



DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD

on 19th July 2022 at 8.00pm
at Rodmell Village Hall

1. Present

Councillors John Gillies (JG: Chairman), Nikki Terry (NT), Sue Carroll (SC), Roger Ford (RF) and Lesley Prosser (LP).

District Councillor William Meyer was also in attendance.

There were seven members of the public present (including Mr Alister Linton-Crook (South Downs National Park Authority), Mr Richard Lewis (Mackley Construction) and Mr Neville Harrison (Egrets Way Project).

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors David Smart and Claire Dishington. Their apologies were accepted by those present.

Apologies for absence were also received from County Councillor Sarah Osborne.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3. Public Questions

As there were no public questions the Chairman began by addressing the representatives from the Egrets Way. He stated that the Parish Council had been less than impressed to hear how the upcoming works at Egret's Way would affect the village from the local press, rather than the Council having been part of any discussions about this with the National Park or the contractors.

Mr Lewis from Mackley Construction, the contractors, explained;

- i. The Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) had to be applied for well in advance so the dates in it were approximate and work was likely to start nearer the end of August than the date originally announced. The TTRO was needed because the road is very narrow in parts and access is needed for their lorries.
- ii. The wording on the proposed letter to residents had been changed from 'site compounds' to 'bases for the works and staff' to make it easier to understand.
- iii. The whole of The Street had to be covered by the TTRO to make it easier to enforce. Mr Lewis stated that the enforcement would be as sympathetic as possible, but infringements resulting in site traffic being blocked could result in fines or in vehicles being towed away.
- iv. Once a definite start date was known, residents would be notified two weeks in advance.
- v. Five lorry movements a day should not affect the state of the road but surveys would be carried out before work starts and on completion, and the Parish Council will be sent a copy. However the roads are owned by Highways and Mackley had not been contracted to repair them afterwards. The South Downs National Parks Authority, which has contracted the work, works closely with ESCC Highways and would continue to do so.

- vi. The surface and drainage of the first 50m of the access track (The Drove) would be improved. However, this would be done before the works commenced, and was to facilitate access by the contractor's vehicles, not as a measure to improve or repair the road.
- vii. Mr Lewis suggested the Parish Council should contact Monk's House to see if residents with only on-street parking could use the car park there, and that he would also contact them.
- viii. Parking would be permitted between 8.30 and 9.30 and between 15.00 and 16:00, and would be prohibited at all other times. This had been planned on the advice of ESCC to allow for school drop off and pick up times. It was pointed out that ESCC had closed the school some years ago.

The Chairman thanked Mr Linton Cook (South Downs National Park Authority), Mr Lewis (Mackley Construction and Mr Harrison (Egrets Way Project) for attending. Along with the other members of the public they then left the meeting.

4. Updates from the County Councillor and District Councillor

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

District Councillor Meyer said;

- i. He had not been told of the impending start of the Egrets Way works despite Lewes District Council and the South Downs National Parks donating £2m from CIL towards the work.
- ii. The District Council had now resumed face to face meetings. The main concerns there are the current situation with Ukraine and the rising cost of living.
- iii. Lewes District Council has a new Leader, Councillor James MacCleary.
- iv. The South Downs National Park Authority is renewing its Local Plan and as part of that is putting out a Call for Sites. Rodmell was one of 17 parishes listed as possible sites, but without any housing numbers allocated.

Councillor Ford had circulated a paper before the meeting in which he expressed his view that Rodmell Parish Council needs to have a generally agreed coherent approach to planning. His report described the background to Rodmell, its history, the Conservation Area, the Settlement Boundaries, the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment 2014, the Local Plan, the current housing need, the 'numbers game' and the implications for the village generally.

Councillor Meyer said the best way forward is engagement and suggested the Parish Council either books a discussion with a Senior Officer in Planning or invites them to attend a Parish Council Meeting.

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 Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 17th May 2022

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on the 17th May 2022, were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chairman.

7. Planning

- 7.1: Planning Applications - No planning applications were discussed at this meeting. The Parish Council had been due to hear about a planning application for 3 Barley Fields (for a small conservatory and some remodelling upstairs) but has yet to receive details.
- 7.2: Planning Policy – This was covered under District Councillor Meyer's item. Councillors agreed they found Councillor Ford's report interesting and asked him to produce guidance notes, which he will circulate to them for their comments before the next meeting. The guidance

notes will then be considered at an extra meeting which will be called half an hour before the Full Council Meeting in September.

