

## RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 1st November 2016 at 8.00pm in Rodmell Village Hall

Present: Councillors: John Gillies – *Chair* (JG), John Harvey – *Vice-Chair* (JH), David Smart (DS), Richard Sellick (RS), George Hickey (GH), Jill Goldman (JGm); Derek Blackhall (DB: Clerk), Lewes District Councillor Vic Ient, and 2 members of the public.

Item No		Action
1	Apologies had been received from Anne Sword-Daniels (AS-D), and East Sussex County Councillor Carla Butler (CB). DS <b>declared an interest</b> in items 5 and 11.2. No requests to consider any dispensations had been received.	
	<b>Public Question Time.</b> It was <b>noted</b> that a house in Mill Lane was a bit of an eyesore in respect of tipping and a skip, but that it was on private land; Clerk to take advice on whether this was a Parish Council issue.	<b>DB</b>
2	In respect of <b>the Lawful Development application (pheasant shooting)</b> ; at VI's meeting with LDC's new Planning Director he expressed concerns about 1) differences in available legal resources, 2) possibility of LDC's officers making a hurried and wrong decision based on fear of an appeal, 3) the fact that there is no right of appeal by the public. He requested that LDC appoint a Planning Barrister and a Planning consultant, both experienced in rural and countryside pursuits.  It was <b>suggested</b> that future funding was becoming very much a bidding process between Government and Local Authorities.	
3	VI reported from the recent POLO meeting on the <b>plans to improve safety on the C7</b> . Mike Higgs and Graeme Beatty from ESCC road safety had made a presentation; they felt that Hamilton-Baille might be rather expensive and not entirely appropriate to this issue, and therefore offered to make an action plan on behalf of ESCC. It was resolved that if any council wished to add to the plans that had already been made they would mark their ideas on the annotated workshop maps, which VI would pass over to GB & MH to enable them to draw up a set of proposals. If any Councils wished to have any further direct input into these maps they would need to liaise with VI by 18 November. GB & MH would return to POLO in the New Year and there would, if necessary, be a further one-off meeting to progress this.	
4	The <b>minutes</b> of the meeting held on the 5th September 2016, and planning meeting on 17 <sup>th</sup> October 2016, had been circulated and were <b>approved and signed</b> as a correct record.	

5	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p><b>5.1 SDNP/16/04743/FUL Section 73:</b> Retrospective application for the change of use of land from agriculture to storage comprising two storage containers and one workshop unit on land at South Farm, Newhaven Road, Rodmell, East Sussex.</p> <p>The application was <b>discussed</b> by the Parish Council who noted: this was for retrospective approval in respect of three buildings; whilst these were not particularly attractive in themselves, they were nevertheless recognised to be part of a working farm, which was beneficial, and linked to a one-man small business which hires the units for oak construction work and timber storage. The buildings were covered with green camouflage. The Parish Council gave the application unanimous support.</p>	
6	<p><b>Maintenance reviews</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Dicklands and Sports Field.</b> The sports field pavilion had been winterised.</li> <li>• <b>School Playground:</b> The annual inspection was completed with <b>no urgent issues</b> apparent, and the repair requested on the slippery floor was confirmed to be a Parish Council responsibility <b>and must go ahead.</b> <b>It was noted</b> that the school should be asked to contribute to any future repairs; JG to approach the school.</li> <li>• <b>Progress with the Northease notice board:</b> <b>JGm was requested to progress the matter</b> and order the aluminium version with a key chain and posts at a total cost of £926 including VAT. Delivery appeared to be 4-6 weeks. The preference was for the agreed supplier to deliver and invoice; delivery address to be GH home. DB to inform David Robinson of the like-for-like replacement notice board. As long as the existing posts could be used GH and RS would organise the installation and there should be no disruption in Northease.</li> <li>• <b>Verges:</b> This year's verge cutting had not been carried out on time or very satisfactorily. This would be mentioned at the forthcoming 'Strengthening Local Relationships' meeting with ESCC, to be attended by AS-D. JG suggested that in future some RPC funds might be used to cut some verges in the Street and Mill Lane which were not covered by the ESCC programme. JH volunteered to contact the SDNPA with a view to ensuring that future wildflower seeding with something less prone to being swamped by weeds.</li> </ul>	<p><b>GH</b></p> <p><b>JG</b></p> <p><b>JGm</b></p> <p><b>DB</b> <b>GH &amp;</b> <b>RS</b></p> <p><b>A S-D</b></p> <p><b>JH</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>State of the road surface on The Street:</b> This, and recent drain blockages in the Monk’s House area would also be brought up at the ESCC meeting, and/or taken up with the responsible ESCC Director. It was also <b>noted</b> that in general, if a repeat repair was needed within 12 months, the County Council should be informed as in that case the contractor would bear the cost.</li> <li>• <b>Website:</b> JG noted that the new village website had now reached a point where it needed some more radical design changes, but first some basic maintenance and updating of the current structure and coding were needed to ensure its stability. JG estimated the cost of the essential maintenance work would be around £260, and the subsequent new design work in the region of 100-150, indicating a total extra budget of up to £400. The Clerk advised that the Council had been given a grant of £400 by the Horticultural Society, and still awaited confirmation of the Transparency Fund claim, which if forthcoming would enable the website work to be carried out in this financial year. This approach was duly <b>approved</b>.</li> </ul>	<p><b>A S-D</b></p> <p><b>DB</b></p>
<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>Clerk’s and/or Councillors’ Reports</b> on progress on any items from the last meeting not otherwise covered on this Agenda and other items for noting and information purposes only: -</p> <p><b>7.1 Footpath to Northease</b> This footpath had been covered over in recent ploughing and sowing and had not been replaced. The Clerk had contacted LDC, who had been in contact with the landowner to remind him of his responsibilities.</p> <p><b>7.2 Rodmell School: Asset of Community Value and Title searches</b> Title had now been registered successfully, and the ACV issue was ongoing.</p> <p><b>7.3 Red telephone box removal</b> It was <b>noted</b> there had only been one call in the last 12 months and Council agreed that there was no point in objecting to BT’s request to remove the facility.</p>	
<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>Brief Reports from Clerk and/or Councillors on external meetings attended since the last Parish Council meeting, correspondence received, and any forthcoming meetings:</b></p> <p>JG reported back from the East Sussex Highways Roadshow that the overall budget had been cut from £19.5M to £11M, with the result that funds for non-essential works would in future be much more difficult to obtain, and generally based on match-funding. A new Joint Venture had been formed between Highways and Costain; half the staff involved were ex-ESCC, and heavy emphasis was being placed on customer relations with a new department now in existence to deal with this.</p>	

