

**PEVENSEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**The Minutes of the COUNCIL MEETING held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at**  
**St. Wilfrid's Baptist Church, Pevensey Bay, commencing at 6.45PM**

**Present:** Councillor's Lowton (Chairman), MacKinnon, Peagood, Beaney, Pursglove, Howard, Rabbitts, Gibson, Beck Withey.

S Mosedale (Clerk)

**81. Apologies for Absence**

Councillor Slater sent his apologies for his absence which were duly accepted by the Parish Council.

**82. Motion to suspend Standing Orders:**

It was proposed by Cllr MacKinnon and seconded Cllr Beck to suspend Standing Orders.

Council **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders. All agreed

**83. Election of Co-optive Councillors.**

There were four candidates who applied for the two positions. One candidate sent her apologies. However, her CV was circulated to Council prior to meeting and it was agreed that her application would still be considered.

Each of the 3 candidates present gave a short presentation on their background and reasons for wishing to become a Councillor.

Council then had the option to ask the candidates any questions.

Cllr Lowton thanked the candidates for presentations and asked them to leave the room, while council discuss their applications and form a vote.

Cllr Lowton explained the process to Councillors.

A vote was taken. The Clerk announced there were two clear candidates that had the majority of the votes. Nuala Geary and Pauline Turner.

Both councillors signed Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presents of the Clerk and Council members.

The Chairman welcomed the new councillors to the Parish Council.

**84. Councils Agreement on the Draft Sports Club Lease.**

The lease was circulated to council prior to the meeting.

Council members raise several comments and amendments that they felt should be added to the draft lease.

Cllr Lowton thanked council for the additional comments and explained that one or two parts of the draft lease will need to be clarified and amended and the lease will be brought back to council in March to be agreed.

### **85. Councils Decisions on the removal of 2 BT phone boxes.**

The Clerk summarised the email from WDC Planning department explaining that BT have issued a consultation exercise to remove telephone boxes. BT have indicated that they wish to remove two telephone boxes in Pevensey Bay. One on the JCT of Western Road and Eastbourne Road and the seconded is located on Grenville Road.

Proposed by Cllr MacKinnon, seconded by Cllr Beck that council allow BT to remove the two telephone boxes.

Council **RESOLVED** to allow BT to remove the two telephone boxes from Pevensey Bay. All agreed.

### **86. Contracts for the Parish Maintenance and Parish Planters.**

Cllr Beaney declared a pecuniary interest under this item and left the meeting during the discussion.

Cllr MacKinnon's paper was circulated to council prior to the meeting. Cllr MacKinnon summarised her paper which Council noted.

Cllr Rabbitts had commented on the paper prior to the meeting. Council noted the comments.

Cllr Lowton summarised the following points in the paper which Council needed to consider, as follows:

- To stop paid recreation ground checks and for this role to be done by councillors on a monthly basis.
- Council employ the two preferred contractors and for them to be tasked on an ad hoc basis by the Clerk.
- To seek sponsorship for the planters.
- To continue with the annual ROSPA inspection.
- To check the benches, twittens and the bridge into Anderida twice a year.
- For councillors to check the urban verge grass cutting
- To charge St Nicholas Church for any grass cutting they require.

Council members felt that the relevant safety documents need to be in place for contractors and councillors. There were concerns if council may not get sponsorship for the planters and why there are two contractors. Other concerns raised, that this would cause more work for the Clerk, potentially a raise in the costs of the maintenance and the payment for two contractors.

There was a discussion on the two different pay rates for the two contractors with differing views on whether they should be paid a different hourly rate or not.

Cllr Lowton explained by employing two contractors it gives the Clerk the flexibility to get the work done and to task the work that is deemed appropriate to each contractor. He went on to say that the two tenders received by the contractors, both tendered in an open process and both stated their own rate of pay per hour.

Cllr MacKinnon explained that the contracts will be reviewed in a year. She also pointed out that delegated councillors are already tasked to check the recreation grounds and report back at every committee meeting and there is a check list to follow.

Cllr Lowton recommended that council accept the recommendation in the paper for council to seek sponsorship for the boat planters. However, if this is unsuccessful it should be brought back to council.

Proposed by Cllr MacKinnon, seconded by Cllr Gibson. That council adopts the recommendations and principles stated in the paper.

Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the recommendations and principle stated in the paper. Carried 7/4 with Cllrs Peasgood, Howard, Pursglove and Rabbitts against.

#### **87. Councils agreement on the Media Policy.**

The Clerks report to council is included as integral part of these minutes

The report and policy were circulated to council prior to the meeting. Council noted the report and policy.

Proposed by Cllr MacKinnon, seconded by Cllr Gibson that council adopt the Media Policy.

Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the media policy. Carried 7/3 with Cllrs Turner, Pursglove and Geary abstaining.

