



## **DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD**

on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021 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 was also one member of the public present.

There were no apologies for absence.

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

There was no report from the County Councillor on this occasion.

District Councillor Meyer had walked down The Street and bridleway recently and was shocked to see the state they were in. He recommended Councillors keep pursuing the matter with the County Councillor and said he would also talk to her on their behalf.

### 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 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020, were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chairman.

### 6. Planning

Councillors considered the following planning application;

SDNP/20/05439/FUL - Iford Farm, The Street Iford BN7 3EU - Consolidation of farming activities at Iford Farm through the erection of 2 No. cattle sheds, straw barn and machinery shed incorporating fertiliser store and welfare facilities and hard standing; new farm access from C7 Piddinghoe Road, conversion of redundant building to commercial B8 use and regularisation of established commercial uses in adjacent buildings; and landscaping including woodland planting, surface water attenuation pond and wildlife planting to create biodiversity net gain.

The Council agreed to support this application in principle but has concerns about the location of the junction of the access road on the C7 and the appearance of the buildings. The location of the proposed new access road is near a dangerous bend on a very heavily used and fast road and Councillors would like to see an independent assessment carried out by East Sussex Highways. 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.

## 7. Maintenance Reviews

- 7.1: Defibrillator Report – Councillor Prosser continues to monitor the defibrillator. She said it was fine and would send photographs of it to the Clerk so she has a record.
- 7.2: Playground maintenance and signage – Councillor Gillies said he had checked the playground. It can stay open in the latest lockdown and the required signage is still in place.
- 7.3: Dog bin at Mill Lane – The owner of the dog bin at the top end of Mill Lane was moving and would no longer be able to empty it. As the District Council would not be able to either (because it is on private land) she may have to remove it. Councillors discussed various alternatives and asked if there is anyone in the village who might be prepared to volunteer. The Clerk would also find out if it is possible to relocate it to the nearby Rights of Way path and, if it is, whether the District Council will empty it there.

## 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.

### 8.2: Other updates

- Website and Email Problems: Councillor Gillies said that some hotmail addresses seemed to be experiencing problems when they send messages to the Rodmell account.
- Tree Warden – The Tree Warden had nothing new to report.
- Countryside, agriculture and allotments – Councillor Smart asked the Clerk to send out the latest allotment agreements to the allotment holders and confirmed he would arrange for their cheques to go to the landowner.
- 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'. The Clerk will continue to chase for progress.
- Sports Field, Mowing and Trimming – Barcombe Landscapes has now trimmed the hedge at the sports field and councillors agreed it looks much better.
- Communication with Northease residents – Councillor Carroll said;
  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. Residents agreed a mirror elsewhere would be useless.
  2. There have been a few power cuts in Northease since the last meeting. As some telegraph poles are nearing the end of their life, and they are in the South Downs National Park, she asked the County Councillor if cables could be run under the ground instead, but this would be too expensive.
  3. Residents at Northease would also be raising their concerns about the Iford Farm application.
- Village Hall Report – The Village Hall remains closed because of the Coronavirus restrictions.

- Safe C7 Report update – Councillor Carroll said funding needed to appoint a planning consultant has been delayed until the spring.
- The possibility of extending the footpath between Northease and Rodmell – There was nothing new to report.
- Ouse Valley Cares Partnership National Lottery Grant Award - The Ouse Valley CARES partnership has won £150,000 of funding from the National Lottery Community Fund 'to kick start a project, which aims to bring the whole community together to help the environment and create a more sustainable planet for future generations to enjoy'. Detailed research and engagement across the community over the next year will then be used to work up a much larger National Lottery bid – potentially up to £2.5m. Councillors said they would like the Parish Council to be involved and asked the Clerk to register their interest.
- The Parish Council received a complaint from a resident about a possible breach of the Covid rules, and anti-social parking. The anti-social parking is causing problems for agricultural vehicles, delivery vehicles and the emergency services. The Parish Council's powers are limited in such matters but Councillors agreed the resident's suggestion to put flyers through resident's doors would put them in breach of the regulations themselves. They also considered putting a notice in the notice boards but felt it would be ignored. Whilst they understood the resident's reluctance to be identified, it really was best to report any breaches of the regulations, and this can be done anonymously online. The procedure can be found on the police site at [www.police.uk/](http://www.police.uk/). The full link is: <https://www.police.uk/tua/tell-us-about/c19/v7/tell-us-about-a-possible-breach-of-coronavirus-covid-19-measures/>  
Any obstructions caused by vehicles can be reported to the police on 101 at the time. They can also be reported retrospectively but the police may ask someone to keep a diary which they can use as evidence for any action.

9. Brief Report from the Clerk and/or Councillors – Councillor Carroll reported from the latest POLO Meeting and said;

- The Clerk and Chairman of POLO monitor the number of skip lorries using the C7 and report them to Operation Crackdown at [www.operationcrackdown.org](http://www.operationcrackdown.org). The police also carried out spot checks recently and fined 6 offenders. Skip lorries are allowed access to go to residents' homes but cannot use the C7 as a drive through.
- Egrets Way - The Piddinghoe stretch is almost ready to go out to tender.
- Some older residents would struggle to get to Brighton Racecourse for their vaccine. It is understood the teething problems experienced at the vaccination site in Lewes have now been resolved although there are still reports that elderly and frail people are having to queue outdoors in the winter weather.

10. Finance Report

Councillors resolved;

10.1: To approve the accounts for this financial year – the accounts to the 5th January 2021 were received and approved by all.

10.2: The following payments were approved;

		<u>£:</u>
Business Stream	Cricket Pavilion	38.06
Lewes DC	Bin Emptying	93.60
National Trust	Easement	1.00
A Stevens	November Salary	345.05
A Stevens	December Salary	345.05

10.3: Lewes District Council has offered to carry out the next annual playground inspection for £52.50 which would save the Parish Council £12.50. Councillors resolved to accept the District Council's offer.

11. The next Full Council Meeting is planned for Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021, items for the agenda need to be with the Clerk by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021. This meeting will be virtual and it will start at 7pm.

Councillor Smart asked if the Parish Council could do more to let the public know the dates of Parish Council Meetings, especially for those who don't use computers. Councillors asked the Clerk to ask Pauline Cherry if she will include them in the Parish Pump section of the Sussex Express.

There was no further business and this meeting closed at 8.15pm.