



DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD

on 17th March 2020 at 8.00pm
at The Village Hall, Rodmell

1. Present

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sarah Last (SL) and the reasons for her absence were accepted by the Parish Council.

Apologies for absence were also received from District Councillor W Meyer.

2. Public Questions

Mr Walker, Chairman of Rodmell Village Hall, said the Village Hall Committee is applying to Veolia for a grant to carry out some improvements. The application form states that projects are more likely to be successful if there is evidence of support for the project from local organisations and individuals. He therefore wondered if the Parish Council would be prepared to give the committee a brief letter of support.

The project is to put in a new double door in the back wall of the hall, level out the paved area, install a retractable awning and add acoustic curtains and new stage curtains. The benefits would be twofold: to greatly improve accessibility to the Hall for anyone with restricted mobility; and to extend and improve the usability of the Hall by offering a properly connected outside area.

In response to Councillor's questions he confirmed;

- The electrics would also be updated.
- The Hall committee had considered providing Wifi but found it was too expensive.
- They hoped the work would take place over the summer.
- The hall was closed for now for social activities but would be made available to voluntary groups helping to reduce the effects of social distancing.

Councillors unanimously resolved to support the Village Hall's bid. The Clerk would write a letter of support.

Ms Hickey said that the Collective has had to withdraw its offer to buy the school. It had a survey carried out but the work needed was too expensive. They were now discussing other options.

Mrs Bradbury, Chair of the Good Neighbour scheme, told those present how the village was helping to cope with the problems caused by the Coronavirus. For example;

- The Abergavenny Arms was offering to provide meals on wheels. Prices start from £4.50 for frozen meals, £5.00 for hot frozen meals, £10.00 for take-aways and £6.50 for half-portion take-aways.

- The Good Neighbour Scheme had been active for about five years, and was well placed to offer assistance to villagers needing it. It had a good number of volunteers, but a number of these were over 70 and thus unable to help due to self-isolating, so Mrs Bradbury hoped to increase the number of younger volunteers. GNS proposed to communicate with everyone and Councillor Gillies offered to print leaflets for volunteers to put through residents' doors.

In answer to Councillor's questions Mrs Bradbury confirmed;

- The Good Neighbour Scheme is affiliated to a National Group.
- The villages of Northease and Southease are included in the Scheme.
- Those using the Scheme are told which volunteer will be helping them so they know who is coming.
- Help offered by Councillors Terry, Prosser and Carroll would be very welcome.

3. District and County Reports

There were no reports from either the County Councillor or the District Councillor on this occasion.

The meeting was then 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 21st January 2020.

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 21st January 2020, were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chairman.

Councillors agreed to change the format of the minutes of future meetings to reduce the amount of paper used.

6. Clerk's Report on Matters' Arising from the situation caused by the Coronavirus

Councillors agreed that meetings could become a problem over the next few months and that they would only go ahead if it was safe to do so and they are quorate. If the Parish Council was unable to hold a meeting the Scheme of Delegation dated 16th March 2020 would apply.

Councillors also agreed the Parish Assembly would be postponed for now.

7. Planning

i: The following planning application was considered;

SDNP/19/03768/FUL - Iford Farm The Street Iford BN7 3EU - Consolidation of Iford Estate Farming Operations to include the construction of agricultural buildings (for housing of livestock, grain handling and storage), a silage clamp and new access road from Piddinghoe Road – The Parish Council has no comment on the Iford Estate planning application except concerns for traffic safety on the C7 where the new proposed drive joins the road on a slight bend, so would like to see provisions made for signage and good visibility, if the positioning cannot be altered.

Councillor Carroll expressed concerns about the impact of consolidating the operations of four farms at Iford on the safety and condition of the C7 due to the likely increase in journeys by farm vehicles on a fast moving road

ii: Hearing of the Appeal by Iford Estates –

Councillors Gillies and Carroll attended the hearing. The Inspector's decision was expected in 4-6 weeks.

