

PEVENSEY PARISH COUNCIL
The minutes of the COUNCIL MEETING held online
on 2nd February 2021 commencing at 7.00PM

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

Wealden District Councillors: Cade, Doodles and Clark

County Councillor: Liddiard

S Mosedale (Clerk).

2 members of the public

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

280. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Rabbitts.

Apologies were received from Cllr Geary, as she would have to leave the meeting at 8pm.

It was **RESOLVED** that council would accept Cllrs Rabbitts and Geary apologies for this meeting. Motion was unanimously agreed.

281. Disclosure of interest

Nothing was declared.

282. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 5th January 2021 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and were signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr MacKinnon, seconded by Cllr Turner and approved by all present who had attended the previous meeting.

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 21st December 2020 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and were signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr MacKinnon, seconded by Cllr Beck and approved by all present who had attended the previous meeting.

283. Local Police Issues

The Clerk had nothing to report.

284. Open Forum

There were two members of the public present at the meeting.

One member of the public raised concerns about the amount of dog fouling that's around the Parish and queried how the public could be encouraged to pick it up. He has raised this with WDC as the dog bins in Beachlands were overflowing. These have now been cleared.

The Chairman and Council members explained that this is an ongoing issue for the Parish Council. There have been a number of initiatives and programs run by the council to tackle dog fouling including 4 litter picks a year, the annual dog show and installing more dog bins and waste bags. It was explained if there were any issues with bins not being cleared to contact the Clerk.

Members explained that it's crucial that the public report incidents of dog fouling to WDC as it provides evidence that there is a problem within Pevensey.

Cllr Clark explained taking photos is a way of providing evidence, also if members of the public witnesses a dog fouling being left, they should confront the dog owner. However, only if they feel able to without putting themselves in any difficulty. She went on to say, it has been very successful in areas where members of the public have been proactive in policing incidents of dog fouling.

The Chairman advised the Council are holding a litter pick on the 20th March 2021 and the Clerk will provide details in due course.

285. County Councillors report

Cllr Liddiard provided an update which included:

- With regards to the Bay Hotel planning application. Cllr Liddiard explained he had submitted an objection letter, as part of his role as the local County Councillor and the comments from East Sussex Highways were due imminently. Cllr Liddiard also spoke with the Planning and Parking departments at ESCC, to make them fully aware of the views of local residents.
- With regards to the fencing in Wallsend Road. The Cabinet Portfolio holder advised that the repairs to the fence will be repaired shortly and the fly tipping had been addressed.
- Flooding on Eastbourne Road had been dealt with by Southern Water. They have also looked at the Dykes and their view is that the Dykes are clear and have discussed the flooding issues with the developer directly. WDC are aware and are also taking actions.
- A meeting with the Parish Council is still to be arranged in due course.
- A number of meetings have taken place with regards to the NHS Vaccine roll out, which are ongoing.
- Cllr Liddiard is monitoring the effects and impact of young people with regards to the school closures. He explained it has been very encouraging to see the number of laptops that were distributed across the county and locally. Also, weekly updates have been provided with regards to children receiving the best possible educational options. Both the Schools and the County are monitoring the situation closely and are dealing with any issues promptly. Cllr Liddiard is satisfied with the current efforts.
- ESCC are currently working through the budget and will be finalised next week. The County is very mindful of the impact of Covid on families and individuals and are trying to keep any increases to Council Taxes as low as possible.
- Further road improvements are planned for Coast Road and more information will be provided in due course.
- Lastly, it was encouraging that members of the public requested signage from Cllr Liddard to put up with regards to tackling dog fouling.

A member of the public left the meeting at 7.30pm

Members asked if there were any updates on the speed measuring equipment that has been requested.

Cllr Liddiard is still waiting for further information to come.

286. District Councillors' reports

Cllr Clark's report is an integral part of these minutes.

Cllr Cade provided an update which included:

- The Government initiatives to support businesses and individuals are continuously changing as the measures are adjusted to deal with the effects of the virus. Unfortunately, the

Government has had to cater for different circumstances and grants are becoming more complicated. The Benefits team at WDC are dealing with 12 different schemes. Council are urged to continue to monitor the WDC website with regards to changes. If anyone has queries or are unable to find anything relevant, they are urged to contact the benefits team. The systems are working as over 100 calls a day are being dealt with.

