



**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017 in the Small Hall of the Village Hall, Gilberts Drive, East Dean, commencing at 6.30 pm**

**Councillors present:** Cllr S Fuller (Chair), Cllr I Haydock, Cllr P Hill, Cllr A Hookham, Cllr M Keller, and Cllr R Maxwell

**In attendance:** County Cllr S Shing (Item C.333); District Cllr J Wilton (Items C.320 – C.323); K Larkin (Parish Clerk)

*There were two members of the public present.*

*The Chair confirmed with regret that Cllr Mrs Jane Branson had resigned, due to pressure of other commitments. However, Mrs Branson would continue to work on the play area project. Resident electors had until 15 February to notify the Returning Officer if they wished the vacancy to be filled by election rather than by co-option.*

## **Public Session**

Downlands Estate - Micheldene Road entrance: - Mr Bob Salmon reported that vehicles parked at the junction of the A259 and Micheldene Road were compromising safety by reducing visibility, and the roadside bank on the left had been allowed to deteriorate. The Residents' Association requested council support to improve this area. The Chair confirmed that the council would raise the parking problem again with ESCC Highways at the next liaison meeting in April, and with the police, and would suggest the installation of bollards (**ACTION: KL**). However, ESCC Highways took no direct responsibility for Micheldene Road as it was a private road, and the Roads Company took responsibility only for the tarmac, all verges being private. District Cllr Wilton offered to speak individually to residents about the maintenance of their verges (**ACTION: JW**)

*The Chair closed the Public Session and opened the meeting*

**C.320 Acceptance of apologies for absence:** - Cllr J Sargent, Cllr P Seeley

**C.321 Declarations of Interests:** - None

**C.322 Approval of the Minutes:** - The minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

## **C.323 Report of the District Councillor**

District Cllr J Wilton reported on the following matters:

- a) Waste bins and dog bins – two new green dog bins had been installed as requested. The waste bin at the East Dean bus stop (S side) had overflowed once in the past month.
- b) A27 improvements – current indications were that no substantial improvements could be expected in the next decade.

RESOLVED - That the report of the District Councillor be noted

#### **C.324 BUSINESS IN PROGRESS**

The council considered report 4 on progress since the January meeting, and the following points were raised:

- a) Vacancy on the council – the current vacancy did not reduce the number of elected councillors, which was still sufficient for the council to claim the General Power of Competence under the Localism Act 2011. **ACTION: KL to put this on the March agenda.**
- b) Missing bollard at the recreation ground – this should be replaced in its original position. **ACTION: PH to instruct a contractor**
- c) Friston crossing – an update should be requested from ESCC. **ACTION: KL**
- d) Bank mandate – further amendments would be deferred until after the Annual Meeting of council.

RESOLVED – That the Progress report be noted and action taken as discussed.

#### **C.325 COUNCIL NOTICEBOARDS**

The Council considered Report 5 and agreed to approve the maintenance or replacement of council-owned notice boards up to the budgeted provision. All boards should be made lockable. Enquiries should be made about the cost of replacement with readymade noticeboards **ACTION: KL.** A Village Hall Trust notice board in the car park also needed attention (**ACTION: SF to contact the Trustees).**

RESOLVED – That the maintenance or replacement of council owned noticeboards up to the budgeted provision be approved.

#### **C.326 ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING**

The council considered Report 6 and agreed the proposed outline structure for the Annual Village Meeting 2017, to include a set period of 30-45 minutes for speakers from clubs and societies at the beginning of formal business. The hall would open for browsing of displays at the earlier start time of 5.30 – 6.30 pm. The programme would be finalised at the March meeting.

RESOLVED - To approve the outline structure of the AVM 2017, as discussed

#### **C.327 INDEPENDENT PARISH REMUNERATION PANEL REPORT 2017/18**

The council took note of the recommendations of the Independent Parish Remuneration Panel Report 2017/18 (Report 7). The council was entitled to pay a

small annual honorarium to councillors (£156 each, or £269 for the Chair), but had never done so. Further consideration would be given to this for 2018/19.

RESOLVED – That the Parish Remuneration Panel Report 2017/18 be noted

### **C.328 NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

#### **SDNP/17/00036/HOUS – 3 Peakdean Close, East Dean, BN20 0HZ**

*Proposed replacement roof to conservatory and alterations to existing bay*

Members took note of the recommendation of the Planning Committee that this application be commended to the SDNPA for approval.

RESOLVED - To recommend that the application be approved

#### **SDNP/16/05731/TPO – Mapleswood, Old Willingdon Road, Friston, BN20 0AT**

*Notification of intention to works to 30 trees comprising of reduction and crown lift to 27 trees and felling of 3 trees*

Members took note of the recommendation of the Planning Committee that this application be commended to the SDNPA for approval. A report had been received from the parish Tree Warden commending the project.

RESOLVED - To recommend that the application be approved

### **C.330 PRE-APPLICATION PLANNING CONSULTATION ON BEHALF OF CTIL AND TELEFONICA UK LTD**

*Proposed base station installation at CTIL 236033 – East Dean Road SF, East Dean Road, East Dean, BN20 0BD*

Members took note of a report on this item by the Chair of Planning [see Annex to these minutes]. It was agreed that the proposed installation was largely welcome as it should improve the very poor mobile coverage which some residents suffered; and that the general vicinity proposed for the installation, at the foot of Eastbourne Hill, was also acceptable in principle. However, the precise location at the A259 kerbside was queried as it would be visually intrusive and vulnerable to damage. Two alternative locations were suggested: one at the rear of the pavement, and the other in the entrance to Downsview Lane, where the base units could be camouflaged by the hedge.

