



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 7th February 2019 in the Small Hall of the Village Hall, Gilberts Drive, East Dean, commencing at 6.30 pm

Councillors present: Cllr P Seeley (Acting Chair), Cllr T Bryant, Cllr L d'Urso, Cllr K Godden, and Cllr P Hill

In attendance: County Cllr S Shing (Item C.713 (a)); K Larkin (Parish Clerk); S Mills (Admin Assistant)

There were five members of the public present.

PUBLIC SESSION

Request stop at Downsvie Lane – a resident complained that No.12 buses were failing to pick up passengers at this request stop. In response it was explained that Brighton & Hove Buses had wanted to replace the marker for the request stop (lost due to an accident), but East Sussex Highways had refused permission on safety grounds. This left the bus company with a problem as there was a stop on the south side of the road which ought to be matched by one on the north side. The bus company had promised that advance warning of the request stop would be added to the drivers' automated information system. However, this clearly was not a complete solution and the Acting Chair agreed to raise the matter at the next county liaison meeting on 16 April 2019.

Verge in Downsvie Lane – a resident complained that the verge on the south side of the Lane had become very overgrown. It was noted that Eastbourne Borough Council had previously strimmed it twice a year but had resolved not to maintain it in future. The Acting Chair stated that the parish council was investigating the cost of adding this verge to their mowing schedule, and quotes were being obtained.

Trees at the entrance to Micheldene Road – a resident of Gore Farm Close expressed concern at the state of these trees, one of which overhung the end of the Close and appeared to be dead. The trees were on land which was effectively ownerless. The Acting Chair agreed that the council would consider taking action once it had received a report from the Tree Warden.

No.5 Elven Lane – a resident reported that this property had been visited by the SDNPA Enforcement Officer. A new extension was under construction (with planning permission) but an allegation had been made that it was 'out of dimensions' by 234mm. The dimensions had been carefully checked and found to be only 5mm out, internally. The householder therefore strongly refuted the allegation. It was also noted that the reinstatement of a boundary hedge should take place on completion of the work, but was currently held up due to an unresolved boundary dispute. The council had no information on either matter, but the Acting Chair

offered to visit the property with the Chair of Planning and to report back to the next meeting of the Planning Committee on 19 February.

The Chair thanked the contributors and closed the Public Session

C.700 ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: - Cllr N Day; Cllr M Keller;
District Cllr J Wilton; P Williamson (Tree Warden)

C.701 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS: - None

C.702 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- a) The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 3rd January 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Acting Chair.
- b) The minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 22nd January 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Acting Chair.

C.703 COUNCILLOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- a) Lead Member for Fund Raising – it was proposed that Councillor d’Urso be appointed to lead on Fund Raising, with particular reference to Neighbourhood Planning.

RESOLVED – The motion was put to the meeting and declared carried unanimously

- b) Lead Member for the Recreation Ground – it was noted that Cllr Day was no longer able to fulfil the lead role. The Acting Chair would liaise with Cllr Day to pick up any outstanding matters.

C.704 BUSINESS IN PROGRESS

The council considered Report 5 on progress since the January meetings, and the following points were discussed:

- a) Downlands Way Maintenance – the four householders in Wayside whose properties backed onto the shopping precinct car park had all agreed to permit the council to put up notices on their rear fences discouraging parking. It was agreed that four small notices should be affixed; this was within budget.
ACTION: PH
- b) The Drove – the Acting Chair would set up a meeting with the Gilbert Estate.
ACTION: PS
- c) Friston build-out – it was noted that this project had now been approved by East Sussex County Council and would be run by them.
- d) Verge in Downsview Lane – the first quote received for strimming the verge was agreed to be too expensive. **ACTION: KL to obtain two more quotes.**

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

C.705 VILLAGE HALL HIRE AGREEMENT

The council took note of the draft Agreement for regular hall hires in 2019/20 and agreed that it should be signed by the Acting Chair. Paid hires would commence from 1st April 2019.

RESOLVED - That the hall hire Agreement be signed and returned to the Village Hall Trust.

C.706 ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE

The council considered Report 7 recommending the submission to Wealden District Council of an application to re-register the Horsefield car park (i.e. the village car park) as an asset of community value. It was agreed that this should be done.

ACTION: KL

RESOLVED -That an application be made to re-register the Horsefield car park as an asset of community value.

