

PEVENSEY PARISH COUNCIL
The minutes of the COUNCIL MEETING held online
on 6th October 2020 commencing at 7.00PM

Present: Councillors: Lowton (Chairman), Beck, Gibson, Howard, MacKinnon, Peasgood, Pursglove, Turner and Beaney.

County Councillor: Liddiard.

Wealden District Councillors: Cade, Doodes and Clerk.

One member of the public was in attendance.

S Mosedale (Clerk).

Cllr Lowton welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting of the council and reminded attendees of the meeting protocols.

159. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received Councillors Rabbitts and Geary. These were duly accepted by the Parish Council.

160. Disclosure of interest

Nothing was declared.

161. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 1st September 2020 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and were signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Pursglove, seconded by Cllr MacKinnon and approved by all present who had attended the previous meeting.

162. Local Police Issues

The police report had been circulated with the agenda. It was noted that there was no mention of the community meeting that took place in Wallsend Road in August.

The Chairman highlighted the points laid out in the report including any issues of Anti-social behaviour. The contact information for Sussex Police Operation Blitz is 07770 700642.

163. Open Forum

The member of the public present was invited to speak to council. They outlined what they intended for the Mint House and sought feedback from council on what council might find acceptable.

Cllr Lowton declared a personal interest under the agenda item as he is a neighbour to the Mint House. However, he continued to chair the discussion without commenting.

Council welcomed the ideas the developers had on the Mint House. However, they expressed that it was key that the Mint House remained in keeping with the environment of the village, that they take into consideration the potential increase in traffic and the vehicle access to the back of the site.

Members felt it would be beneficial if the front of the Mint House were restored to enhance the historic part of the village.

It was suggested that the site could possibly go back as an antique shop, crafts, or offices.

The Chairman thanked councillors for their comments and advised the member of public that council would look at any future planning applications on their own merit.

164. County Councillor's report

Cllr Liddiard provided a further update on his report submitted to council on the 1st September:

- There is a meeting arranged on the 16th October with the Executive Director of road safety and the cabinet member. This is to address a number of concerns raised by council and residents with regards to, heavy goods vehicles going through Pevensey and Pevensey Bay, for a crossing assessment to be done in Pevensey, to reduce the speed limit to 20 mph through the villages, to have more double yellow lines painted and the issues with the traffic light phasing at Stone Cross crossroads.
- Work has continued with the officers at ESCC to appoint new School Governors.
- A number of adult social care case have been dealt with, with a satisfactory conclusion.
- Trading Standards have been made aware of the increased street traders, especially in Beachlands.
- Both the County Councillor and District Councillors have been dealing with the caravan situated in the Pevensey Village and a more suitable location is being looked at.
- With regards to the County's finances the current overspend for last month was £36.5 million this was spent on the pandemic, PPE and various roles that the County Council fulfil. £29.7 million has been refunded by settlements from the Government for offsetting the cost of the pandemic. £3.338 million has recently been spent. However, a further £10.2 million was still to be recovered from the Government. The funds had come out of the County's reserves to the fight pandemic.

Members raised ongoing concerns about the increase in housing developments in the neighbouring Parishes and that there still has been no solution to mitigate and calm the traffic flow through Pevensey village.

Cllr Liddard reassured Council that this has been an ongoing issue that he has raised with the County for a considerable amount of time. He has been assured that various options will be looked into during the meeting on the 16th October.

Members raised concerns about the length of the grass along Wallsend Road A259 from Pevensey Bay to the level crossing and requested for a special cut to make the area look presentable.

Cllr Liddard will raise this with County.

165. District Councillors' reports

Cllr Cade provided an update which included:

- An overview of the Climate Action day which took place on the 3rd September has been circulated. The issue itself is a huge undertaking, but the event has proved to be successful.
- Business grants and other reliefs have now ended. However, if Council are aware of any businesses struggling it is worth contacting WDC to see if they can provide help.
- WDC have extended the non-eviction process until the end of the financial year. If there is a council tenant in arrears due to the lockdown, then they are advised to engage with WDC to help prevent an eviction. This also applies to the private rented sector, tenants struggling due to the lockdown can approach WDC for support and help to manage their situation. However, support can only be provided if arrears have occurred during the lockdown period and not before and some effort of payment has been made.