8. Maintenance Reviews

- i: To consider the higher risk works recommended in the Annual Play Park - Councillors considered the quote supplied by Foster Landscapes and agreed to consider the matter in more depth at the next meeting, to allow them time to look into other options.
- ii: Hedge cutting at The Dicklands - A contractor had been instructed to cut the hedge at The Dicklands. The Clerk has asked him to let her know when he is going so the neighbouring residents can be notified.
- iii: Defibrillator Report - Councillor Prosser carried out a safety check on the defibrillator and found it to be in good working order. There was some broken glass nearby which Councillor Gillies will report to the landlord.

9. Clerk's and/or Councillor's Reports

Legal Matters

- i: General update on the school and playground progress - This was covered under Minute 2. The Rights of Way documentation was still with the Land Registry.
- ii: Village Emergency Plan – Councillors suggested a few minor alterations. The Plan was then signed off by those present.

Other Updates

- i: Website and Email Problems – There was nothing new to report on this occasion.
- ii: Joint Action with Monk's House – The Clerk will continue to chase County Councillor Osborne for an update on the state of The Street. She will also ask District Councillor Meyer if he can help.
- iii: Tree Warden – There was a report of possible ash die back at Whiteway Lane. The Clerk will report the matter to the Arboriculturist at the District Council.
- iv: Countryside, agriculture and allotments – Councillors Gillies, Sellick and the Clerk met the resident who kindly cuts the grass at The Sports Field. He was worried that tent pegs left in the ground by users could cause expensive damage to the blades in his cutter. Councillors asked the Clerk to see if the Parish Council's insurance could cover accidental damage if, the Parish Council hires the equipment.
The recent prolonged spell of wet weather and impact of the coronavirus means he is unable to start the grass cutting until later in the year. Councillors asked the Clerk to get prices from three contractors for an interim cut in the meantime.
- v: Communication with Northease residents – There was nothing new to report on this occasion.
- vi: Village Hall Committee – This was covered under Minute 2.
- vii: Recent repairs to C7 surface – As it stands, ESCC plans to resurface the C7 in June. Councillors all agreed the work carried out to date was appalling and asked the Chairman to write to Highways and complain. Copies of the letter will also be sent to the other Parish Councils on the Lower Ouse.
- viii: Response from Southern Water on what plans they have to improve the pipes in the Parish, including those adjacent to Newhaven Road – The Regional Planning Lead at Southern Water said Southern Water has no plans at present to upgrade the sewers in Rodmell. Jetting was carried out last summer to clear fat blockages to sewers in The Street. Further jetting was carried out last autumn, however the cause of the blockage was not identified. The situation will be monitored to see if further action is required.

- ix: The possibility of extending the footpath between Northease and Rodmell – Councillor Carroll is to meet Mr Robinson, the landowner, with Mr Harrison to see if he will allow the path to go ahead.
- x: Items for the Newsletter – these were no longer required for now because the Parish Assembly had been postponed.

10. Brief Report from Clerk and/or Councillors on external contacts and meetings attended since the last Parish Council meeting – Councillor Carroll attended the latest POLO Meeting and said;
- There may be sources of money available to pay for a consultant for the C7 campaign.
 - Kingston Parish Council had started an on-line petition for a speed reduction on the C7 between the village of Iford and the Garden Centre.
 - Kingston Parish Council and Iford Parish Meeting have produced Conservation Area Action Plans. Rodmell Parish Council had not produced one, and Councillors felt they had been used against Parish Councils in the past.
 - Some landowners had produced Whole Estate Plans (WEP). These are used to provide support for planning applications, but local communities have not always been properly consulted on the WEP.

11. Finance Report

- i: To resolve the accounts for this financial year – Councillors resolved to accept the accounts to 5th March 2020.
- ii: To authorise the payments as per the attached schedule – The following invoices were approved for payment;

		£
Alison Stevens	Salary - January	323.70
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HMRC	PAYE	234.00
Barcombe	Hedge Cutting	180.00
Lewes DC	Dog Bin Emptying	93.60

12. The next Full Council Meeting (AGM) is planned for Tuesday 19th May 2020, items for the agenda to the Clerk by Monday 4th May 2020.

There was no further business and this meeting closed at 9.45pm.