#### **88. Correspondence**

The Clerk read an email from Mr Slater on behalf of Health 4 life CIC, seeking consent for Pevensey Parish Council to sponsor the first of the series of talks leading up to the History festival using the grant money given by the Parish Council.

Cllr Rabbitts asked if the grant money was held by council and then given as and when something was done. He was also concerned that this money will be given to a private individual and what happens if the company go bust.

The Clerk clarified that it will not be given to a private individual that it will be given the charity Health 4 Life CIC and the grants are issues later in the year.

Cllr Lowton explained in terms of the Health 4 Life CIC grant, it has gone through the same process as the other grants applied and had been agreed by council. He added that all successful grant applications have to provide council with evidence on how the grant money is spent in accordance with the grant policy.

Cllr Beaney asked when did full council agree to the grants. He went on to say in previous years a vote on the grants was done by full council.

Cllr Lowton explained it was agreed by full council during the precept accepting process.

The Clerk explained the recommendation of the annual grants budget was presented to F & GP committee and was agreed in December 2019. Then final budget was present to full council in January 2020.

Cllr Beaney said that in previous years the grants are voted on and whether the rest of the council accepts what the grant committee recommended. He felt this hasn't taken place.

Cllr Lowton advised he will ask the Clerk to review the process followed this year to determine if council policy had been correctly followed or not. However, he felt the correct process had been followed for all the grants. He went on to say to Cllr Beaney that as a member of the grant committee

he had been very able to raise any concerns at the time the grants were considered by F & G P and/or council but he hadn't.

Cllr Beaney said he was concerned about the process and wanted to propose that council withdraw the grant to Health 4 Life as he felt the money is going to be given to one individual to set up as a scheme to run on his own accord.

Cllr Lowton explained the grants committee voted on this application.

Cllrs Rabbitts and Beaney were concerned that two members of the grants committee were allocated money for things they wished to do.

Cllr Lowton explained all Mr Slater was asking for, was to ask councils consent to say this is sponsored by the Parish Council in line with his grant. He went on to say if Cllr Beaney had any concerns about how the grant was awarded and or approved subsequently, he should have raised this at the time when council were considering precept. He added that Cllr Beaney was fully sighted on the application being a member of the grants committee and the concerns weren't raised prior to this meeting, therefore Cllr Lowton did not allow the proposal to go through.

Cllr Beaney wanted it recorded that the Chairman would not allow his proposal to go ahead.

Cllr Lowton agreed and reiterated the rationale as to why Cllrs Beaney's proposal did not go forward. He went on to say Cllr Beaney was a member of the grants committee that considered the Health 4 Life grant application; therefore, he was fully sighted on it. He was present at the meetings when the budgets were presented and approved and could have raised his concerns then when council could have heard them and considered them fully.

Cllr Lowton added, to make sure that Cllrs Beaney's concerns are addressed, the Clerk would review the process that was followed in the approval of the grants as recommended by the grants committee. He said that if the Clerk found that due process had been followed correctly then there is no cause for it to be brought back to council. However if the Clerk found that the processes were not followed correctly, she will inform the Chairman and the matter would be brought back to council to be dealt with in the proper manner and a proposal can be made at that stage.

The Clerk read an email from the Pentacle Drummers, requesting to use Wallsend Recreation Ground on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2020 for their summer event. The Clerk explained that she has been in contact with the Sports Club to see if the ground was available.

Council raised a number of concerns including that the ground would not be suitable, the Sports Club will be using the ground on that date and that the Pentacle Drummers requested to have a bonfire.

With the concerns raised council could not approve the request.

The Clerk advised that the internal audit was booked for the 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020 and the Annual Return will be brought to council in June.

The Clerk explained she had received a request from a resident to scatter a relative's ashes in Wallsend Road Recreation Ground near to the Cattle Market Car Park. The Clerk explained she cannot find any laws against this and has checked with the Environment Agency if they had any objections.

Council agreed that the ashes could be scattered on the ground. However, they must avoid any of pitches used by the sports club and that the ashes must be scattered not buried.

The Clerk reported that she received an email explaining a resident had tripped on a broken tarmac path. The Clerk explained she has written back to the resident and reported the broken tarmac path to East Sussex County Council.

The Clerk advised that she has received an email from Cllr MacKinnon about the Eden Project and that Eastbourne Borough Council are embarking on exploratory talk. It was suggested that council write to Eastbourne Borough Council and Wealden District Council emphasising the importance of Pevensey Levels.

**56. Motion to reinstate standing orders**

Proposed by Cllr Pursglove seconded Cllr MacKinnon. To reinstate Standing orders.

Council **RESOLVED** to reinstate the Standing Orders. All Agreed

Council Meeting closed at 8.20pm

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