



# 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 7<sup>th</sup> March 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 M Keller

**In attendance:** District Cllr J Wilton (Items C.716-C.720); K Larkin (Parish Clerk); S Mills (Administrative Assistant)

*There were no members of the public present.*

*The Chair requested the Vice Chair to serve as the Acting Chair for the meeting, and this was agreed.*

**C.716 ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** - Cllr N Day; Cllr P Hill; County Cllr S Shing; P Williamson (Tree Warden)

**C.717 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:** - None

**C.718 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Acting Chair.

**C.719 REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

District Cllr Wilton reported on the following matters:

- a) Survey by Maria Caulfield MP – an opinion survey was currently in progress on the current lack of a local Post Office, priority ratings for other local services, and other local issues. [Some party political questions were also included].
- b) Moving the cricket square – members advised Cllr Wilton that the Cricket Club's bid for funding from Wealden District Council appeared to have been refused. The parish council had submitted a bid for the same project to the SDNPA 'Projects for the South Downs' fund.
- c) New council homes now occupied – the four new units at The Fridays obtained by Wealden District Council were now occupied.
- d) Litter picking – moves were afoot among residents to do a litter pick
- e) BIFFA contract – Wealden's new waste contractor would take over household collections in the summer.
- f) Council tax increase – Wealden District Council's increase for 2019/20 was in fact below the national average of 4.5%.
- g) £50 charge for emptying brown bins – Wealden believed it would be fair to limit this new charge to residents who required the service, rather than

applying it across the board. Parish councillors questioned this principle: most services were not provided to or used equally by all residents.

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

### **C.720 BUSINESS IN PROGRESS**

The council noted Report 4 on progress since the February meeting, and the following additional points were raised by the clerk:

- a) Deed of Easement – the Deed had now been completed by East Sussex County Council dated 14 February 2019, and the Land Registry entry showing the council's title to the recreation ground had been updated. The council's solicitor had asked whether the council needed to go one stage further and grant any form of easement to the construction company of the new housing development at The Fridays. Members agreed that no further action should be taken.
- b) Friston Build-out – the parish council still awaited information as to who would be dealing with the design stage on behalf of East Sussex County Council.
- c) Verge in Downsview Lane – a further quote had been obtained: £300 per cut, with the recommendation that one cut should be done on the verge as soon as possible, and a second done in the autumn after the nesting season, when a machine with a side arm should be used to cut back the hedge. In future years a single cut at the end of winter (before the end of February) should suffice. It was agreed that this quote could be accepted (subject to satisfactory insurance) **ACTON: KL**. A question had been raised as to whether Downsview Lane had been correctly classified as a private road, and therefore not maintainable by Eastbourne Borough Council, but members agreed that immediate action was needed to maintain the verge and hedge
- d) Signatures required – (1) Village Hall Hire Agreement: needed to be signed in two places (approved at the February meeting); (2) Refill campaign Memorandum of Understanding: needed to be signed on behalf of the parish (also approved at the February meeting); (3) Cricket Club Hire Agreement 2019: the existing Agreement made provision for automatic renewal provided that none of the conditions had been breached. No conditions had been breached, and no amendments were required. It was therefore agreed that the same Agreement should be updated and signed for 2019 **ACTION: PS to sign all three documents.**
- e) Annual Village Meeting – the clerk apologised for the fact that some actions ordered at the February meeting were not yet complete. In particular, invitations for the AVM 2019 had not yet gone out. They would be issued shortly. **ACTION: KL**

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

### **C.721 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The council considered Report 5 containing the minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meeting held on 19 February 2019, including the appended draft Terms of Reference of the Steering Group. The Chair of the Group reported that it

had been possible to enlarge the membership, and more members were expected to attend the next meeting. The next meeting would be held on Thursday 21 March 2019, and due to the difficulty of obtaining a meeting room it might be necessary to hire a private dining room at The Tiger (permissible as the Group was not required to allow for public participation). This was agreed.

RESOLVED – That the Terms of Reference of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group be approved

RESOLVED – That an application be submitted to the South Downs National Park Authority to have the area of the parish formally designated as a Neighbourhood Plan area.

Members agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan should have a designated page on the parish council's website, and that Vision ICT should be requested to enable Stephanie Mills to add items to the website. **ACTION: KL/SM**

#### **C.722 TREES IN MICHELDENE ROAD**

The council considered Report 6, with an annexed map of Tree Preservation Order areas in the parish. These included the line of false acacia trees near the entrance to Michel Dene Road, on the eastern verge behind Gore Farm Close. Much dead wood could be seen in the canopies, some overhanging the road and adjacent buildings. It was recommended that the dead wood be removed for health and safety reasons. The ownership of the land on which the trees stood had lapsed to the Crown and the trees were effectively unmanaged. It was therefore proposed that the parish council should undertake the work. Members agreed that the Tree Warden should be authorised to obtain quotes with a view to work being carried out at the end of July.

RESOLVED – That the Tree Warden be authorised to obtain quotes for removing dead wood from the false acacia trees in Michel Dene Road.

#### **C.723 PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS**

The council considered Report 7 the Schedule of Payments for March 2019. There had been no receipts in February 2019 [*Note: the complete Schedule is published on the council website*].

RESOLVED – That the payments totalling £2,511.56 be approved and the clerk be authorised to make the payments

#### **C.724 URGENT ITEMS – None**

#### **C.725 REPORTS**

The following items were discussed:

- a) Planning Committee – the council took note of the draft minutes of the committee meeting held on 19 February 2019. The Chair of the Committee confirmed that the application for an access track to serve Crowlink Corner was on the agenda for the SDNPA Planning Committee on 14 March, as

expected. It was agreed that Cllr d’Urso should attend and speak on behalf of the council if she were available.

- b) Finance – the bank balance at the end of February 2019 was £58, 775.36
- c) Rights of Way and Highways – the Acting Chair reported that he and Cllr Hill had met Mr Davies Gilbert to discuss The Drove. In view of the fact that there was now a tarmac path linking Lower Street to the recreation ground and play area, it was recommended that the parish council should not take further action to claim that there was a historic right of way along The Drove, linking the recreation ground to the centre of the village via the Went Way. This recommendation was made without prejudice to the council’s opinion that The Drove was indeed a public right of way. It simply reflected the fact that it would not be a good use of public money to pursue a claim at the present time, possibly to a Lands Tribunal, when the safety issue had already been addressed. However, some interconnectivity had been lost, and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group could address that issue. It was recognised that useful research work had been done by residents who might wish to pursue a claim for recognition of the right of way independently.
- d) Recreation Ground – the Acting Chair reported that a quote of £800 plus VAT had been obtained for the repair of the kitchen ceiling and the damaged wall panels in the male changing room and the main hall. A further quote for insulating the main roof and plaster boarding it etc. had come in at £3,500. Members agreed that the £800 quote for repairs should be accepted, and the insulation work deferred. The Lead Member for Fund Raising reported that Calor was now offering community grants from £1,000 up to £5,000 conditional on match funding of up to 50%. It was agreed that an application should be made if the project met the criteria. **ACTION: PS/LD**

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

**C.726 CORRESPONDENCE**

The council considered Report 10 on Correspondence.

RESOLVED - That the Correspondence report be noted

**C.727 Date of next meeting: Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019** at 6.30 pm in the Village Hall.

*There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.08 pm.*

Signed..... (Acting Chair)

Date.....