- WDC have designed a simple diagram, which helps direct people to find the support they are looking for.
- WDC staff are still mainly working from home and have not significantly been affected by the virus. However, some departments such as legal and planning are behind with their workload. Complaints have been raised about the delays with land registry searches. This is due to the stamp duty relief coming to an end shortly. This has caused a surge in applications and WDC do not have the staff or resources to deal with the volume of work. To assist with this WDC have taken on three new staff members.
- With regards to housing, current restrictions have affected the ability of WDC being able to deal with issues with tenants in the retirement courts and tenants in the council houses. This is mainly related to anti-social behaviour. However, this will be dealt with. As a result of the virus two residents from the retirement courts have passed away. WDC are working hard to keep the virus out of the retirement courts.
- The latest figures for covid deaths in Wealden are 236.
- An initiative has been set up in Westham, in Church Bailey. The charity ASPIRE has been set up to help deal with people who have spinal injuries. It has enabled patients to be rehabilitated so that they can go home safely.
- The consultation documents on the local plan have been circulated. This will be a long process with other chances to submit comments.
- The social housing white paper which has been produced as a result of the Grenfell Tower fire enquiry, applies to WDC being a local authority. WDC are in strong position as most of the issues raised are already in place.
- Cllr Cade has been working with the County Councillor to have the Caravan moved from Church Lane. To help resolve this issue Cllr Cade has been in discussions ESCC and the Highways Enforcement Team and encourage them to have it moved on. Cllr Cade is very aware of the concerns raised by the Parish Council and residents and has reassured council he will deal with it this matter.
- Lastly, there has been resurging difficulties within a part of Pevensey with regards to antisocial behaviour. Cllr Cade will provide updates to the Clerk and the Chairman of council with regards to action being taken.

Cllr Doodes provided an update which included:

- The elections on May 6th are still going ahead. Although WDC and the Local Government Associations have concerns due to the huge amount of difficult work that needs to done before May 6th.
- With regards to dog fouling. Hooe have found spraying with yellow paint highly successful as it identified the irresponsible dog owners and fouling in the area soon stopped.
- Cllr Doodes has been speaking with David and Michelle at WDC regarding the Pevensey Sports Pavilion funding. They have been in contact with Parish Council members and obtained information to enable the project to move forward. Michelle is aware the council are looking for funding and will be in touch.

Members raised concerns about the idea of putting bars on the outside where the Co-Op is planned to be as it will discourage disabled people from parking there.

Cllr Clark clarified that disabled badge holders allows people to park on double yellow lines as long as it isn't considered dangerous.

The Chairman raised concerns about the issues with the planning and legal departments at WDC. He went on to say, this goes far beyond local searches and affects potential house buyers as it could have a significant impact on their financing. He felt that WDC need to take this in account.

The Chairman added there are local concerns about the length of time the validation team are taking. He felt that the validations shouldn't be taking 4 to 5 weeks and this issue needs to be addressed.

Cllr Cade expressed that WDC are well aware of short comings and delays and explained it's a matter of resources. He added the legal department are under pressure not only with housing but other matters involving Covid.

Cllr Doodes added WDC are lobbying the Government with regards to agreeing, once the application has been received by the local authority and not dealt with by the end of the stamp duty holiday, it be taken into account and won't affect the application. The District Councillors will keep council informed.

Members asked if there had been any further update with regards to the Sea Defence Contract.

Cllr Clark explained that Huw Merriman contacted Cllr Clark advising the Minister has a requested meeting with him.

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

Cllr Clark and Liddiard left the meeting at 07.55pm

287. Clerks Update

The Clerk provided updates on the following, including agenda items from the previous meetings.

Agenda 212 – The allotment society has been in direct contact with ESCC with regards to the foot path. They have put a proposal forward to repair the footpath and are awaiting a response.

Agenda 242 – It was agreed due to current restrictions that the Vehicle meet would not be able to go ahead in March.

Other Updates

- WDC Enforcement Team advised the following on the Land adjacent to Pevensey Station: An investigation on the breach of planning control at the land adjacent to Pevensey train station on Wallsend Road. Network Rail had recently sold the land on to a gentleman that owns a landscaping company and he had cleared it to use as storage. He was not aware of the need of a planning application and has now submitted an application for the change of use to B8 Storage and Distribution. The application is currently awaiting validation. The enforcement case will be closed while the application is being determined.
- Covid signs have been replaced in the 3 recreation grounds
- A member of the public reported her daughter had put her leg through a missing plank on the wooden timber frame in Wallsend Road. The little girl is well, and the contractor repaired the timber frame on Monday.
- A report was sent to ESCC Highways department with regards to the condition of Coast Road. The response was the location had recently been inspected and repairs that meet the safety intervention levels had been raised. All individual reports are recorded and help to inform how ESCC prioritise which roads will be subject to larger schemes in each financial year alongside safety and structural condition and steward assessment. Planned

maintenance follows an asset management approach, as advocated by the Department for Transport. This method involves carrying out annual surveys of the network, as well as taking into consideration engineers' and stewards' inspection reports and customer enquiries. ESCC have an annual planned maintenance budget and have to prioritise which roads will be subject to larger schemes in each financial year and the budget is allocated according to the above priorities.

