



RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 21st January at 7.00pm in Rodmell Village Hall

Present: Councillors: Nikki Terry – Acting Chairman (NT), Sue Carroll (SC), Sarah Last (SL), Lesley Prosser (LP), Richard Sellick (RS), David Smart (DS) and Alison Stevens (AS: Clerk). There were two members of the public in attendance.

District Councillor William Meyer was also in attendance.

Item No:		Action
1	<p><u>Apologies for absence</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillor John Gillies. The reason for his absence were approved by the Full Council. There were no requests to consider any dispensations.</p> <p><u>Public Questions.</u></p> <p>There were no questions from the public.</p>	
2	<p><u>District and County Reports.</u></p> <p>County Councillor .Sarah Osborne sent a written report in which she said;</p> <p>‘There is little to report ahead of the February Council meeting which will set the budget for the 2021/2022 financial year. It is expected that the Conservatives will be raising council tax by 4% and making significant cuts to services this year and even greater cuts in the following 2 years.</p> <p>East Sussex County Council leaders have signed off on plans to share its Chief Executive Officer and other officers as required with West Sussex. ESCC will be acting as ‘corporate improvement partner’ for its neighbouring authority.</p> <p>East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service’s control centre operations is to move out of the county as part of a three-way partnership with both Surrey and West Sussex fire services.</p> <p>The shared control centre will now be in Salfords between Gatwick and Redhill.</p>	

	<p>According to the fire and rescue service the public will see no change in its response when they dial 999’.</p> <p>District Councillor Meyer said Lewes District Council;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is consulting over its draft Corporate Plan 2020-2040. The Plan includes a section on housing. • The budget proposals are currently ‘going through’ the system. • An appeal for a garden development application in Kingston has been rejected by the Planning Inspector. 	
3	<p><u>Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 13th November 2019.</u></p> <p>The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 13th November 2019 were approved by all and signed as a true and accurate record by the Acting Chairman.</p>	
4	<p><u>Planning</u></p> <p>4.1 The following planning applications were considered by the Full Council;</p> <p>SDNP/19/05333/HOUS - Old Farm House The Street Rodmell BN7 3HE - Proposed installation of three dormer windows and alteration to existing gable window (Resubmission of SDNP/16/02239/HOUS) – Rodmell Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.</p> <p>SDNP/19/05520/HOUS - 5 The Paddocks Rodmell BN7 3HU - Erection of a pitched roof front and side extension with internal and external alterations - Rodmell Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.</p> <p>SDNP/19/03520/HOUS - Willow Down Cottage The Street Rodmell Lewes East Sussex BN7 3HF - Demolition of existing conservatory and replacement with permanent structure to be used as a dining room - Rodmell Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.</p> <p>Ref. No: SDNP/19/06027/FUL - Pear Tree Cottage The Street Rodmell BN7 3HG - Demolition of garden outbuilding - Rodmell Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application</p> <p>4.2 Councillors discussed how they would like to respond to Consultations when the consultation deadline falls outside Parish Council meeting dates. They agreed that when the Clerk receives such notifications she will email all the Councillors and ask them for their responses. Councillors will then send in their response and copy in each other, even if it is just to say they have no comments. The Clerk will then draft a collective response. An EGM will be called if a collective response is not possible.</p>	

