



DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD

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

1. Present

Councillors John Gillies (JG: Chairman), Lesley Prosser (LP), Nikki Terry (NT), Sue Carroll (SC) and David Smart (DF).

District Councillor William Meyer and Alison Stevens (Parish Clerk). There were no members of the public present.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Claire Dishington. Her apologies were accepted by those present.

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

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced the resignation of Roger Ford.

3. Public Questions

There were no questions from any members of the public.

4. Updates from the County Councillor and District Councillor

District Councillor Meyer;

- i. is looking into how election charges are calculated and will report back when he knows.
- ii. Said Southover House is being taken over by Charleston Manor and is to become a cultural centre. Lewes District Council has bought the former UTC building in Newhaven and its administration staff will be moving there.

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

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 27th September 2022

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 27th September 2022, were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chairman.

7. Planning

7.1: Planning Applications – SDNP/22/04918/HOUS - 3 Barley Field Cottages, The Street, Rodmell, East Sussex BN7 3HQ - Extension to existing ground floor rear extension and erection of rear dormer – Rodmell Parish Council has no objections to this application on any planning grounds.

SDNP/22/05191/HOUS - Dormer Cottage, The Street, Rodmell, East Sussex BN7 3HF - Hip to gable roof extension, addition of pitched roof window, alterations to cladding, and alterations to existing dormer windows – Rodmell Parish Council has no objections to this application on any planning grounds.

At the last meeting it was agreed that Councillor Carroll would attend the South Downs National Park Planning Committee Meeting to represent the Parish Council's views on the planning application for Northease Farm (SDNP/22/00694/FUL). The application was approved subject to various planning Conditions.

7.2: Planning Policy – The South Downs National Park Authority is producing a Parish Priority Statement with a template which councillors said they will look out for.

A new design guide has been published by the SDNPA – called a Design SPD (Supplementary Planning Document) which is intended to guide planning committees, developers, architects etc, when considering or submitting planning applications within the SDNPA area.

8. Maintenance Reviews

8.1: Defibrillator Report – The defibrillator has now had its software updated during which the battery was found to be sound.

8.2: Maintenance Works from the Asset Inspection – Councillors resolved to accept the price from Mr Hill to repair and clear the gutter at the Pavilion. The loft door has a broken handle which is being repaired by the Cricket Club.

Councillor Smart reported;

- i. Chain link fencing he found lying on the floor at the playground. The Clerk will ask the owner of the old school house through Councillor Dishington to remove it.
- ii. The fence from behind the shelter to the back wall needs tidying – The Clerk will ask a contractor to do the work.
- iii. Ivy on both sides of the back wall alongside the footpath needs clearing – The Clerk will ask a contractor to clear that at the same time.

9. Clerk's and Councillor's Reports

9.1: Legal Matters - Councillor Dishington contacted the new owner of the former school who is to release a statement about its future use.

Councillor Gillies asked for an informal meeting to extend the hand of hospitality.

9.2: Abergavenny Arms – The current Manager has set up a new company and has been granted a five year lease with an option to extend it. This item will now be removed from future agendas.

9.3: Other updates

- Website and Email Problems – The website is eight years old and needs an upgrade. The funding for it will be requested from next year's budget.
- Tree Warden – Councillor Smart has had a look at the planning application for Step Cottage (Application SDNP/22/04671/TCA) which concerns a beech tree, a maple tree and a holly tree. Since the work has been recommended by an expert, he feels no need for the Parish Council to comment any 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 hopes to arrange a site visit with a prospective new tenant soon.

- Repairs to the Street – The Parish Council has yet to receive the surveys which were due when the work started and on its completion.
- Sports Field, mowing and hedge trimming – The Clerk has asked a contractor to cut the hedge at the Sports Field. The edges of the ground are not currently being trimmed so the Parish Council will decide what it wants to do about them at the start of the new growing season. A new gate is also needed at the entrance to The Croft so Councillor Gillies will ask a local contractor for a quote.
- Communication with Northease residents – Following complaints from residents, Councillor Carroll has asked the landowner to speak to the people at South Down Cider there to inform them that they are causing a nuisance to neighbours and to ask them to limit themselves to normal working hours, in line with the conditions imposed on the other businesses in the farm yard.
- Safer C7 Report – Councillor Carroll reported that the Project has recently submitted several applications for grant funding. The news that Spatham Lane near Ditchling has been granted ESCC approval for a 40mph speed limit (subject to police approval) is encouraging. She was also pleased to read that Maria Caulfield MP is going to ask the County Council to review its criteria to allow road safety measures to be put in place. Several parishes are signing up to the 20s Plenty campaign, but it does not meet the needs of the C7, because 20s Plenty is designed for residential areas where there are more than twenty residential buildings fronting a 600m length of road – whereas the villages along the C7 are located off the main road. As The Street in Rodmell is not a through road, speeding is not a significant issue. It was agreed that a 20mph limit would be too slow for the C7.
- Progress on the Permissive Footpath – The Parish Council has received another complaint from the resident who was worried about the permissive footpath because it exposes her property to say that as a result she has now had to erect fencing. Work on the path is nearing completion and an informal walk is going to be arranged for its re-opening.
Councillor Carroll said she has been chasing up the signs for the walkable verge between Northease and Rodmell, but with no response. The walkable verge will now be removed from future agendas.
- Egrets Way – Work has stalled due to the structural collapse of a stretch of track, preventing lorries reaching the site.

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 Rodmell Parish Council Meeting.
- Update on the latest meeting of the Lewes District Association of Local Councils (LDALC) – Councillor Carroll had circulated a summary of the meeting held on the 17th October before this meeting. Items under discussion included 'warm hubs', electric car charging points and the elections next May.
- Village Hall Committee Meeting –The minutes of the latest Village Hall Committee Meeting will be circulated upon receipt.

Councillors then discussed ways to recruit a more diverse range of new councillors.

11. Finance Report

Councillors resolved;

11.1: To approve the accounts to the 25th October 2022.

11.2: To approve the following payments;

		<u>£:</u>
Emerald Services	Grass Cutting etc	245.00
Lewes DC	Dog Bin Emptying	93.60
Lewes DC	Play Park Inspection	63.00

A Stevens	September Salary	351.24
A Stevens	October Salary	351.04

- 11.3: To continue with the existing verge cutting arrangements for 2023 (Option 2).
- 11.4: To not pay councillors an allowance. An allowance had been requested for childcare but allowances cannot currently be paid for childcare or to co-opted members.
- 11.5: The precept for 2023-2024 will be £15466, which equates to an approximate 24p a month increase per Council Band D Tax Payer, helps the Parish Council precept keep pace with inflation.
- 11.6: Illustrated Information Sign – The Manager of the Abergavenny Arms has agreed the sign can go on an outside wall at the pub. The Clerk will ask Councillor Ford, who has since resigned, for a copy of his designs.
- 11.7: Make a donation of £100 to the Trussell Trust in memory to the late Rev. Geoff Daw.

12. The next Full Council Meeting is planned for Tuesday 17th January 2023, items for the agenda need to be with the Clerk by Friday 6th January 2023.

The next Parish Assembly will be held on the 28th April 2023. Parish Council Meetings will be held on the 17th January, 21st March, 16th May, 18th July, 19th September and 21st November.

It was also noted that this year's pantomime will be Aladdin and it will be on the 20th, 21st and 22nd January.

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