The option of a complete review of Coast Road is not available at the moment but when Covid is over they may be able to arrange a site survey. However, there are no plans for a complete resurfacing of Coast road.

- The muddy Pathway from the Wallsend Road carpark to the pavilion was due to be repaired with MOT on the 12th January. However, due to the weather conditions and Lockdown this has been postponed until 6th February. This work requires a couple of dry days.
- On the 21st January the Clerk had an onsite meeting with WDC with regards to the Car Park. WDC advised that a 3 phased maintenance scheme is planned to repair the pots holes. However, this needs to go through the finance department. Updates will be provided.
- An email had been received by the residents of 282 and 284 Coast Road with strong objections to the bin being installed on the slip road, as it will have a direct impact to them. As suggested in the email, the council agreed to ask the Environment Agency whether a sign could be installed on the gate. This is to be monitored by the council and will be looked at again in due course.

Members asked if there had been an update on the Cinque Port signs.

The Clerk explained that Cllr Liddiard was going to see if the County Council could replace the posts. The Clerk will follow this up with Cllr Liddiard when they have meeting.

Cllr Geary left the meeting at 8:00pm

288. Update on Councils application for a Public Works Loan

The report on the Public Works Loan had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.

The Clerk summaries the report and highlighted the recommendation within the report.

Members **noted** the report and raised some concerns about the risks. However, members felt the need to replace the street lighting outweighed the low risks. Members agreed this matter had been outstanding for too long.

Therefore, council **RESOLVED** to continue with the replacement of the street lights in Waverley Gardens, without undertaking a street light design. Council accepted the risk as articulated by the Clerk on the basis that it is a minimal risk, both in terms of likely occurrence and indeed the likely impact given. It's not a main road but on a slow speed road. The lighting scheme to be adopted is like for like and includes a part dim regime to save money. The replacements will be done on a 10-year payback and the costs of the payback are within what council has budgeted for. It reduces the overall commitment to council in terms of time and monthly repayments during that 10-year term as they are slightly less. Proposed by Cllr Beaney, seconded by Cllr MacKinnon. Motion was unanimously agreed.

The Clerk will write to the residents of Waverley Gardens updating them.

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for her hard work in completing and submitted the application. However, he wanted it to be noted that the application was submitted in August 2020 and the long

delays were due to the current circumstances with the pandemic and not through any inaction from the Parish Council.

289. Update from the Community Safety Action (CSAG) Meeting held on 29th January 21.

The Chairman provided the following updates to council with CSAG meeting he attended.

- The Chairman presented crime figures that had been circulated, which covers the action group area from the last quarter of 2020. The Chairman explained that figures overall showed a reduction of 77 crimes during that period.
- The Chairman did ask if they could provide more detailed figures for Pevensey and to also include detections rate, which are the crimes they have solved. The group agreed to look into this.
- The Chairman highlighted the issue of speeding and welcomed some attention to Castle Road Pevensey, from Westham to Pevensey and also on Coast Road.
- The CSAG reports are given to WDC. The Chairman felt it may be helpful if the council request that some funding could be secured from WDC to help fund the equipment for the local speed watch community groups
- The Chairman raised the issue of dog theft as there had been some local concerns raised. The CSAG will look into the matter and report back. However, it was noted the reporting offenses are very low.
- The CSAG has asked if participants can forward details of local community safety groups to help collate information. Members were asked to forward any information on any groups to the Clerk.
- Lastly, there will be a change in inspector as the current one will be retiring in 5 weeks. The council agreed to write to the current inspector thanking him for his assistance.

290. Update to Council on Sports Ground Funding

The phase one preparation flow chart on the Sports Ground funding had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.

Council **noted** the information circulated

Cllr Howard explained that both WDC and ESCC are aware of the plans and are supportive and the work will continue to get the project to a planning stage.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Howard for her hard work she has put into the project.

291. Census Support Update

Cllr MacKinnon provided the following update to council with regards to Census Support.

- The Census will still go ahead and is still planned to offer face to face support to those who require help completing their census form digitally. Due to Covid, the support may also be offered via telephone. However, this hasn't been confirmed.
- Start date is 1st March 2021 and the Census day is the 21st March 2021.
- DBS checks have been completed by the 5 volunteers and training is underway.
- An appointment only system will be used allowing only one person into the Ethel Wood Centre at a time.
- The Information Centre have offered to take people to their appointment and the Council

will contribute towards the costs.