<p>5</p>	<p><u>Maintenance Reviews</u></p> <p>5.1 Annual Play Park Report – Having sought a second opinion, Councillors agreed there is little point in patching and carrying out minor repairs because it would be very expensive and does not really work. They decided that any major changes should wait on the result of the school sale, as this may provide a financing opportunity (as it is listed as sold STC). They felt that some of the inspection recommendations are pretty insignificant but asked the Clerk to look into items 5 and 12 which are listed as higher risk.</p> <p>5.2 Dicklands Hedge – Councillors resolved to get the hedge cut at The Dicklands. Councillor Terry will get prices from two contractors.</p> <p>5.3 Defibrillator Report – The village defibrillator is now in working order. Councillor Prosser has undertaken to check the status of it on a monthly basis so that the Parish Council knows when the charge is getting low and can replace the battery before it runs out.</p> <p>5.4 Hearing of the Appeal by Iford Estates – The original planning application number relates to a lawful development application by Iford Estates, which was refused. Then an enforcement order was made against Iford Estates, and this hearing is on their appeal against the enforcement order.</p> <p>Councillors discussed the application and re-iterated their previous stance, ie; opposition to the lawful development application and their support for the enforcement order, citing the effects that additional shooting would have on one of our significant Rodmell businesses, Breaky Bottom Vineyard and nearby residents and users of the South Downs Way.</p> <p>The Clerk will submit their comments to the Planning Inspector.</p>	<p>AS</p> <p>NT</p> <p>LP</p> <p>AS</p>
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Clerk's Report and/or Councillor's Reports

6.1 Legal Matters

- General update on the school and playground repairs – this was covered under Minute 5.1.
- Village Emergency Plan- Councillors agreed to look at the latest draft and send any comments to the Chairman, copying in each other and the Clerk. The updated Plan will then be submitted to the next meeting for approval.

JG

6.2 Other Updates

Website and Council Emails – Councillor Carroll reporting a problem opening and/or printing some documents and was offered possible solutions by those present.

- Joint Action with Monk's House - The Clerk said she will continue to chase County Councillor Osborne for an update on the state of The Street.
- Tree Warden – Councillor Smart said there have been two tree applications since the last meeting. They were;

AS

SDNP/19/05969/TCA – Downlands, Bybles Lane Rodmell BN7 3HJ - Silver Birch - crown lift 4 No. selected limbs growing over garden by no more than 2.5 metres.

SDNP/20/00031/TCA - Monks House The Street Rodmell BN7 3HF - Area 1 - Removal of 8 small trees on the boundary edge of the allotment at Monk's House (Castanea sativa x 2, Tilia x europea, Acer pseudoplatanus x 2, Prunus avium, Betula sp., Ulmus sp.) and planting of additional yews to recreate the original planting. Area 2 - Removal of Thuja plicata in the Tenants Garden.

Rodmell Parish Council has no objections to either of these applications.

- Countryside, agriculture and allotments – There are still some vacant allotments. A resident at the meeting said she might be interested in taking one of them over.
- Repairs to flint wall between the car park and Martens Field – The wall is damaged outside number 11 Martens Field and numbers 5 and 6. The Clerk has contacted Clarion Estates, the owners of the wall outside number 11. They had erected chestnut paling but plan to take no further action. She contacted Lewes District Council who seem to own the wall outside numbers 5 and 6. They have agreed to carry out a site visit and report back. The Clerk will continue to chase them for updates.

AS

- Sports Field, Mowing and Hedge Trimming – The hedge has not yet been cut so Councillor Sellick said he will chase the contractor. It was also noted that the appliances in the pavilion need PAT (Portable Appliance Testing). Councillor Last said she will send the Clerk contact details of the electrician who tests the appliances in the