	<p>Other POLO items were <b>noted</b>:</p> <p>The flood defences were going ahead at Newhaven, with upstream work (i.e. works potentially affecting Rodmell) limited to reinforcing embankments. VI had requested assurances that these would be sufficiently high.</p> <p>The plan to re-start the CTLA Rodmell-Brighton bus service was now dead, as only Rodmell had agreed to contribute.</p> <p>Rural Exception sites: JG and JH had met the Director of Strategic Planning earlier this month to discuss this scheme, which concerns the amount of new housing allocated by SDNP to communities. Essentially what the scheme means is that if a land-owner has some property that they wanted to develop for social or low-cost housing, LDC could permit this under Rural Exceptions if there were shown to be a need. Rodmell had not been allocated any new houses under the SDNP proposals, but possibilities exist for land to be developed under the scheme, and JG and JH felt that the Council would be prepared to make this known in the village subject to more information being received.</p> <p>JH and DS would be attending the SDNP roadshow on 21<sup>st</sup> November.</p> <p>The Clerk reported he had had a successful initial meeting with new internal auditor, Fiona Roberts.</p>	<b>JH/DS</b>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Broadband:</b></p> <p>Jude Le Patourel had said that he had heard of no developments, other than that Rodmell was not in the Sept-Dec rollout (which seemed to focus solely on Lewes), so hopes were pinned on Jan-June.</p> <p>AS-D reported that an Openreach engineer had told her that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Within the last month BT had upgraded the existing Rodmell cabinet from secondary to primary to be capable of taking fibre.</li> <li>b) Within the last month BT had upgraded the existing cabinet at Wellgreen Lane in the same way and had installed the second cabinet required for fibre.</li> <li>c). BT did not now have to apply for planning permission for each extra cabinet required provided it meets an agreed set of criteria.</li> <li>d). The next stage was for BT to install the second fibre cabinet in Rodmell.</li> <li>e). They then had to install the fibre optic cable from Cranedown, which was far from straightforward due to the state of the existing ducts.</li> </ol> <p>JL-P felt that if new fibre was being contemplated rather than using what was there already, this would prove beneficial in the long term, though might make the process longer.</p> <p>It was suggested that due to the lengthy delays, if there was no visible progress by the next meeting the Council should write to BT telling them they were considering alternative suppliers.</p>	<b>JG/ALL</b>

10	<p><b>The Parish Council approved</b> the new Sports Pavilion bookings document which would now be loaded on to the website, and agreed the Emergency Plan process outlined by JG, which just needed some final address details to be confirmed. When complete it would be circulated to Councillors and Clerk but not published on the website, due to confidentiality issues.</p>	JG
11	<p><b>Finance Report</b></p> <p><b>11.1</b> The <b>bank statement reconciliations</b> for July, August, and September 2016 were <b>circulated, approved and signed</b>.</p> <p><b>11.2</b> The following cheques were authorised for payment: -  000271 £23.80 S E Water supply  000272 £34.27 Southern Water  000276 £75.00 Play Inspection Co Ltd Play area maintenance  000277 £100.00 John Gillies reimbursement for website maintenance  000278 £120.00 PKF Littlejohn LLP internal audit fee  000279 £88.92 LDC Dog bin emptying Oct-Dec 2016  000280 £30.00 D I Blackhall reimbursement for gift card given to A S-D  000281 £25.00 Tom Morris retirement gift  000282/000283 Emergency cheques held by JG  000284 £499.88 D I Blackhall Oct/Nov salary &amp; expenses  000285 £115.20 HMRC income tax  000286 £30.00 Guy Smart Sports Pavilion cleaning  000287 £204.00 Morgan Kelly Solicitors Land registration</p> <p><b>11.3</b> The Parish Council resolved and signed the amended bank mandate to enable the Council to use online and internet banking, and to reflect the Clerk as an administrative signatory for this purpose.</p> <p><b>11.4</b> The draft Parish Council precept for 2017/18 was discussed and the Clerk's methodology was <b>approved</b>; the finalised document would be presented for approval at the next meeting in January 2017, after which it would be submitted to LDC in accordance with their timetable.</p> <p><b>11.5</b> The Parish Council authorised a contribution of £25 to the retirement fund of the previous caretaker.</p> <p><b>11.6</b> The Parish Council <b>approved</b> that the Ordinary Parish Council meetings move to the first Tuesday in the month, unless it immediately followed a bank holiday in which case it would become the second Tuesday; the following dates for future meetings were agreed:  2017: 10 January, 7 March, 9 May (AGM), 4 July, 5 September 7 November; 2018: 9 Jan</p>	
12	<p><b>The meeting closed at 9.47 pm.</b> The next meeting was scheduled for <b>Tuesday, 10th January 2017</b>. Any suggestions for the agenda should be sent to the Clerk by Friday 23rd December 2016.</p>	