- WDC have created a new scheme for financial help for anyone who goes into a local lockdown or self-isolation with a low income. A scheme is being created for businesses who are forced to close due to a local lockdown. This will be ready for the 12th October.
- Cllr Cade had recently attended a zoom meeting with the new coastal special interest group. The meeting provided an update on the amount of new funds that will be applied to coastal flooding and coastal defence. Details are still to be obtained for how it will affect the Pevensey and Birling Gap areas. There was also a presentation on suicide in coastal areas, WDC have agreed to be on the panel to look into the matters.

Cllr Clark provided an update which includes:

- Cllrs Cade and Clark had a recent meeting with Ian Thomas from the Environment agency with regards the running of Environment Agency. A meeting is planned with the local MP, District and County Councillors to discuss next stage and way forward.
- Concerns have been raised about vans that have appeared on the triangle section of the Castle View park. This has been raised with WDC Planning and updates will be forwarded to the Clerk.
- Cllr Clark is aware if the Moorings planning application but has not received any correspondence from residents. However, will assist residents on request.
- Cllr Clark had attended a WDC standards meeting, which showed an increase in complaints, mainly involving Parish Councils. It has been advised that Councillors attend training when it is available.
- It is being discussed, that future meetings will be done online, as it easier for people to attend and that all Parish Councillors will need to have internet access.

Cllr Doodes provided an update which included:

- WDC reception is now open by appointment and due to the situation they are receiving larger number or calls.
- The rate of suicides in the coastal area has reduced due to the work from the local Chaplain's and police and that incidents are not recorded by the press.
- WDC meetings are still be conducted by zoom and are being very well attended.
- The Chairman of the Council duties are still being done virtually.
- Work has begun on the agenda for the Parish Conference which will be held virtually on the 18th November. Details are to be confirmed.

Members informed and asked the District Councillors the following.

- Thanked the District Councillors for the update and felt residents would welcome the non-eviction process being extended.
- Parish Councils are not resourced to provide the technology to improve the accessibility for the public to attend an online meeting. WDC might consider providing funding for Parish Councils to aid with this.
The District Councillors explained WDC have discussed this and are looking into improving their IT facilities as they are aware of how successful the virtual meetings are. Cllr Doodes will look into any potential future funding to help Parish Councils with online meetings. The Chairman suggested that WDC may wish to consider piloting the idea at Pevensey.
- Members asked has there been any further updates on the Highstreet restart initiative. Cllr Cade explained the research is still ongoing. However, he will provide an update in due course.

The Chairman thanked the County and District Councillors for their reports.

The County Councillor left the meeting at 19:49pm

166. Clerks Update

The Clerk provided updates on the following, including agenda items from the previous meeting held on the 1st September.

- 141 – Waiting for a response from the PSCO with regards to a community meeting being held in Pevensey Bay
- 144 – Waiting for a response from Westham Parish Council with regards to working together to tackle speeding through the two villages.
- 146 – Waiting for a response from WDC Business rate manager about the Discretionary Grant.
- 147 - The information Centre advised they will be opening 4 days a week subject to Government regulations and the volunteer car services is back online. They explained the grant from the Parish Council would still be required.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that council would approve the awarding of the grant to the Information Centre. Proposed by Cllr MacKinnon, seconded by Cllr Beaney. Motion was unanimously agreed

- 153 – Regretfully, WDC are not able to supply Cllr Beaney with IT equipment.
- 158 – The Council interim Audit will commence on the 20th October.
- The Community Payback Scheme are still not able to provide transport for the teams due to the government guidance. However, they are advised to remain in contact.
- If council would provide the two Christmas trees as budgeted for. Council agreed.
- The Clerk will be on annual leave from the week commencing 12th October.

The member of public left the meeting at 7.45pm.