RS/SL

7	<p><u>Brief Report from the Clerk and/or Councillors on external contacts and meetings attended since the last Parish Council Meeting.</u></p> <p>Councillor Carroll said the SDNPA is aware of the missing footpath/footway from Northease village on the northeast side of the C7 (Newhaven to Piddinghoe Road). They said it would be usual for a community group or Parish Council to undertake discussions with the respective landowner(s) to agree increased access or higher access rights. As there is no existing access it is quite common for the landowner to be reticent about agreeing to new official Public Rights of Way (which would then need to involve ESCC who may or not wish to adopt new PRoW), however the landowner(s) are more likely to consider permissive access either through an informal arrangement or ideally through a formal Permissive Path Agreement which would formalise the arrangement for all parties. Understanding the position or concerns of the landowner(s) is often key in negotiating additional access as Neville Harrison and the Egrets Way Project can testify. Councillor Carroll subsequently met Mr Harrison and he would be willing to help. Councillors agreed Councillor Carroll and Mr Harrison can talk to the relevant landowners and see if they will give permission. The Council will decide what to do from there.</p> <p>Councillor Carroll also attended the latest POLO Meeting where members asked if there is any funding available to help meet the costs of the Accessibility Regulations. NALC has been asked to see if it can get funding from Central Government.</p> <p>It was also noted that their funding bid has not been granted so they are unable to take the C7 traffic calming study forward at this stage. Alternative funding is being sought.</p>																									
8	<p><u>Finance Report</u></p> <p>8.1 – Councillors resolved to accept the accounts to 27th December 2019.</p> <p>8.2 – The following invoices were approved for payment;</p> <table data-bbox="300 1641 1141 1933"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th style="text-align: right;"><u>£</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Mrs Burnaby-Davies</td> <td>Refuse sacks</td> <td style="text-align: right;">9.59</td> </tr> <tr> <td>KTY Landscapes</td> <td>Hedge cutting</td> <td style="text-align: right;">216.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alison Stevens</td> <td>Salary - November</td> <td style="text-align: right;">312.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alison Stevens</td> <td>Salary – December</td> <td style="text-align: right;">312.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td>PAYE</td> <td style="text-align: right;">234.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>National Trust</td> <td>Licenses, wayleaves etc</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lewes DC</td> <td>Dog Bin Emptying</td> <td style="text-align: right;">93.60</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>8.3 – Councillors considered the precept for 2020-21. They analysed the figures and resolved the precept for 2020-2021 will be £14800. This will allow the Parish Council an additional;</p>			<u>£</u>	Mrs Burnaby-Davies	Refuse sacks	9.59	KTY Landscapes	Hedge cutting	216.00	Alison Stevens	Salary - November	312.00	Alison Stevens	Salary – December	312.00	HMRC	PAYE	234.00	National Trust	Licenses, wayleaves etc	1.00	Lewes DC	Dog Bin Emptying	93.60	
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	<p>£ 400 for Play Park Maintenance £ 500 for Village Maintenance £ 650 to help meet the Accessibility Requirements £1000 for legal fees</p> <p>It also helps compensate for the reduction in hire of the facilities and it was also noted that Lewes District Council has withdrawn the Council Tax Support Grant for 2020/21.</p> <p>The increase equates to approximately £1.20 per month per household (Band D).</p>	
9	<p><u>Consultation</u></p> <p>9.1– Strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments - Councillors agreed they will send their responses to the Clerk which she will then collate and send on.</p> <p>9.2 – SSALC Survey 2020 – Councillors said they had no experience of dealing with SSALC and therefore agreed they could not respond to the survey.</p> <p>9.3 – Response to the questionnaire on Town and Parish Councillors’ Allowances. Rodmell Parish Council’s position on allowances is as follows;</p> <p>1: It does not pay an allowance to the Chairman. 2: It does not wish to pay elected councillors a basic allowance. 3: It does not wish to consider paying the Chairman a basic allowance. 4: It does not wish to consider paying a travelling and subsistence allowance to councillors.</p> <p>9.4 Lewes District Corporate Plan – Councillors will email their responses to the Clerk which she will then collate and send on.</p>	ALL
10	<p><u>Sewage Pipe outside Monks’ House</u> – Councillors asked the Clerk to write to Southern Water and ask them what plans they have to improve the pipes in the Parish (including those adjacent to Newhaven Road) in the light of recent problems</p>	AS
11	<p><u>Parish Assembly</u> - Suggestion for speakers included;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ouse Valley Energy Services Company – to talk about renewable energy. 2. Neville Harrison – about the Egrets Way Project 3. A presentation on the use of renewable energy sources in Piddinghoe. <p>Councillors asked the Clerk to invite Mr Harrison and a speaker from the Piddinghoe Project to the Assembly. Councillor Carroll will provide the Clerk with their contact details.</p>	SC/AS

12	<p>The meeting closed at 8.30pm.</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 17th March 2020. Please send any items for the agenda to the Clerk by Monday 2nd March 2020, thank you.</p>	
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