

- General Data Protection Regulation – the new regulation would affect all local organisations, including some with relatively sensitive personal records such as the Community Watch and the Greensward Company. The parish council was requested to organise a seminar to assist compliance and promote a locally cohesive approach. The Chair agreed to consider this, and stated that sensitive information such as lists of vulnerable residents would best be held securely on paper. Mrs Colin commended BBC Radio 4's Moneybox Live (4 April edition), available on catch-up.
- Closure of Micheldene Road – the closure of this road could compromise safety on the Downlands Estate, especially if Hillside were closed at the same time. The council was requested to organise an alternative emergency access through Gore Farm Close and the council-owned precinct car park. The Chair stated that this matter was in fact on the agenda, having been requested by the Residents' Association.
- Emergency Plan – the parish Plan referred to 'vulnerable residents' and should now also refer to the Community Watch. The Chair agreed to add this during the current revision of the Plan.

*The Chair closed the Public Session and opened the meeting*

-----

*The Chair recorded the resignation of Councillor Ian Haydock, who had served since 2014 and chaired the Planning Committee in 2015-16. Cllr Haydock had also chaired the working group on Sheltered Accommodation in the parish, and would continue to assist the council in organising a winter fireworks event. Members recorded their thanks for all his service to the community.*

**C.530 Acceptance of apologies for absence:** - Cllr D Clarke

---

**C.531 Declarations of Interests:** - None

**C.532 Approval of the Minutes:** - The minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018 (based on an audio recording) were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**C.533 REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

District Cllr Wilton reported on the following matters:

- State pension payments and Post Offices – the government was encouraging pensioners to let their pensions be paid into their bank accounts, which cost less than letting them collect it from a post office. There was concern that this could feed into the closure of local post offices, and it should be stressed that the arrangement was voluntary.
- Emergency access to the Downlands Estate – Cllr Wilton strongly supported the creation of an emergency access through Gore Farm Close.

RESOLVED - That the report of the District Councillor be noted

**C.534 CO-OPTION OF A COUNCILLOR**

The Chair proposed that Mr Kevin Godden be co-opted as a member of the council.

**The motion was put to the meeting and declared carried unanimously.**

Cllr Godden signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, and joined the meeting.

**C.535 BUSINESS IN PROGRESS**

The council considered report 5 on progress since the March meeting, and the following points were discussed:

- a) Cricket Club Agreement 2018 – signed by the Chair on behalf of the parish council
- b) Mowing Agreement 2018-2020 – signed by the Chair on behalf of the parish council
- c) Easement fee – it was agreed that the fee of £3,000 payable by the Gilbert Estate for the installation of a highway soakaway on the recreation ground should be applied to the upgrade of the play area. SGN Ltd would liaise with Cllr Seeley regarding the laying of the new track, which would be phased with the installation of the soakaway.
- d) Plaques from the village green – for the time being, these would simply be removed and the wall repaired.
- e) ANPR camera – further work was in fact in progress. The council would nevertheless seek to have the protective bollard re-installed on the verge.  
**ACTION: KL**
- f) Hedge cutting – seasonal work was under way. Cllr Greenwell advised that the Biodiversity Strip on the recreation ground should be trimmed to encourage it to thicken, and it was agreed that this should be added to the council's mowing contract as a September task **ACTION: BG/KL**. The Gilbert Estate should be informed as a courtesy.

- 
- g) Trees at the entrance to Micheldene Road – these trees had long been of concern to residents of nearby properties, but did not belong to the parish council and were on one of the parcels of Downlands Estate land which had passed to the Crown. There did not appear to be any current problems with their condition. However, the Tree Warden should be asked to report on their condition **ACTION: KL/PW**
- h) Diseased elms – the elms on Friston Hill (which were the responsibility of ESCC) should be felled by the end of April.
- i) Bus shelter repairs – new polycarbonate windows had been fitted by Cllr Hill. Members thanked Cllr Hill for undertaking this work.

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

### **C.536 RIGHTS OF WAY EXPENDITURE**

Members considered report 6 which was discussed as follows:

- a) Village clean - the core proposal from a resident was for a litter pick, but the range could be extended if there were enough willing volunteers. The Cricket Club had kindly offered to help re-decorate the pavilion following the recent damage caused by a pipe burst. Cllr Seeley would liaise with the resident and seek support at the Annual Village Meeting. It was noted that there was already a supply of high-visibility tabards, cones and other items in the loft at the pavilion, and volunteers would be covered by the council's insurance. The council would be willing to purchase other essentials such as gloves and sacks. **ACTION: PS**
- b) Emergency Access at Gore Farm Close – the council had previously considered creating an access here, and decided against it. However, the current proposal was purely for emergency access. The need for it was very unlikely to arise, but if it did then the lack of an access could prove fatal. It was noted that a gate with special emergency locks which any emergency crew would be equipped to deal with would be preferable to retractable bollards. **ACTION: PS to consult the Fire Officer; TB to investigate land ownership; KL to check any planning conditions.**

RESOLVED – That the provision of an emergency access at Gore Farm Close be approved in principle

- c) Additional dog bin in Downs View Lane – members expressed concern that the location was not suitable, particularly as walkers in this area were prone to stray into an adjacent farmyard. There was already a litter bin at the entrance to the Lane, and bagged dog poo could in fact be binned there. A small notice could be added to that effect. No new dog bin should be provided: there were already three in the parish, all expensive to maintain.

