



DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD

on 17th November 2020 at 7.00pm
via Zoom

1. Present

Councillors John Gillies (JG: Chairman), Nikki Terry (NT), Sue Carroll (SC), Sarah Last (SL), Richard Sellick (RS) and David Smart (DS). County Councillor Sarah Osborne (SO) and Alison Stevens (AS) were also in attendance. There were no members of the public present.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Prosser and the reasons for her apology were accepted by the Full Council. Apologies for absence were also received from District Councillor William Meyer.

The meeting was suspended.

2. Public Questions

There were no questions from any members of the public.

3. Updates from the County and District Councillors

County Councillor Osborne reported:

- ESCC has sent a letter to the Secretary of State to warn of its dire funding situation and that it would be carrying out a spending review. The cost of supplying PPE meant there would be a bigger shortfall than it previously predicted.
- As it stands, the number of Covid cases in East Sussex was one of the lowest in the country.
- A local Track and Trace System was being set up.
- Officers has written to 20,000 clinically vulnerable residents to let them know what help was available.
- Most other services were running normally. Libraries were currently closed but still offer a click and collect service and anyone requiring access to a computer can call and book an emergency appointment.
- She regularly asks Highways to repair the potholes in The Street but is told they don't meet the criteria for repair. She has asked for an in-depth look into why getting potholes repaired was such a long process.

Councillor Carroll said that at present, there was no bus service from Lewes to Rodmell between 13:00 and 16:25, except for the 15:25 in the school holidays, which meant there was a very large gap for customers wanting to return to Rodmell or Newhaven in the afternoon. She had emailed the bus company (Compass) which has acknowledged the issue and was referring the issue to its Managing Director for further consideration. County Councillor Osborne asked Councillor Carroll to send her the email and said she would see if there was anything she could do to help.

County Councillor Osborne then left and the meeting was re-opened.

4. Disclosures of Interests

There were no disclosures of interest on any items on this agenda nor were there any changes to the Register of Interests.

5. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th September 2020

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 15th September 2020, were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chairman.

6. Planning

There were no planning applications to comment on at this meeting.

7. Maintenance Reviews

7.1: Defibrillator Report – Councillor Prosser continues to monitor the defibrillator and sends photographs of it to the Clerk so she has a record of how much battery life is left.

7.2: Verge Cutting 2021 - Councillors resolved to continue with the existing verge cutting arrangements for 2021 (Option 2). Councillor Last asked why some of the verges in the Street are not cut. The Clerk said she would ask Highways.

8. Clerk's and Councillor's Reports

8.1: Legal Matters

- General update on the school and playground progress – There was nothing new to report on this occasion. The school was still listed as sold, subject to contract.

8.2: Other updates

- Website and Email Problems: Our website developers, who had previously planned to withdraw from support services had decided to continue after all. Councillor Carroll reported a problem with outlook.com which Councillor Gillies would report to the web hosts.
- Joint action with Monk's House regarding the Street: this was covered under the Report from the County Councillor.
- Tree Warden – There was nothing new to report from the Tree Warden on this occasion.
- Countryside, agriculture and allotments – There was nothing new to report on this occasion.
- Repairs to the flint wall between the car park and Marten's Field – The Project Manager at the District Council had confirmed there was just some admin to do, that she had the quote and the contractor was 'ready to go'. She would provide another update next week.
- Sports Field, Mowing and Trimming – The Clerk had chased Barcombe Landscapes to trim the hedge at the sports field. The stopcock on the pavement by the Pavilion did not work and the Clerk had reported it to the water company. The Pavilion had its own stopcock which had been turned off so there was no danger of flooding while the Pavilion was 'winterised'.
- Communication with Northease residents – Councillor Carroll reported;
 1. ESCC had told residents they could fit a mirror at the junction of the C7 and Whiteway Lane at their own liability as long as it was not fitted on the Highway.
 2. Iford Estates was going to submit a revised planning application to consolidate its farming operations. The original planning application was SDNP/19/03768/FUL. The amended plans showed the number of new

buildings would be reduced to five and they would now be in a different position which will reduce the need to raise the level of the land above the flood plain and therefore the number of lorries bringing rubble. There would be an additional new access road which would follow the boundary but the junction would be near the bend. Some of the redundant buildings would be demolished and the land used for livery purposes or perhaps sold to Swanborough Manor.

3. Councillor Carroll reported that – like the existing buildings – the new buildings are likely to stand out in the landscape because of the materials used, which appear almost white in colour. Councillors were concerned about the impact on the landscape and asked for them to be built of materials to blend in with the countryside, which they thought was a requirement of the SDNPA.

- Safe C7 Report update – Councillor Carroll said funding is on course to be able to appoint a planning consultant. The consultant would conduct a physical survey of the C7 and come up with a proposed design to force traffic to slow down along the entire route.
- The possibility of extending the footpath between Northease and Rodmell – Councillor Carroll met the landowner, Mr Robinson, with Mr Harrison to see if he would allow a permissive pathway on his land which would extend the footpath between Northease and Rodmell. Mr Robinson subsequently asked Councillor Carroll to put the details in writing to him which she did but he had since said he did not feel able to think about it because of everything that was going on at the moment. Councillors agreed to support the proposal should Mr Robinson eventually agree.
- Village Hall Report – The Village Hall remains closed because of the Coronavirus restrictions.
- Death of Rodmell’s Vicar and future of the church - Councillor Gillies said there was some concern on the Parochial Church Council that the church in Rodmell may not be able to continue. Councillors agreed to help in any way they can.

9. Brief Report from the Clerk and/or Councillors - There were no reports from any outside meetings.

10. Finance Report

Councillors resolved;

10.1: To approve the accounts for this financial year – the accounts to the 5th November 2020 were received and approved by all.

10.2: The following payments were approved;

		£:
A Stevens	September Salary	323.70
A Stevens	October Salary	473.57
Quick Serve	Computer Services	25.00

10.3: The precept for 2021-2022 would not increase and would stay at £14800.

10.4: Councillor Gillies offered to cut the grass at The Dicklands, which had previously been done by Marcus Brown.

10.5 The Clerk said she would bring details of the Parish Council’s reserves to the next meeting but in the meantime details of the 2019-2020 year end position can be found in the accounts she circulated for the July Meeting.

11. Meeting Dates for 2021

The meeting dates for 2021 would be January 19th, March 16th, April 23rd (Parish Assembly), May 18th, July 20th, September 21st, November 16th and January 18th (2022).

12 The next Full Council Meeting is planned for Tuesday 19th January 2021, items for the agenda to the Clerk by Friday 8th January 2021, thank you. It is highly likely this meeting will be virtual, in which case it will start at 7pm.

There was no further business and this meeting closed at 8.00pm.