167. Half Yearly Review of Councils Finances

The report had been circulated with the agenda and the Chairman highlighted points within the report. The Chairman informed council, due to the unforeseen maintenance and repair works required around the Parish Council need to be mindful about any future spending.

It was pointed out that the budget heading 'maintenance of play equipment', shows as an overspend. But the council received a grant before the end of the financial year which covered the costs. The report will be updated to reflect this.

Council noted the report and comments.

The District Councillors left the meeting at 8.30pm.

168. Update on the meeting with WDC Planning Department RE Holy Rood.

It was agreed to defer this agenda item to the end of the meeting after the exclusion of the press and public.

169. Repairs to Eastbourne Bus Shelter.

The Clerk reported the brickwork will be completed this week and then the woodwork would start. The estimated timeframe for the works to be complete will be three weeks. However, there may be a delay getting the new clear acrylic sheet due to the pandemic.

The Clerk reported she has received information on how the bus shelter was damaged and this would be passed on to the police.

Members asked if there were any plans to replace the acrylic sheets in other bus stops.

The Clerk explained this will need to be included in next year's budget.

170. Rebuilding of the Parish Councils Website so that it is WCAG 2.1 accessible.

The Chairman explained at the SALC Chairman's meeting it was advised all public body websites needed to be WCAG 2.1 accessible.

The Clerk informed council that the current website is not compliant with the WCAG 2.1 and to make it accessible the website would need to be rebuilt. Therefore, the Clerk is seeking quotes to have site rebuilt and this will be included in the council precept budget 2021-2020.

To explain the situation in the meantime, the website now has an Accessibility Statement page.

171. Update on the litter pick held on the 26th and 27th September.

The updated report had been circulated to Councillors and will be circulated on the council's social media site and website.

The Chairman and Council members who attend the litter pick provided a further update on the event.

The Chairman thanked the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Recreation and Beach for their efforts to make the event successful.

172. Report to Council to continue to pay for the dog waste bags

The Clerk's report had been circulated with the agenda.

Members **Noted** the report. However, it was suggested as the council do not manage Sea Road Car Park that it might be worth not refilling the dispenser. Members agreed that the dispenser in Wallsend Road is the main concern as the consumption is unmanageable. It was suggested that a way forward would be to communicate and highlight the problem and the financial constraints to public. It appeared that some people were taking large numbers of bags for their own use elsewhere rather than using them in an emergency as was intended.

Therefore, it was **RESOLVED** that the dispenser bags would stop being issued in Wallsend Road before the end of the financial year and council wouldn't purchase anymore bags. An explanation and reasoning would be communicated to the public and the remaining bags would be rationed out. Proposed by Cllr Beaney. Seconded by Cllr Pursglove. Carried 7/2 with Cllrs Beck and Turner against

173. Correspondence

The Clerk provided details of correspondence received as below:

- An email from SSALC has been issued to support vulnerable people in East Sussex. The Clerk will forward this on to Council.
- A local resident has advised that there are some trees with potential Dutch Elm Disease that are on Parish Council Land. The Tree Warden and Cllr Gibson will meet with the Tree Surgeon and report back.
- Concerns have been raised by residents about the Moorings Planning application and Councils comments. The Clerk has responded referring residents to the District Councillor of the Ward and the Planning Authority
- A resident in Castle Drive has requested if the Council would remove the wooden posts from the pathway leading up to Dukelands.
Members explained that this pathway has been maintained by the Parish Council for many years and the posts are there to stop cars being parked on the grass. It has been noticed that

5 of the posts have since been removed. Members felt that the posts should be replaced and for the council to continue to maintain the land.

Therefore, it was **RESOLVED** that council would replace the 5 posts that have been removed and to continue to maintain the land. To respond to the resident and adjoining neighbours explaining if they choose to remove them again, then they would be held liable. Proposed by Cllr Beaney. Seconded by Cllr Howard. Carried 8/1 with Cllr Turner abstaining

- A report had been passed to the Chairman of Recreation and Beach about a potential paddle board business being run from the Val Princes Road and potential using the councils' beach. The report has been passed on to WDC.
- A report from WDC explaining that Biffa have invested in and implemented an electronic database system in the cabs. There is also 4th vehicle that is currently being used to help with the workload.

