



DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD
on 17th May 2022 at 8.00pm in 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). There was one member of the public 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.

The meeting was suspended.

3. Public Questions

Mr Harrison read from his report and said;

'The Parish Council is well aware that there have been a number of unsuccessful attempts over many years to achieve a safe off-road path between Northease (Footpath Rodmell 8/1) and Rodmell (Footpath 5/3) on land owned by David Robinson [DR]. DR contacted me and asked me to facilitate the process for creating a permissive path.

Permissive path agreements within the South Downs National Park boundaries are now usually handled by the SDNP Access Team, rather than ESCC Rights of Way, but the ESCC Team also offered to take on the work should the SDNPA be unable to do so.

Good progress has been made in drawing up an appropriate tailored draft legal agreement. To complete the draft agreement, the landowner needs the access to his land from Barley Fields, where the RoW footpath (Rodmell 4/1) exits, to be restored to farm vehicle accessibility and hopes the PC would be able to assist with this. There has been encroachment by natural vegetation and tree regeneration on the south side, and maybe by the fencing of the property on the north side which has narrowed the access significantly. It would be possible by cutting back the established vegetation to the line of the remaining post and rail fence, marking the boundary with Place House land, to create a 2-metre-wide access which is the ideal width for a Right of Way, although not for modern farm machinery. He feels that, if the PC responded positively to the issue by offering to take advice on the feasibility and cost of restoring the access to its full width, it might well help to achieve the permissive path and deliver the undoubted public benefits this would bring.

In answer to Councillors' questions Mr Harrison confirmed;

- The overall cost of the project could be between £3000 and £6000.
- Tractor access may not be possible.
- Any contract will be null and void if the land is sold or the ownership is transferred.

- Any legal agreement would last for three years.

Councillors agreed to support the proposals in principle and said they would be prepared to undertake the clearance work and future maintenance needed.

Mr Harrison then left the meeting.

4. To elect the Chairman for the forthcoming year

Councillors resolved unanimously to appoint Councillor Gillies for the role of Chairman. Councillor Gillies accepted the role.

5. To elect the Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year

Councillors resolved unanimously to appoint Councillor Prosser for the role of Vice Chairman. Councillor Prosser accepted the role.

6. Updates from the County and District Councillors

County Councillor Sarah Osborne sent a written report which can be found on the Parish Council's website at; <https://www.rodmeil.net/corridors-of-power/>

The meeting was then re-opened.

7. 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.

8. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th March 2022 and the Parish Assembly held on the 29th April 2022

The Minutes of both meetings, were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman asked Councillors to consider their intentions as to next year's elections, and also to start thinking of speakers for the next Parish Assembly.

9. Planning

The following planning application was considered;

SDNP/22/02016/HOUS - 11 The Paddocks, Rodmell, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 3HU - Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey side extension with replacement of existing windows and doors with bi-fold doors to the rear and installation of 14 No. solar panels to the south-west roof slope – Rodmell Parish Council has no objections to this application on any planning grounds.

10. Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

Rodmell Parish Council resolved to adopt the Standing Orders (2022) and Financial Regulations (2022), as recommended by NALC, for the ensuing year.

11. Code of Conduct

Councillors resolved to accept the Code of Conduct introduced by Lewes District Council under the Localism Act 2012.

12. General Power of Competence

Rodmell Parish Council resolved that it meets the prescribed conditions and is eligible for the General Power of Competence.

13. Maintenance Reviews

13.1: Defibrillator Report – Councillor Prosser continues to monitor the defibrillator and reported that the pads are now out of date. The Parish Council has taken all the steps possible to replace them and has placed some on order. The Clerk will chase the suppliers up and find out if it is safe to use the existing pads in the meantime. If it is not the defibrillator will be removed temporarily until the new pads have arrived.

13.2: Maintenance Works from the Asset Inspection update – It was not possible to get any voluntary help to carry out the works, so the Clerk will ask a contractor.