- 7.3: SDNPA Land Availability Assessment – The South Downs National Parks Authority will be undertaking a Land Availability Assessment and has produced a draft methodology for this.

8. Maintenance Reviews

- 8.1: Defibrillator Report – Councillor Prosser continues to monitor the defibrillator. The new pads are now in place and the previous ones have been kept as spares.
- 8.2: Maintenance Works from the Asset Inspection – The hedge by the southern bus shelter has been cut back, the bus shelter has had a general clean and some graffiti removed. Some of its panels have also been repositioned. The work needed to the noticeboard and the benches has been booked in for the first week in August.

9. Clerk's and Councillor's Reports

- 9.1: Legal Matters - General update on the school and playground progress – The Parish Council understands;

- i. the school was recently sold at auction.
- ii. the sale of the Abergavenny Arms has fallen through. The owner is still keen to sell it as a going concern and is happy to consider another sale, a tenancy or tenancy at will, or a further lease. It is understood that Lucie Sargeant will definitely not continue as Landlord.

9.2: Other updates

- Website and Email Problems – There was nothing new to report.
- Tree Warden – There was nothing new to report on any of the trees in the parish.
- Countryside, agriculture and allotments – Councillor Smart sent an email to say that all the allotments had been allocated and there was one name on the waiting list.
- Repairs to the Street – There was nothing new to report.
- Playground mowing and trimming – Also in his email, Councillor Smart said that he had asked for quotes but had only received one to date, which was for £50. Councillors resolved to accept this.
- Communication with Northease residents – There was nothing new to report.
- Safer C7 Report – it was resolved to;
 - i. Record the receipt of the Notice to Parishes of Cessation of their involvement in the Safer C7 project Constituted Entity.
 - ii. Ratify the signature of the Confirmation by Rodmell Parish Council of the Withdrawal from Membership of the Safer C7 Project Constituted Entity.

Councillor Carroll provided the following update.

- i. Councillor Claire Dishington has been appointed Treasurer of the Project and is in the process of opening a bank account so it can apply for grants.
 - ii. They have an active website on which residents are asked to record accidents and share ideas on the C7.
- Walkable verge between Northease and Rodmell – A resident tripped and fell into the road recently when trying to avoid growth from the hedge protruding over the path and as a result has a huge injury to her knee. The drains are also a trip hazard. Councillor Carroll said she will report the protruding hedge to the Operations Manager at the school.

10. Brief Report from the Clerk and/or Councillors

- Update from the latest POLO Meeting – There has not been a POLO Meeting since the last Full Council Meeting.
- Update on the latest meeting of the Lewes District Association of Local Councils (LDALC) – Councillor Carroll reported that Dale Poore and Ruby Brittle gave a good presentation on the structure and funding of Highways which has been circulated to members.

11. Finance Report

Councillors resolved;

11.1: To approve the accounts to the 19th July 2022.

11.2: To approve the following payments;

		<u>£:</u>
DH Property Services	Bus Stop Repairs	890.00
Lewes DALC	Subscription	20.00
Business Stream	Pavilion	14.10
Lewes DC	Dog Bin Emptying	93.60
A Stevens	May Salary	338.55
A Stevens	June Salary	338.55
HMRC	PAYE	253.80
Team4 Solutions	Payroll	12.00

It was also agreed to pay;

Claverham College	Hire refund	100.00
Rodmell Cricket Club	Jubilee Celebrations	100.00

Rodmell Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to thank Rodmell Cricket Club for arranging the celebrations which were enjoyed by all and Chris Wettern for lighting the beacon.

Councillors also resolved to remove John Harvey and Derek Blackhall as bank signatories.

11.3: Information Sign - Councillors Ford and Gillies met to assess the best location for the sign and agreed the front of the wall of the pub would be the most suitable.

Talks will now take place with a local graphic designer to ask for their advice on how to make the sign.

11.4: Financial Risk Assessment – Councillors resolved to accept the Financial Risk Assessment from May 2022.

12. The next Full Council Meeting is planned for Tuesday 20th September 2022, items for the agenda need to be with the Clerk by Friday 8th September 2022.

There was no further business and the meeting finished at 9.45pm.