174. Matter of Urgent Public Safety (MUPS)

It was reported that the bus stop nearest to north of the level crossing on Wallsend Road heading south, is covered up by trees.

The Clerk will report this to ESCC.

175. Any plans received from WDC

No plans received.

175. Chairman's Remarks

With regret the Chairman explained that Cllr Withey has resigned from council. Council thanked Mr Withey for his efforts and contribution towards council over the many years he has served.

The Chairman explained council now has two vacancies, but councils current position remains to allow Covid to pass before co-opting to fill the vacancies in a more formal way. However, the Chairman advised if councillors are aware of anyone who would be suitable for the positions to bring this to the attention of the council.

The Chairman provided a verbal report on the Climate Action Day he attended. He highlighted that there is a Climate emergency and felt that council will need consider what can be done to support and encourage change. He invited any councillors who are passionate about the Climate change to put their name forward and consider what can be done at a Parish level.

176. Orders of Payment

Cllrs Beaney and MacKinnon declared a pecuniary interest under this item.

The listing appears at the end of these minutes as an integral part. Proposed Cllr. Beck seconded Cllr. Howard to accept the figures as presented.

Council **RESOLVED** to accept the figures as presented. All agreed, with Cllr's Beaney and Mackinnon abstaining.

17. Advisory Officers reports

- **Sea Defences and Water Management** – Cllr MacKinnon attended a zoom meeting with the Water Management Board. They have received some extra funding and are hoping to install the water pumps in 2021 to help provide water into Dukelands. The Water Board are very concerned about the amount of development in the Southern part of Wealden due to the water and wastewater management and potential land flooding. Cllr Peasgood explained

there has been a lot shingle loss due to recent storms, but the Environment Agency are trying to restore the loss.

- **St. Wilfrid's Hall** – Cllr MacKinnon reported there are currently 2 users to the hall. The pandemic has had an impact on the use of the hall. However, it is ready and safe to be used. The committee are still looking for funding and have been successful with some grants.
- **Ethel Wood Community Centre** – The Clerk reported there is about 3 or 4 users to the hall. The Clerk raised concerns about the amount of workload that is required on the hall and that she is struggling with getting it all done.
- **St. John's Trust** – A Scheme has been prepared to improve the forecourt of six bungalows in Westham, which will improve access and appears. Negotiation are taking place to gain a financial benefit for the trust. However, this depends on planning being granted in Stone Cross.
- **Town Trust** – Nothing to report
- **Sports Club** – Cllr Lowton reported the following items have been brought to the attention of the sports club. Grass cutting being left in the ditches, old goal posts to be removed and the rubble to be removed from behind the pavilion. Members have noticed earth being dumped in the ditches behind the pavilion. Cllr Lowton asked the Clerk to follow this up.
- **WDALC** – Cllr MacKinnon reported a Zoom meeting is planned for 14th October.
- **Memorial Hall** – Cllr Beaney reported the nursery has started and the brownies are due to start next week. The committee are not taking on any new groups presently.
- **Tree Warden** – Cllr Beaney reported he has a meeting on Friday with Tree Surgeon. Four trees have been removed which were not on Parish Council Land. Cllr Beaney has obtained a detailed report of land boundaries near to the Anderida site. A copy will be given to the Clerk.

It was **RESOLVED** that in accordance with Standing Order 3 (f) and the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, Section 1, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, the public and press were excluded from the discussion of the following item.

168. Update on the meeting with WDC Planning Department RE Holy Rood (deferred from earlier in the meeting)

The report had been circulated with the agenda to councillors.

The Chairman summarised the report and gave some background information on previous discussions on the Holy Rood Land.

It was **RESOLVED** to agree the recommendations outline during the discussion. Proposed by Cllr Peasgood, seconded by Cllr Beaney and unanimously agreed.

Date of next meeting will be on Tuesday 3rd November 2020, with the format to be confirmed.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.34 pm.