



## RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 3rd July 2018 at 8.00pm in Rodmell Village Hall

Present: Councillors: John Gillies – *Chair* (JG), John Harvey – *Vice-Chair* (JH), George Hickey (GH), Richard Sellick (RS), Jill Goldman (JGm), Anne Sword-Daniels (ASD), and David Smart (DS), Lewes District Councillor Vic Ient (VI), and Derek Blackhall (DB: Clerk). One member of the public attended.

Item No		Action
1	<p>Apologies had been received from East Sussex County Councillor Sarah Osborne (SO), There was one <b>Declaration of Interest</b> by JG in respect of 2 payments but no requests to consider any <b>dispensations</b>.</p> <p><b>Public questions.</b></p> <p>Nothing was raised on this occasion.</p>	
2	<p><b>District and County reports.</b></p> <p>Councillor Ient would copy the slides from the SDNPA Parishes Meeting, which included some potentially useful grants opportunities.</p> <p>Recycling rates had improved following the recent new process. VI believed that changes to the relative frequency of collections could be considered, but only after the next Council elections.</p> <p>The SDNPA plan was now with the inspector.</p>	VI
3	<p>The <b>minutes</b> of the meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> June had been circulated and were <b>approved and signed</b> as a correct record.</p>	

<p>4</p>	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p><b>4.1:</b> Iford Downs shoot. The application for pheasant rearing and shooting had again been refused. However, there was a fear that the refusal might not be enforced. A parishioner had taken legal advice and written to the planners with a formal planning enforcement complaint in accordance with the Planning Enforcement Policy Statement.</p> <p>JG had also written to the planners and the enforcement officer in the same terms. Steve Howe, for Lewes Planners, had replied that they were aware of the timeframe for enforcement action and were currently liaising with the National Park Authority and Legal Team about service of an Enforcement Notice, and would keep us informed of progress.</p> <p><b>4.2</b> It was <b>noted</b> the Ash Tree Cottage application had been approved.</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p><b>Maintenance reviews</b></p> <p><b>5.1 The Dicklands</b> – The £210 quote for the hedge cutting was <b>accepted</b>. JH to action.</p> <p><b>5.2 Sports Field:</b> Nothing to <b>note</b>.</p> <p><b>5.3 Roads and Drains:</b> It was <b>noted that</b> the worst potholes had been mended, but the surface of the Street was still in a poor state. ASD would contact ESCC Highways about this and the Barleyfields drainage issue, and JG would ascertain the jet patching machine availability.</p> <p><b>Legal matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The National Trust sewerage easement</b> was now complete and the final invoice would be paid.</li> <li>• <b>School and playground:</b> JG reported that the consultation with the village had received around 25 emails and 6 letters; two public meetings had been attended by around 40 people, and there had been several informal conversations. It was estimated that this roughly amounted to responses from about a third of the village. A synopsis of the consultation would be published on the website, but the main results had been: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most people agreed that the existing right of way was the only practical one and should be maintained if at all possible.</li> <li>• There was a strong feeling that the playground was a valuable village asset, should not be sold in its entirety, and most probably could not be moved elsewhere.</li> <li>• Several villagers offered specific financial support of £500 or more, and others offered unspecified amounts should these be needed. Crowdfunding to cover the cost of new play equipment and possible legal fees was discussed and</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>JH</b></p> <p><b>ASD</b></p> <p><b>JG</b></p> <p><b>DB</b></p>

was endorsed as the preferred option by many respondents.

- Several people felt that it would be wrong to fund through the parish precept because of the uncertainty of the ultimate costs, and the fact that the precept was not something that could either be opted out of or capped.
- Regarding the future use of the building, its sale for residential purposes was not supported by the village, on grounds partly of heritage but also because of the difficulty of access and lack of parking, which it was felt could have an adverse impact on the rest of the village.

Councillors discussed the responses, the legal problems, and the proper way to proceed. It was agreed to:

- Write to the Diocese setting out these results and telling them that it is the wish of the village that the Parish Council should not sell the playground and asking them to ensure our continued use of the existing right of way.
- Seek Counsel's opinion as to the strength of our right of way position and the likely consequences of proceeding with a court case to establish this. This will be paid for from reserves by using part of the funds voted earlier this year to set aside for this purpose.
- Erect a sign at the entrance to the playground stating that this playground is the property of Rodmell Parish Council. The "Save our Playground" collection of £142 made at the recent event marking the closure of the school could be used for this purpose if required.

On the future of the school buildings JG explained that though RPC did not have any direct control over this it was clearly a matter of concern to many villagers. Although nothing was clear yet, it seems likely that the building would be sold and demolished to provide housing of some kind. If anyone was really interested in doing so, now would be the time to come forward with a proposal. JG concluded by thanking councillors ASD and JGm and proposed a vote of thanks to Marcel Bradbury for their many hours of extra work on this difficult matter. The Clerk was handed cash of £142.08 to open a new account as a 'save our playground' fund.

- New General Data Protection Regulations: It was **noted that** a Data Protection Officer had now been appointed and the Council had adopted draft procedures; a new data security policy was needed, and software needed for a new secure email system would be shared with the village hall. The new Privacy and Document Retention documents were **approved**.

There were no other legal matters arising.

6	<p><b>Other updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A letter concerning fly nuisance had been received from Ditchling PC. It was <b>agreed</b> to reply stating this was not an issue in Rodmell.</li> <li>• It was <b>agreed</b> to accept the Pyrotec quote for the maintenance of the pavilion fire extinguishers. DS would liaise with them regarding access arrangements.</li> <li>• JG <b>agreed</b> to put the Speed Watch correspondence on the website.</li> <li>• It was <b>noted</b> JG had taken over as Chair of POLO until next summer.</li> <li>• It was <b>noted</b> that the weed spraying which would take place on August 21<sup>st</sup> was for pavements but not verges.</li> <li>• It was <b>noted</b> the Barleyfields/C7 footpath maintenance was due to be carried out by ESCC by mid-July.</li> <li>• JG <b>agreed</b> to check with Judith Bradbury regarding defibrillator maintenance arrangements.</li> </ul>	<p><b>JG</b></p> <p><b>DS</b></p> <p><b>JG</b></p> <p><b>JG</b></p>
7	<p><b>Clerk's and/or Councillors' Reports.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Grass cutting savings by ESCC</b> - DB explained that he awaited the invoice from ESCC for £152 to cover our agreement with them.</li> </ul>	
8	<p><b>Finance Report</b></p> <p><b>8.1 The bank statement reconciliations for May and June were circulated, approved and signed.</b></p> <p><b>8.2 The following payments were authorised: -</b></p> <p>Online banking transfers:</p> <p>£526.46 Came &amp; Co Insurance  £35.00 ICO Subscription  £500.00 Morgan Kelly Legal Fees  £330.00 Processmatters GDPR advice  £16.50 J Gillies Web Maintenance reimbursement  £454.59 D I Blackhall June/July salary/expenses  £107.20 HMRC Income Tax  £15.00 S D Society subscription  £20.00 Subscription  Cheque 324 £20.00 LD Assoc of local councils</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that following the announcement of the closure of the final bank in Hassocks, he had agreed with JG that in future his salary and HMRC payments would be by online banking transfer following pre-authorisation at this meeting. A full audit trail exists for these transactions.</p>	
9	<p>The meeting closed at 9.45pm. The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, 4th September 2018. Any suggestions for the agenda should be sent to the Clerk by Friday 24th August, 2018.</p>	