



DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD

on 21st September 2021 at 8.00pm
at Rodmell Village Hall

1. Present

Councillors John Gillies (JG: Chairman), Nikki Terry (NT), Sue Carroll (SC) and Lesley Prosser (LP). Alison Stevens (AS). Four members of the public were also present.

Parish Councillor David Smart sent apologies for his absence. The reason for his apology was accepted by the Parish Council.

Apologies for absence were also received from County Councillor Sarah Osborne and District Councillor William Meyer.

Maria Caulfield MP sent a report, which is available to read on the Parish Council's website at www.rodmed.net.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Public Questions

Mr Harrison asked the Parish Council to support;

- Parishes of the Lower Ouse (POLO).
- the Safer C7 Project and;
- proposals for a walkable verge between Northease and Rodmell.

3. 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.

4. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th July 2021

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 20th July 2021, were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chairman.

5. Planning

Councillor Gillies said the following application has been rejected by the South Downs National Park Authority;

SDNP/21/03009/FUL - Land to the west of Whitegates, The Street, Rodmell, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 3HE - Installation of 5no. (five) timber and canvas safari tents along with a permeable parking/turning area, recycling/waste, cycle storage and Electric Vehicle Charging Point with associated footpaths, landscaping and an underground water treatment plant for drainage treatment.

There were 86 objections from residents and none in support of the application. Councillor Terry asked what this means for the future of the equine business and offered to ask the owner.

SDNP/21/04358/TCA - Charnes Cottage The Street Rodmell BN7 3HF - T1 - Black Mulberry - cut back 4 branch sections of Mulberry beyond boundary (T2 and T3 on drawing illustrate) T4- Magnolia - reduce and reshape crown by approximately 2.5 metres – Rodmell Parish Council agrees the works are necessary, and does not therefore feel the need to make a comment.

6. Maintenance Reviews

6.1: Defibrillator Report –

- i. Councillor Prosser continues to monitor the defibrillator and sent a photograph of it to the Clerk before the meeting so she has an official record. Councillor Prosser also said that her contact at SECAMB, who supplied the defibrillator, has now retired so she will see if she can find out who is replacing him.
 - ii. At the last meeting Councillors agreed to put up notices around the Parish to let residents know where the defibrillator is. Councillor Gillies and the Clerk are to carry out a review of the Parish Council's assets and said they will look at where the notices can go at the same time. It was also suggested that the Parish Council might like to organise a familiarisation class to show residents how to use it but it was accepted that the defibrillator is easy to use and talks users through how to use it.
- 6.2: Review of the arrangements for maintaining the Parish Council's assets – This was covered under 6.1.
- 6.3: Play park maintenance – Councillor Gillies is to meet Mr Sellick to see if he can help with the general maintenance issues highlighted in the ROSPA Report and said he will report back.

7. Clerk's and Councillor's Reports

7.1: Legal Matters - General update on the school and playground progress – The Parish Council understands the school has been sold, subject to contract. Contracts are currently circulating.

7.2: Other updates

- Website and Email Problems: There was nothing new to report.
- Tree Warden – This was covered under item 5.
- Countryside, agriculture and allotments – One of the Monk's House allotments has recently become available and the Manager was keen for it to go to a local person. A resident expressed an interest in it and Councillor Gillies said he would forward the details to her.
- Repairs to the Street – There was nothing new to report on this occasion.
- Sports Field, Mowing and Trimming –
 - i. Councillors resolved to ask Barcombe to cut the boundary hedge again this year.
 - ii. Councillors agreed that the remedial work to the Pavilion has been done to a very high standard. They particularly liked the way the new window blends in with the existing ones.
 - iii. In recent years, the Parish Council has been fortunate to have the grass at the Sports Field mown by a local volunteer but the arrangement is due to come to an end. Councillor Smart produced a resume of the options the Parish Council has to cut the grass which councillors carefully considered. They resolved to accept the Cricket Club's offer to buy a gang mower which the Club will insure and service annually, on the understanding that it will donate the gang mower to the Parish Council if it (the Club) ceases to exist. Mr Wettern has offered to provide a tractor at a modest price.
 - iv. The Pavilion is to be 'winterised' in October.
- Communication with Northease residents – There was nothing new to report at this stage.

- Safer C7 Report –
 - i: Councillors were asked to approve the Steering Group’s Constitution but understand it may be changed, so they agreed to recognise it in principle at this stage.
 - ii: Councillor Carroll described the project to those present. (Details of the project can be found in the last Minutes).
 - iii Rodmell Parish Council resolved to award £3000 towards it. The money will be paid out once POLO has received the rest of the funds.
Rodmell Parish Council understands that POLO will not commission a Consultant until it has raised all the money and if it fails to do so, it will refund all monies received.
- Walkable verge between Northease and Rodmell (gate to footpath) – Councillor Carroll updated those present on the work carried out to date. She reported that she had arranged to meet the ESCC Head of Highways when he came to view the site. He indicated that ESCC Highways could scrape back the vegetation, level the path and trim the hedges for a year for £500. Councillors resolved to pay the cost and hope the County Council might consider a permeable membrane next year. It was also noted that the County Council has a ‘Community Extras’ service, whereby parishes can request and pay for additional verge cutting, which may be needed to keep the newly cleared verge walkable.

8. Brief Report from the Clerk and/or Councillors – Councillor Carroll said;

- The Ouse Valley CARES Team made a presentation at the recent meeting of POLO, describing the CARES (Climate Action, Resilient Ecosystems, Sustainability) project and encouraging parishes to submit applications and ideas for projects. £150000 is available for small projects which is expected to lead up to a bigger bid of £2.5m for larger ones. Councillors agreed a general statement of support and said they will think of suitable projects for the next Parish Council Meeting. They also noted that POLO has a new Chairman, Alex Pett.
- There has not been an LDALC Meeting since the last Rodmell Parish Council Meeting.

9. Finance Report

Councillors resolved;

- 9.1: To approve the accounts to the 3rd September 2021.
 9.2: To approve the following payments;

		£:
GH Design and Build	Pavilion Works	2395.00
Lewes DC	Dog Bin Emptying	93.60
Pyrotec	Fire Safety Check	97.39
A Stevens	July Salary	345.05
A Stevens	August Salary	345.05
HMRC	PAYE	249.40
Castle Water	Pavilion	30.89

10. Appointment of a new Parish Councillor

Rodmell Parish Council resolved to co-opt Mr Roger Ford and Ms Claire Dishington to Rodmell Parish Council, which will then have a full complement of Councillors.

The Clerk will send Mr Ford and Ms Dishington the Acceptance of Office, Register of Interest and Consent to Receive Electronic Agendas forms.

11. The next Full Council Meeting is planned for Tuesday 16th November 2021, items for the agenda need to be with the Clerk by Friday 5th November 2021. There was no further business.

