



DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD

on 27th September 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) and David Smart (DF).

Alison Stevens (Parish Clerk). There were no members of the public present.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Lesley Prosser. Her apologies were accepted by those present.

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

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3. Public Questions

There were no questions from any members of the public.

4. Updates from the County Councillor and District Councillor

Reports from the County and District Councillor can be found at <https://www.rodmed.net/corridors-of-power/>

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 Full Council Meeting held on 19th July 2022

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 19th July 2022, were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chairman.

7. Planning

7.1: Planning Applications – Re: the planning application SDNP/22/00694/FUL, by Northease Farm, the Council agreed that it did not wish to formally withdraw its objections to the application, though most members felt that the conditions that the Lead Officer wished to apply would be acceptable so long as they were agreed by LDC Planning Committee. It was

agreed that Councillor Carroll will attend the Planning Applications Committee Meeting on the 5th October 2022 to represent the Parish Council's views.

- 7.2: Planning Policy – After the last meeting the Clerk contacted the Planning Policy team to arrange a meeting so they can answer questions councillors have about the Local Plan and planning in general.

An officer from the team replied to say they are unable to meet but would be willing to answer any questions by email.

8. Maintenance Reviews

- 8.1: Defibrillator Report – The defibrillator has had a manufacturer's recall because it needs a software update. The machine will be removed on the 10th October and returned on the 12th once the update has been carried out.
- 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 the graffiti has been removed. The work needed to the noticeboard and the benches has also now been carried out to the Council's satisfaction.

9. Clerk's and Councillor's Reports

- 9.1: Legal Matters - General update on the school and playground progress – The school has now been sold and the Parish Council understands the new owner has plans to store his Virginia Wolfe archives there. Councillor Dishington agreed to contact him to ask him if he would share his plans with the Council.

Councillors also asked the Clerk to ask Emerald Services to clear the small triangle of land by the school which is owned by the Parish Council. They may also need to replace the padlock.

- 9.2: Abergavenny Arms – The current Manager has set up a new company with the owner and has been given a five year lease with an option to extend it. Residents are invited to submit their ideas on what they want from the pub. Councillor Carroll will ask Northease residents.

9.3: Other updates

- Website and Email Problems – There was nothing new to report although it was noted that the website is now eight years old and needs an upgrade, funds for which will be requested in next year's budget.
- Tree Warden – Councillor Smart has had a look at the Northease Manor School Application SDNP/22/04444/TPO which concerns a Holm Oak in the grounds of Northease Manor School. The tree is decaying at the bottom and seems to have gradually deteriorated over a number of years, and various works have been carried out to try and preserve it. It carries a high risk rating, and needs to be felled before it becomes dangerous. Since the work has been recommended by an expert, he feels no need for the Parish Council to comment further.
Councillor Smart also said that all the allotments had been allocated and there is one name on the waiting list. There is the potential for another allotment but it needs clearing. He arranged a site visit with a prospective new tenant who thinks they should be able to clear it.
- Repairs to the Street – This was deferred until after the work on Egrets Way has been completed.
- Sports Field, mowing and hedge trimming – Councillors asked the Clerk to arrange for the hedge at the Sports Field to be cut. It was also noted the Cricket Club is having a pitch tidy on the 1st October.
- Communication with Northease residents – This was covered elsewhere on the agenda.
- Safer C7 Report – Councillor Carroll circulated a progress update before the meeting. Updates are also logged onto the website www.thec7road.co.uk/safer-c7-project.

It was noted that our MP Maria Caulfield wants to set up a pilot scheme for 30mph speed limits on the county's rural roads. Councillors agreed a 40mph limit would be more suitable for the C7.

- Progress on the walkable verge between Northease and Rodmell and the Northease Permissive Footpath – The Parish Council received a complaint from a resident who is worried about the permissive footpath because it will expose their property. Councillors expressed their sympathy but agreed the path is needed and suggested they erect suitable fencing or appropriate hedging. The Permissive Path Agreement dated 27th September 2022 was then ratified. It was agreed that independent legal advice was not required because the agreement is a standard one drawn up by the South Downs National Park Authority and as such legal advice would have already been sought. Rodmell Parish Council would like to officially thank Mr Neville Harrison and Mr David Robinson for making the new path, which will now be known as Lenny's path, a reality. The cost to fence it and add stiles is likely to be around £4000, of which the National Park will contribute £1000, and grants from other sources are being requested. A deposit of £1800 is needed to start the work.

Councillor Carroll said she has asked the School's Operation's Manager to cut back the hedge on the walkable verge and the County Council is to cut the verge twice a year. She also agreed to chase up the signs which had been promised by Highways. Councillor Ford asked if the path is really needed and how it can be justified now the permissive pathway is going ahead.

- Egrets Way – This was covered partly under the item on The Street. It was also noted that Phase 6 should be finished by the end of this year.
- Summer Show – Everyone agreed this year's show was very good although it had been scaled down from previous years. It was noted that more volunteers would be needed if future shows are to be restored to the scale of the pre-pandemic years.

10. Brief Report from the Clerk and/or Councillors

- Update from the latest POLO Meeting – Piddinghoe Parish Council is commissioning a Feasibility Study for its part of the C7 and ideally wants the 40 mph speed limit extended from Newhaven to the north junction at Piddinghoe. County Councillor Osborne said she has sent a formal complaint to Highways because she never receives any response from them.
- Update on the latest meeting of the Lewes District Association of Local Councils (LDALC) – The meeting discussed Resilience Plans and the need to update them. Rodmell's was last updated two years' ago and it was agreed another update at this stage is not needed.
- Village Hall Committee Meeting –The Trustees are currently looking installing an air source heat pump. They are also going to landscape the rear of the hall and provide disabled access. The minutes of their meeting will be circulated in due course. Councillor Dishington agreed to ask the Trustees to consider providing WiFi, although it was acknowledged that it might be too expensive.

11. Finance Report

Councillors resolved;

11.1: To approve the accounts to the 16th September 2022.

11.2: To approve the following payments;

		<u>£:</u>
Emerald Services	Grass Cutting	150.00
Pyrotec	Safety Checks	86.96
DH Property Services	Maintenance Repairs	500.00
Lewes DALC	Subscription	20.00
A Stevens	July Salary	351.34
A Stevens	Aug Salary	351.34
HMRC	PAYE	253.80
Team4 Solutions	Payroll	24.00

Councillor Smart said the fire extinguishers in the Cricket Pavilion will need replacing next year.

11.3: Information Sign – This had been put on hold until the future of the pub and the school were known. It was agreed to set this in motion again now these were clearer.

11.4: Village Collection – Councillors resolved to hold a collection for Lucie Sargent, the licensee of the Abergavenny Arms, who is leaving, to thank her for her services to the community especially through the recent pandemic. The total raised was £660, of which £225 will be spent on a painting by Vicky Mappin, a village artist, and the balance given as cash.

12. The next Full Council Meeting is planned for Tuesday 15th November 2022, items for the agenda need to be with the Clerk by Friday 4th November 2022.

There was no further business and the meeting finished at 9.15pm.