### **C.537 ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING 2018**

The council considered report 8, containing the draft poster, formal agenda, running order and table layout for the evening. These were updated, and it was agreed that

brief oral presentations should be included on Fireworks (Cllr Seeley); the parish council grant scheme (deadline to be extended to the end of April); and GDPR (Cllr Hookham). **ACTION: PS; AH; MK (to order wine and snacks); KL (to send report for printing and organise a run-through)**

#### **C.538 COMMUNITY LIBRARIES AND MOBILE LIBRARY**

All town and parish councils had been invited to submit expressions of interest in operating a Community Library or Mobile Library using ESCC assets and/or purchase of ESCC services. This would be prohibitively expensive. It was agreed not to express an interest. The parish council already supported the Cuckmere Bus route 41 which could take residents to Eastbourne Library.

#### **C.539 EAST SUSSEX, SOUTH DOWNS AND BRIGHTON & HOVE WASTE AND MINERALS LOCAL PLAN**

The council took note of a consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. This had no direct effect on the parish and no response would be sent.

#### **C.540 SOUTH EAST WATER DRAFT WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The council took note of a consultation but did not wish to comment.

#### **C.541 PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS**

The council considered Report 12, the Schedule of Payments and Receipts for March 2018. *[Note: the complete Schedule is published on the council website].* It was noted that the national salary scale for part-time parish clerks had not been increased as yet for the year from 1 April 2018. However, the clerk's work should be subject to an annual review which the Chair would carry out and report to the council in May.

RESOLVED – That the payments totalling £3,028.39 be approved and the clerk be authorised to make the payments online.

#### **C.542 URGENT ITEMS**

The Chair proposed that Cllr Godden be appointed as Lead Member for Finance at the Annual Parish Council meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, when the bank mandate would also be reviewed. The Chair would take on the writing of *Rendezvous* for the time being, and would consult the parish magazine editor as to the feasibility of combining the two publications.

#### **C.543 REPORTS:**

- a) Chair of the Council – the Parochial Church council had requested a regular support grant from the parish council towards churchyard maintenance. Monies donated for this purpose would be held in a restricted fund.  
**Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Keller, Cllr Hill and Cllr Seeley each declared a personal interest due to involvement with the church. However, it was noted that any parishioner was entitled to be buried or have their ashes interred in the parish churchyards, and it was on this basis that support was sought from

the council. Members agreed that this should be considered at the May meeting on the basis of a full report of the financial implications. **ACTION: KG/KL**

- b) Report of the County Councillor – Cllr S Shing stated that there was no new item this month, but copies of his county Newsletter were available for circulation. Members took copies for later perusal. A question was raised about the long timescale proposed for the building of the new Exceat Bridge. Cllr Shing stated that considerable time must be allocated for preliminary work e.g. to assess the environmental impact of the Bridge within the National Park.
- c) Planning Committee - the council took note of the draft minutes of the committee meeting held on 20 March 2018, and strongly supported the committee's recommendation that Wealden District Council should be contacted regarding the allocation of new social housing at The Fridays, which should be allocated first to qualifying households with a connection to the parish or to adjacent parishes within the National Park.
- d) Finance – the end of year balance was £40,123.93. Full information on the accounting arrangements should be supplied to Cllr Godden (**ACTION: KL**)
- e) Rights of Way and Highways – the council took note of the draft Minutes of the County Liaison Meeting held on 13 March 2018. The following additional points were raised:
- The gully on the A259 opposite Micheldene Road had not yet been cleared (**ACTION: KL to complain**)
  - The hedge on the footpath between 14 Micheldene Road and Sussex Gardens had not yet been trimmed (**ACTION: KL to send reminder**)
  - Fingerposts – lettering had been ordered for the Went Way fingerpost and Cllr Hill was obtaining quotes for its repair. This would be followed by repairs to the post at The Outlook. The current round of repairs would then be complete. (**ACTION: PH**)
  - Footpath 8 sign – negotiations continued as to the placing of this sign in an area where all the verges were privately owned.
- f) Recreation Ground – the Lead Member reported that the fence on the west side of the recreation ground had been broken due to a rotten post. A quote of £50 had been received from Rustic Gardens for the repair and it was agreed to accept this (**ACTION: BG**). Following a pipe burst at the pavilion a shower and some pipework must also be replaced, at a likely cost of £350+. It was not known who had turned the water back on prematurely. The installation of the new play equipment was due to commence in the following week, and an email circulation would be done to warn potential users of the closure. A notice had also been put up at the site. It was agreed that there should be a ceremonial opening, when Mrs Branson and Dr Maxwell who had instigated the project should be invited to preside.
- g) Village Events – it was noted that the Cricket Club planned to hold a Fun Day on the Spring Bank Holiday. Cllr Hookham requested a budget for setting up the council's stall at the village Fete, and a budget of £100 was agreed.

- 
- h) General Data Protection Regulation – the clerk would produce a comprehensive report in May.

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

**C.544 CORRESPONDENCE**

The council considered report 14 by the Clerk.

RESOLVED – That the Correspondence report be noted

**C.545 Dates of next meetings**

- **Annual Village Meeting – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018**
- **Annual Parish Council Meeting - Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018** at 6.30 pm in the Village Hall.

*There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.57 pm.*

Signed..... (Chair)

Date.....