



DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD

on 15th September 2020 at 7.00pm
via Zoom

1. Present

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

There were no apologies for absence from Councillors. Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Sarah Osborne.

2. Public Questions

There were no questions from any members of the public.

3. Updates from the County and District Councillors

District Councillor Meyer said:

- The South Downs National Parks Authority (SDNPA) had considered the application from Iford Estates relating to the holiday chalets at Swanborough Fishing Lakes. Officers had approved the internal layout and actual sizing of the lodges but insisted they must have green roofs because this had been a material condition of the original planning permission. The Committee unanimously supported the Officers' decision.
- SDNPA was preparing its formal response to the latest Government Planning White Paper.
- Lewes District Council planned to build more Local Authority owned homes in the District.
- The District Council predicted a £3m-£4m deficit but it has reserves available to help ease the pressure.

In answer to Councillors' questions, he;

- Said the Parish Council's suggestion to write to Christopher Hutchinson at the Environment Agency (see 8.2) was probably the best approach. The Environment Agency needed to carry out urgent works to the tidal Ouse river bank. The work would involve transporting clay by lorries to the site in order to protect the bank from failing, thereby reducing the flood risk in the area and protecting the SSSI. Whilst councillors appreciated the work was both necessary and urgent, they were concerned because all traffic would have to use The Street, which is already in a poor state of repair and would be damaged further by the lorries in question. They were also worried about what state the track to the river bank would be left in. Councillors therefore resolved to ask the EA to repair any damage to the road surface and the track, and to resurface the road when they had finished. The Clerk would find out if residents could use the main car park at Monk's House whilst the work is underway.
- Suggested the Community Infrastructure Levy would be the best option to help the village hall fund the improvement work needed. The Clerk said she would ask Christopher Paterson at the SDNPA when the next application round is.

District Councillor Meyer then left the meeting.

The meeting was 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 July 2020

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 21st July 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: To consider the higher risk works recommended in the Annual Play Park Report – After the last meeting Councillors Gillies and Sellick inspected the playground. In the report there was only one item which was classified as High Risk, and one Medium Risk. The rest were low. The high risk item was a cross timber from which there were three handles suspended on ropes for swinging on. One of the attachments was loose because the cross timber was rotting slightly. In their view it could be repaired in two stages. Councillor Sellick removed the one hanger at risk, which made it safely useable, and the playground was re-opened. Councillors agreed he would then try to source a new cross timber which he would fit and then re-attach all the hangers. The park would then be reassessed. The medium risk item was a long way from being any danger but would be regularly monitored.

Councillor Gillies also reported a loose fence post on a stile on the footpath near the church. The Clerk will ask Rights of Way to repair it.

7.2: Hedge cutting at the Dicklands – The hedge had now been cut and will be monitored whilst it grows back.

7.3: Defibrillator Report – Councillor Prosser continues to monitor the defibrillator and will send a photograph to the Clerk so she has a record of how much battery life is left.

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 and the school was still listed as sold subject to contract.
- Councillors resolved to approve the Clerk's Contract of Employment dated 15th September 2020 which had been circulated to them before the meeting.

8.2: Other updates

- Website and Email Problems: The Clerk would send Councillor Gillies an Accessibility Statement asking anyone experiencing difficulties reading information on the website to contact the Clerk who would then send them the information they wanted in a different format. This would allow the Parish Council to assess whether it needs to precept for a new website in due course.
- Joint action with Monk's House: County Councillor Osborne had chased up the County Council about the repairs needed at the Street but the Highways Steward claimed it did not meet the criteria for being repaired. Councillors asked the Clerk to ask ESCC for the criteria. Councillor Terry subsequently measured the potholes and

found thirteen did meet it. She will send the Clerk a report with photographs for the County Councillor to take up with officers.

It was also noted that The Street is permanently wet outside the car park at Monk's House. The Parish Council understands the water company has plans to install a new pipe to the stables in due course.

- Tree Warden – There was nothing new to report on this occasion.
- Countryside, agriculture and allotments – Councillors agreed the allotments are looking especially well presented at the moment. There are currently two people awaiting allotments if any become vacant.
- Repairs to the flint wall between the car park and Martens Field – The District Council was 'trying to find suitable contractors, one of which will be out shortly to see if the wall repair is something they can do'. The Clerk continues to chase the District Council for progress reports.
- Sports Field, Mowing and Hedge Trimming – It was noted that Mr Barnard cuts the grass at the playground and not the sports field as recorded in the last minutes. It was also noted that the fire inspection had now taken place and its recommendations had been implemented. Councillors asked the Clerk to ask Barcombe to trim the hedge at the sports field.
- Communication with Northease Residents – At the previous meeting, Councillor Carroll said a resident at Northease had asked her to raise the need for a mirror at the dangerous junction of Whiteway Lane and the C7. The Clerk said permission would be needed from the County Council. The Clerk subsequently asked the County Council but they said they would not fit one and if others did they would be legally responsible if it was cited as a contributory factor in a car accident. Councillor Carroll said they had found a rather bent pole at the entrance to Whiteway, on which presumably a mirror had been erected. At the recent POLO Meeting ESCC County Councillor Sarah Osborne offered to write to Rupert Clubb on residents' behalf and see if it could be reinstated.
- Recent repairs to C7 surface and Safe C7 Report update – The resurfacing work had now taken place and the road seemed slightly better. Councillor Carroll gave a progress report from The Safer C7 Project (formerly referred to as the C7 Strategy). She said;
 - i. A planning consultant has been lined up. The consultant will 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 Terms of Reference are: 'To undertake a review of the C7 and provide recommendations for improvements to reduce speed, respond to potential safety issues and retain the rural nature of the road.'
 - ii. Identified sources of funding have been sought to pay the consultant, and will be applied for as soon as the 'doors open' on applications. Councillors agreed to send a letter of support which Councillor Carroll will draft and circulate to everyone for approval, by email.

Details of timescales are available from the Clerk upon request.

- The possibility of extending the footpath between Northease and Rodmell – Councillor Carroll has now met Mr Robinson with Mr Harrison and he (Mr Robinson) has asked Councillor Carroll to put a proposal in writing for him to consider, before a further meeting.
- Village Hall Committee – As it stands the hall can only allow bookings of up to six people unless they are using the hall for exercise or educational purposes.

9. Brief Report from the Clerk and/or Councillors - Councillor Carroll attended the latest POLO Meeting. This was covered in the last item (Safe C7 Project).

Councillors also noted that all Councillor and Clerk training was now being carried out virtually.

Following an email from Councillor Carroll, the Clerk asked ESCC Highways to cut back the hedge along the short stretch of the C7 from the exit of a footpath, just north of Rodmell, to the Abergavenny pub car park, because at the moment walkers are forced to walk along the edge of the

road because the hedge is blocking the narrow grass verge. With cars travelling at 50 mph and at high frequency, this is obviously dangerous. The Highways Steward went to look but found no work was necessary. Councillor Gillies said he will send the Clerk photographs to forward on to the Highways Steward and show him where the offending hedge is.

10. Finance Report

Councillors resolved;

10.1: To approve the accounts for this financial year – the accounts to the 28th August 020 were received and approved by all.

10.2: The following payments were approved;

		<u>£:</u>
A Stevens	July Salary	557.70
A Stevens	August Salary	323.70
Lewes District Council	Dog Bin Emptying	93.60
Pyrotec	Fire Inspection	78.86

The Clerk pointed out that the apparent increase in her July salary was due to a change to her personal tax code.

11. The next Full Council Meeting is planned for Tuesday 17th November 2020, items for the agenda to the Clerk by Friday 6th November 2020, 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 8.25pm.