14. Clerk's and Councillor's Reports

14.1: Legal Matters

- General update on the school and playground progress – There was nothing new to report on this occasion. It was noted that the grass needs cutting at the playground. The Clerk will ask the residents who cut the grass last year if they are happy to cut it again this year.

14.2: Other updates

- Website and Email Problems: There was nothing new to report.
- Tree Warden – Councillor Smart went to look at the poplar in planning application SDNP/22/02331/TCA. He said the work is a prudent safety measure so the Parish Council does not need to make any comment.
- Countryside, agriculture and allotments – There are no vacancies at the allotments and the waiting list consists of one resident. It was noted that one allotment holder has yet to pay their rent. ESCC Rights of Way has fitted a new post on the path at the back of the old school.
- Repairs to The Street – The repairs to The Street have now be carried out.
- Sports Field, Mowing and Trimming – The mowing is going well. The grass was so thick at the start of the mowing season the gang mower left a carpet of grass on the ground which would have got worse and gone brown so the Cricket Club employed a contractor to collect the surplus so that normal mowing could be resumed.
- Village Hall Committee – The Village Hall Committee is looking into replacing the curtains and heaters. Volunteers are needed to do some painting.
- Communication from Northease residents – There was nothing new to report on planning application SDNP/22/00694/FUL. Safer C7 is now keeping a log of all accidents to use as evidence in future planning applications.
- Safer C7 Report – The Group has decided to become a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) following concerns raised about setting up a joint Parish Council initiative by the Chair of Iford Parish Meeting, who is a qualified solicitor. The Group will now write to each Parish Council releasing them from the Constitution. The letter will be formally minuted and Parish Councils will still be involved in an advisory capacity.

15. Brief Report from the Clerk and/or Councillors – POLO met on the 16th May. Work on the next phase (6) of Egrets Way is expected to start in August.

The next LDALC Meeting is on the 18th May. Dale Poore from ESCC Highways will be there. Councillor Carroll will ask Mr Poore why the rest of the Ashcombe Lane wasn't resurfaced when the section under the bridge was.

16. Finance Report

16.1: Councillors resolved to authorise the following payments;

		£:
Came and Company	Insurance	1176.82
C Dishington	Flowers for Parish Assembly	90.00
ESALC Ltd	Subscriptions	118.29
ESCC	Verge Cutting	186.00
ICO	Subscription	40.00
Simon Goacher	Payroll	160.35
HM Bookkeeping	Payroll	50.00
Lewes DC	Dog Bin Emptying	93.60
A Stevens	March Salary	390.82
A Stevens	April Salary	338.55
Team4 Bookkeeping	Payroll	12.00

16.2: Councillors resolved;

16.2.1: To approve the Annual Governance Statement to 31st March 2022.

16.2.2: To approve the Annual Return Accounting Statements to 31st March 2022.

16.2.3: That they are exempt from an External Audit for the year to 31st March 2022 because the Parish Council's receipts and payments were each less than £25000 and the dates for the Exercise for Electors Rights will be the 13th June to 22nd July 2022.

It was noted that the Parish Council has had to change payroll providers. The new payroll provider will be Team4Payroll.

The Financial Risk Assessment will be reviewed at the next meeting.

17. Illustrative Village Map – Councillor Ford circulated his design and asked councillors for their input. Councillors liked the draft and thought it was attractive and informative. A local artist will now be asked for advice on how to produce the map and another resident will be asked for permission to display the finished product on their wall.

18. Queen's Platinum Jubilee

There will be an informal gathering on the cricket pitch on the 2nd June to commemorate the Jubilee which will include a barbeque and music. 52 residents have already confirmed their attendance. A beacon will be lit afterwards at South Farm.

Volunteers are needed to help with the gazebos and barbeque at the gathering. Flyers are to be delivered through everyone's doors on the 20th May.

19. The next Full Council Meeting is planned for Tuesday 19th July 2022, items for the agenda need to be with the Clerk by Friday 8th July 2022.

There was no further business and this meeting closed at 9.50pm.