- There is a dedicated phone for the volunteers.
- The publicity for the Census will be distributed in due course and this will explain how people can get the support.

The Chairman thanked the volunteers.

292. Quote for Fence repairs/replace in Wallsend Road

The Clerk informed Council that she had received 3 quotes for the fence works at Wallsend Road. However, she had raised queries with one of the quotes and requested this item to be deferred until March.

Council agreed to defer the agenda item.

293. Update on Three Year Plan 2021 -2022

The Chairman advised he had received the comments from the Chairs of the committees and the financial information from the Clerk. The next stage is to collate all the information ready for councillors to have early site of the draft before the new Council year.

294. Litter Pick Scheduled 20th March 2021

Cllr MacKinnon explained that council agreed to 4 litter picks a year and the first one is arranged for the 20th March 2021 in Sea Road Car Park.

Councillors are urged to attend to help the cause as it illustrates that council are trying to sort out the issues.

The Clerk will advertise the event in due course.

295. Plans

- **WD/2020/2514/FA** - PEVENSEY BAY CARAVAN PARK, EASTBOURNE ROAD, PEVENSEY BAY - VARIATION OF CONDITION 1 OF WD/2018/1511/FA (VARIATION OF CONDITION 1 OF WD/2013/0207/FA (VARIATION OF CONDITION 2 OF K/1951/0295, CONDITION 2 OF K/1956/0984 AND CONDITION 1 OF K/1959/1328 TO ALLOW THE CARAVANS TO BE USED DURING THE PERIOD 1 MARCH TO 15 JANUARY INCLUSIVE)) IN ORDER TO EXTEND THE OCCUPANCY PERIOD BETWEEN 15TH FEBRUARY 2021 AND THE END OF FEBRUARY 2021
- **WD/2020/2515/FA** - PEVENSEY BAY CARAVAN PARK, EASTBOURNE ROAD, PEVENSEY BAY - VARIATION OF CONDITION 1 OF WD/2018/1534/FA (VARIATION OF CONDITION 9 OF WD/2016/2584/MAJ (TO INTRODUCE, OVER A 3 YEAR PERIOD, 59 NEW STATIC CARAVAN BASES FOR THE USE OF RECREATION AND LEISURE ONLY BY NEW CUSTOMERS. THE PROJECT WILL INCLUDE NEW ROADWAYS, RUBBISH COLLECTION POINTS, FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT, LIGHTING AND LANDSCAPING OF THE AREA INVOLVED. AN ALL WEATHER SPORTS COURT WILL ALSO BE INTRODUCED TO THE AREA)) IN ORDER TO EXTEND THE OCCUPANCY PERIOD BETWEEN 15TH FEBRUARY 2021 AND THE END OF FEBRUARY 2021

The Chairman wanted to highlight his concerns about the two applications and that the application WD/2020/2515 had no details on the WDC website and felt it wasn't possible for the council to comment without any details.

The Chairman asked for council's views.

One member explained the applications reflects the two zones both of which have already been developed. The reasons for the applications by the owner was to disregard the two-week closures that applied to the sites, due to the issues of Covid closing the site for 4 months of this season.

Other members explained that Covid caused people trouble finding somewhere to move to.

The Chairman clarified the applications explains the owners are asking that the period from the 15th February to the end February 2021, allows occupancy for the two week period when they normally wouldn't.

The Chairman proposed that council should object to both applications as he didn't subscribe to the views expressed in the applicant's statements, that there is justification to vary this condition. He added, the council has always focused on that this particular park is a tourist amenity. The Chairman went on to say, he subscribes to council views expressed previously and there isn't any justification for this year to allow them to be able to occupy the site throughout the year.

Therefore, Council **RESOLVED** to accept Cllr Lowton's proposal as stated above to object to both applications. Seconded by Cllr Beaney. Carried 8/2 with Cllrs Peasgood and Pursglove against

296. Correspondence

No correspondence received

297. Matter of Urgent Public Safety (MUPS)

Members raised the following concerns.

A member had received a scam call from the 'national services' asking if they had their vaccinations and then asked personal questions. This is being done on a private number.

The yellow lines in Marine Close in Beachlands, have faded and it is causing concerns with residents.

The Clerk will report this to ESCC.

The fence at the traffic lights in Wallsend Road, opposite 2 Bridge End has collapsed.

The Clerk explained that the Cllr Liddiard had reported this earlier in the meeting and it was due to be repaired by ESCC. This will be followed up with the Chairman and Clerk.

