



DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD

on 15th March 2022 at 8.00pm
at Rodmell Village Hall

1. Present

Councillors John Gillies (JG: Chairman), Nikki Terry (NT), Sue Carroll (SC), Claire Dishington (CD), Roger Ford (RF), Lesley Prosser (LP) and David Smart (DS). Three members of the public were present.

2. Apologies

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

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3. Updates from the County Councillor and District Councillor

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

4. Public Questions

Nicki Myers, Project Manager from Ovesco, offered to host a community event in the Village Hall on the 18th May to offer residents advice on how save money with their utility bills.

Councillors accepted the offer and agreed to pay for the hire of the hall. Ovesco will provide 250 flyers which will be sent out with the Annual Newsletter.

Mr Yusouf Mehmet approached the Parish Council because he said he would like to open a community shop in or around Rodmell, and wanted to know the Parish Council's views. Concerns were raised about its viability, and its potential access onto the C7 but Councillors agreed they were generally in favour as long as it was located in the right place.

5. 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.

6. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th January 2022

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 18th January 2022, were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chairman.

7. Planning

7.1: The following application was considered;

SDNP/22/00694/FUL - Northease Farm Whiteway Lane Northease BN7 3EX - Retrospective change of use of the machinery store to Class E business and cattle building to Class B8 storage or distribution use. Councillors discussed the concerns of a number of Northease residents about issues of noise, pollution, excessive vehicle use and "creeping industrialisation" of the farm and the restricted by-way of Whiteway Lane, and agreed that Councillors Ford and Carroll should draw up a draft objection to be posted on the planning portal. They also urged Northease residents to put forward their own objections, as these would add extra weight to the Council's views.

7.2: Prospective Community Shop – This was covered in the public session.

8. Maintenance Reviews

8.1: Defibrillator Report – Councillor Prosser continues to monitor the defibrillator. She said the battery is fine but the defibrillator needs new pads. The Clerk will order two new sets, one of each size (adults and children).

8.2: Maintenance Works from the Asset Inspection – The Chairman and Clerk carried out an inspection of the Parish Council's assets at the end of last year and found;

- i. The hedge by the southern bus shelter needs cutting back because it is now inside the shelter. The bus shelter itself needs a general clean, some graffiti removed and some panels repositioned.
- ii. Benches by the school - three need rubbing down, one possibly needs re-varnishing, and another could be more securely attached.
- iii. An inventory of the Pavilion is required and the dog bin could also be replaced.
- iv. The noticeboard by the Village Hall needs varnishing, the handles needs repairing and the inside requires a new pin board, preferably magnetic.
- v. The play equipment was generally in good condition but the surface matting was cracked in parts.

Councillor Gillies said he will see if he can source some voluntary help.

9. Clerk's and Councillor's Reports

9.1: Legal Matters - General update on the school and playground progress – The Parish Council understands the sale of the school is still progressing.

9.2: Other updates

- Website and Email Problems: The Parish Council website has now migrated to a new server and Councillors have reverted back to using their Council email addresses.
- Tree Warden – Councillor Smart has been to look at a horse chestnut tree on the verge outside Black Timber House, Martens Field. He said it does not belong to the owners of the house but overhangs their drive. The base of the tree was found to be rotten so the owners of the house are taking the problem up with the District Council because it owns the land the tree is on.
- Countryside, agriculture and allotments – At the last meeting Councillor Smart asked the Clerk to send out the latest allotment agreements to the allotment holders and said he will then arrange for their cheques to go to the landowner. The agreements have now been sent out but only two allotment holders have responded so far.
- Repairs to the Street – The repairs to The Street will now be carried out during the week beginning the 14th March. Residents at the top end of The Street have been asked not to park their cars there during that week.
- Sports Field, Mowing and Trimming – There was nothing new to report.
- Communication with Northease residents – The recent clean up weekend was a success and a date has already been booked for next year.
- Safer C7 Report – The first meeting of the Steering Group took place on the 17th February. James MacCleary (Newhaven, and Deputy Leader of Lewes District Council) and Vanessa Rowlands (Deputy Chair of the South Downs National Park Authority) attended. The next phase of the project was described, which is fund raising.

Councillors resolved to approve the Constitution distributed by Councillor Carroll before the meeting, as this needs to be approved before the Group can apply for funding. Councillor Carroll said she visited Scotney Castle recently and was very impressed with the palisades and street furniture along the B1200 road between Wadhurst and Lamberhurst, which was an example of what could be done along the C7. Councillor Smart suggested Speed Indicator Devices would work well too.

- Walkable verge between Northease and Rodmell – Councillor Carroll said ESCC has now made a walkable verge along the C7 to link the footpaths between Rodmell with Northease. It was achieved by flattening the verge and pushing back the vegetation and hedges. Highways has now also agreed to erect signage to link the two footpaths. Councillor Carroll asked Councillors to consider providing a more permeable non slippery surface for which the project which has already passed the first round of prospective CIL funding (ie; an expression of interest). Councillors resolved to support her proposal.

A more detailed costed estimate is required by the 18th April for the next round of funding so Councillors resolved to commission East Sussex Highways under a private commission at a maximum cost of £1000.

10. Brief Report from the Clerk and/or Councillors

- Update from the latest POLO Meeting – Councillor Carroll distributed the draft minutes of the meeting held on the 24th January, for Councillors’ information.
- Update on the latest meeting of the Lewes District Association of Local Councils (LDALC) – Councillor Carroll had previously distributed the draft minutes of the meeting held on the 15th February. Members were asked how many electric vehicle chargers were installed in their Parish and to let the Honorary Secretary know. It was also noted that Lewes DC has recently procured a new contract for the ‘provision of 7-22kw electric vehicle infrastructure’. The response from all parishes was good and they have all been included in the contract which means that if they decide they would like an EV point, the supply and installation costs will be funded by the provider. The offer only appeared to be only available to parishes with a council-owned car park on which to install them, which Rodmell doesn’t have.

11. Finance Report

Councillors resolved;

11.1: To approve the accounts to the 4th March 2022.

11.2: To approve the following payments;

		<u>£:</u>
Cascade	Website Hosting	80.00
ESALC	Councillor Training	48.00
A Stevens	January Salary	345.25
A Stevens	February Salary	345.05
HMRC	PAYE	264.00

11.3: Councillors discussed potential locations for the sign. Councillor Ford said he will draft a design brief for an illustrative village map which will combine walking routes and heritage sites in the village. He will then send it out to all the Councillors for their comments. Once the design brief has been agreed, local artists will be invited to produce the map.

12. Parish Assembly

Councillor Gillies is drafting the Annual Newsletter which, Councillors suggested could include;

- A polite request asking residents in The Street to cut back any overhanging vegetation because it is damaging the wing mirrors of larger vehicles.
- Requests for nominations for Resident of the Year. The Parish Council will then select the winner.

13. Queen's Platinum Jubilee

A beacon is to be lit at South Farm on the 2nd June to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the village will be invited to attend.

The Parish Council understands there is also going to be an informal gathering on the cricket pitch which might include a picnic, barbeque and music. A meeting of interested parties is going to be arranged by the Cricket Club to help organise it.

14. The next Full Council Meeting is planned for Tuesday 17th May 2022, items for the agenda need to be with the Clerk by Friday 6th May 2022.

This year's Parish Assembly will be held on the 29th April at 8pm.

There was no further business and the meeting finished at 9.40pm.