C.707 STORAGE FACILITY AT RECREATION GROUND

The council considered Report 8 outlining a request from the Cricket Club to place a green 3-4 metre container in the far corner of the recreation ground to house collapsible practice nets and a motorised roller. The Chair of Planning stated that such an installation would require planning permission. The Gilbert Estate might also claim that their approval was required as they still held restrictive covenants over the recreation ground, albeit on a limited basis. Members were concerned that the chosen location was in fact part of the Biodiversity Strip created with lottery funding, and queried whether there was really no room left in the fairly extensive storage areas the Club already had at the pavilion. The Acting Chair offered to meet Club representatives for further discussions. **ACTION: PS**

RESOLVED – Not to approve the installation of a storage container at the recreation ground

C.708 INSURANCE AGAINST CYBER CRIME

The council considered Report 9 regarding the availability of a new stand-alone policy from WPS Council Guard. It was agreed to request a quotation, which if accepted should run alongside the current general Council Guard policy, due for renewal on 1st June 2019. This should be considered at the March meeting.

ACTION: KL to obtain a quote.

C.709 ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING 2019

The council considered Report 10 proposing a structure and timetable for the 2019 AVM, similar to that used in recent years, but adjusted to take account of the elections taking place on 2nd May 2019. Village clubs and societies, and residents, would as usual be invited to contribute topics for discussion. The topic to be offered by the parish council would be Neighbourhood Planning: Cllr d'Urso would give a presentation. **ACTION: LD.**

RESOLVED -That the proposed structure and timetable for the Annual Village Meeting 2019 be approved.

C.710 QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT

The council considered Report 11 from the Lead Member. It was noted that the current balance in hand was £61,519.61, and as no major items of expenditure were foreseen before the end of the financial year the council should begin the new financial year in a strong position, with a higher level of reserves than originally forecast. This was largely due to deferred capital costs, plus the receipt of £3,000 as an easement fee from Rook Construction. It was anticipated that in 2019/20 actual expenditure would be more tightly linked to budgeted expenditure.

It was noted that the serious reduction in funding for verge cutting from East Sussex County Council for the coming year, and the total cessation of funding for subsequent years, meant that the parish council's input must increase by approx. £1,200 - £1,500 pa. It was agreed that the landowners of the privately owned village greens which currently enjoyed the benefit of free mowing by the council's contractor should be made aware of this shortfall. In future years the council might need to consider requesting contributions.

It was also noted that the Finance page on the council's website should be updated, e.g. with a copy of the new Budget. **ACTION: LD/KL**

Members thanked Cllr Godden for his report.

RESOLVED – That the quarterly Budget report be noted.

C.711 PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS

The council considered Report 12 the Schedule of Payments for February 2019 and Receipts for January 2018. *[Note: the complete Schedule is published on the council website].*

RESOLVED – That the payments totalling £2,214.95 be approved and the clerk be authorised to make the payments

C.712 URGENT ITEMS – None

C.713 REPORTS

The following items were discussed:

- a) County Councillor Shing reported on the following matters:
 - i. East Sussex County Council had approved an increase in council tax of 2.99% for the coming year, the equivalent of 80p extra per week for the average Band D household. At the same time, savings of £5.1 million must be made: there would be reduced spending on school improvements; the subsidy for meals on wheels would be removed; and parking charges would be increased. Even so, the county

expected to be running a deficit of £21.2 million at least until the end of 2022.

- ii. ESCC Country Parks – the county council had decided to divest itself of its country parks, including the Seven Sisters Country Park, to save management costs. The SDNPA might take over the Seven Sisters, but negotiations were still in progress.

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

- b) Planning Committee – the council took note of the draft minutes of the committee meeting held on 15th January 2019. Two emails just received from a planning applicant would be passed to the Planning Committee for consideration.
- c) Rights of Way and Highways – the following were discussed:
 - i. Closure of the Jevington Road – the road would be closed between 18-22 February 2019 due to utility works
 - ii. Displacement of litter bin – a litter bin from the East Dean bus stop on the south side of the A259 had been moved by a person or persons unknown to the north side, where there were now three bins.
ACTION: KL to ask WDC for any information. The bin must be replaced.
- d) Recreation Ground – no further update. **ACTION: KL to send one more reminder to SGN Utilities.**
- e) WDALC Meeting – the council took note of the draft minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2019

RESOLVED – That the above reports (a) – (e) be noted and action taken as discussed

C.714 CORRESPONDENCE

The council considered Report 15 on Correspondence. It was noted that an enquiry had been made about the disappearance of the Cuckmere Bus service 41 timetable from the noticeboards. It was agreed that fresh timetables should be posted.
ACTION: KL

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

C.715 Date of next meeting: Thursday 7th March 2019 at 6.30 pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.53 pm.

Signed.....(ActingChair)

Date.....