A concern was raised about parking on private property and concerns about potential drug use.

The Clerk will speak with the Councillor separately about this issue.

298. Chairman's Remarks

Nothing to be added.

299. Orders of Payment

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

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

Council **RESOLVED** to accept the figures as presented. Carried 7/3 with Cllrs Lowton, Beaney and MacKinnon abstaining.

300. Advisory Officers reports

- **Sea Defences and Water Management** – Cllr Peasgood reported there had been lots of erosion on the beach and the beach is in a poor state. PCDL are aware and are undertaking work and providing updates. Cllr MacKinnon attended the Water management board meeting. The meeting was positive, and the board have achieved a lot in 5 years. They ensured that inland water levels across the board are dealt with as best as possible. The board are concerned about the amount of planning in the area and the effects on flooding. They do raise concerns with the local authority. The board requests payments from ongoing developments to aid ongoing maintenance and flooding for the future. The board assists the Environment Agency by providing pumps and they are planning on replacing all the pumps on the levels over the next few years. Lots of action on biodiversity and plans will be released in due course and the board are very keen for councils to be involved. 1.3% increase in drainage rates was planned.
- **St. Wilfrid's Hall** – Nothing to report.
- **Ethel Wood Community Centre** – Nothing to report.
- **St. John's Trust** – Nothing to report.
- **Sports Club** – Nothing more to report.
- **WDALC** – Cllr MacKinnon reported at the recent meeting they discussed the CSAGs and Mediation Plus which deals with conflicts including those with neighbours and WDC were supportive of this scheme.
- **Memorial Hall** – Cllr Beaney reported the hall is continuing with Covid requirements. The committee plan to apply for grants in the near future to replace both boilers.
- **Tree Warden** – Nothing to report.

Cllr Cade left the meeting at 8.55pm

301. Public Excluded to discuss negotiations regarding the sale of Council Land at Holy Rood.

This item was deferred until the Council meeting in March.

302. Update on negotiations regarding the sale of Council land at Rood.

The Clerk explained that the three delegated Council representatives carried out the negotiations on behalf of Council and had written to the interested party. However, a response was still to come back. Therefore, the Clerk requested that item be deferred until the Council meeting in March.

Council agreed to defer this agenda item until the Council meeting in March.

303. Public invited back into the meeting.

This item was deferred until the Council meeting in March.

Date of next meeting will be on Tuesday 9th March 2021 via Zoom.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.58 pm.

District councillor report for Pevensey Parish Council 2.2.21 Cllr Lin Clark

I attended a virtual meeting of The Parish Cluster for our villages this morning. There are a couple of things that I thought you might be interested in hearing about.

I asked a question about Flood Zones. Would it be likely to have the present zone arrangements changed as the Government seek to build more and more houses? The answer is "no". It is much more likely that the zone areas will expand rather than be made smaller. It is almost certain that Pevensey Bay will not change. The Government are very aware of flood risks being greater as the sea level rises. Sea Defences need to be maintained and added to, to protect what has already been built, and more building would only add to the problem.

Another question somebody asked was about how building could be forced on us by neighbouring councils who claim they have no room to build the homes required of them. Wealden are constantly in discussion with Kent, Surrey, Rother, Lewes, Tandridge, The National Park and East Sussex. There is particular concern about Eastbourne, as along with The National Park we are their only neighbours, leaving us up the creek without a paddle. While Pevensey Bay may not have to take houses, the nearness of the Westham and Stone Cross developments will have a knock on effect on Pevensey Parish, particularly increased traffic, but also other infrastructure.

As you are aware our Local Plan was rejected and we had to begin again. The new plan will not be ready until 2023 which means our original plan would be out of the Government time limit. It is too early in our Local Plan for us to be able to prove we are unable to deliver our own housing numbers. Wealden is a large area and it is unlikely it would be accepted that we cannot take houses from our neighbours, especially Eastbourne.

There are two glimmers of hope for us. The first, is that a Government White Paper includes looking at getting rid of "the duty to co-operate", and replace this with making each Council responsible for their own housing. The second is that we need to test our neighbours to find other ways to provide their housing. Eastbourne is working on their local plan with a timeline broadly the same as ours, and we are having talks with them.

Businesses want to come to the A27 corridor where the road infrastructure is best. If we can take on business building in this area it would indeed free Eastbourne to use what space they have for houses. To this end, Wealden are currently looking at where people live and travel from to go to this area of work.

Head of planning at Wealden, Chris Bending would like to assure you that open dialogue with Parish Councils will be maintained as things progress.

DRAFT