RESOLVED – To thank CTIL for their consultation and to broadly welcome the proposed installation whilst suggesting alternative locations

### **C.331 PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS**

The council considered Report 10 (the Schedule of Payments for the month of February 2017) and noted Receipts. *[Note: the complete Schedule of Payments is published on the council website].*

RESOLVED - That the Payments totalling £1,611.89 be approved and the clerk be authorised to make the payments online

**C.332 URGENT ITEMS: - None**

**C.333 REPORTS:**

- a) The Chair reported on the following matters:
  - i. Council representative on the Village Hall Trust – Cllr Fuller intended to stand down as a trustee before the next meeting of the Trust. The council would need to appoint a replacement.
  - ii. Response to requests made in the Public Session – requests for action made in the Public Session should only be taken up by the clerk on the instruction of the council. Where council involvement was not felt to be appropriate, enquirers would be directed to the right authority. Members agreed.
- b) Planning Committee – the council took note of the minutes of the committee meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017
- c) Rights of Way Committee – no meeting (next meeting 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017). Cllr Hill reported that he had purchased supplies for this year's hanging baskets, as agreed at the January meeting.
- d) Finance – the Chair reported that the balance in hand at the end of January was £53,418.
- e) The Play Project – Cllr Maxwell reported that she and Mrs Branson had met Wealden District Council's Partnership and Funding Support Officer on 2<sup>nd</sup> February to discuss several aspects of the project, as follows:
  - i. Governance – a 'Friends' group would be an appropriate vehicle to take the project forward and should be seen to be independent of the parish council, though it should also be clear that on completion of the project the council would be committed to taking over its maintenance, insurance, etc. Guidance on constituting such a group was available.
  - ii. Funding strategy and timetable – VAT was an expected cost of the project and funding bodies would expect to fund it. There should be evidence of strong support for the project in the form of funds committed by the parish council, and community backing. Volunteer time valued at standardised rates could contribute to match funding. WDC itself could give grants of up to £10,000 and (like many donors) preferred to support larger projects with multiple contributors.
  - iii. Advice on funding applications - applications should seek to demonstrate need; consultation with stakeholders; and any tendering for the project, together with supporting documentation. WDC could assist by reviewing draft applications and advising on content.

In discussion, it was noted that if the parish council could undertake the project without setting up a Friends group (e.g. by taking out a loan from the Public Works Loans Board), it would be able to reclaim the considerable cost of VAT; on the other hand, many funding bodies would not give grants to parish councils. It was agreed to draw up a list of all those funding bodies which would/would not donate to a council, to assess the best way forward (**ACTION: RM/JB**). A presentation would be made to the Annual Village Meeting.

- f) Recreation Ground – the Chair reported that the East Dean Geebro stoolball club had disbanded, but new approaches to hire the ground had been received from Moira House School and the ROMPA stoolball club. The Cricket Club had been consulted as use of the pitch by other hirers was subject to their agreement. Councillors strongly supported the greater use of the recreation ground, but also understood the need for the Cricket Club to maintain the quality of the pitches. It was agreed that the Club's approval should 'not be unreasonably withheld' and a clause to that effect should be added to their hire agreement for 2017. The Club had confirmed that their storage areas would be cleared and sorted. If the volume of hires increased then additional caretaking hours might be required. **ACTION: PH to contact a potential helper.**
- g) Village Events – it was agreed that a Village Safety Event, under discussion with the Sussex Police, could not be combined with the Annual Village Meeting but should be deferred until the autumn. It was also noted that the Village Diary had now been taken over by the Village Hall Trust.
- h) County Councillor – Cllr S Shing reported on the following matters:
  - i. Highway drainage and footway maintenance – an additional £1.3 million had been budgeted by the county council for 2017/18
  - ii. Council tax increase – the overall increase would probably be 4.9%, inclusive of permitted additional spending on Adult Social Care and the police budget.
  - iii. Flooding on the A259 – Cllr Shing had reported a recent problem in the usual location to ESCC and to Wealden (for street sweeping). Councillors advised that the pipe leading from the gully pots into East Dean pond should be cleared.
  - iv. Temporary traffic lights for Airbourne 2017 – Eastbourne Borough Council wanted to go back on the offer to fully fund the lights. Cllr Shing would continue to press for full funding.
  - v. Micheldene Road/A259 junction – Cllr Shing advised that the police were unlikely to enforce parking restrictions in this location, and that ESCC were not involved. The parish council hoped that the installation of bollards might help.

- i) Sheltered Accommodation – the council took note of the record of the Working Group meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017, and plans for future meetings with potential providers and other interested parties. A summary report would be brought to the March council meeting (**ACTION: SHWG**).
- j) Parish Clerk - nothing in addition to the Progress report.

RESOLVED – That the above reports (a) – (j) be noted and action taken as discussed.

### **C.318 CORRESPONDENCE**

The council considered Report 13 by the Clerk, and the following matters were discussed:

- a) Report from Maria Caulfield MP – Ms Caulfield had supplied an update on a number of matters raised at the January meeting. The report had been circulated and was much appreciated.
- b) Request to list red phone kiosk on A259 - the council would not apply to have the kiosk listed, but would supply information to enable the enquirer to do so.
- c) Planting wild flowers on verges – ESCC Highways should be invited to consider verges at East Dean bus stop (S side); Friston bus stop (S side), and the A259 verge of Friston pond.
- d) Request for double yellow lines at Crowlink junction – the parish council would raise this at their April liaison meeting with ESCC Highways, but doubted whether action would result.

RESOLVED – That the Correspondence report be noted and action taken as discussed.

**C.319 Date of next meeting** – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017 at 6.30 pm in the Village Hall.

*There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.24 pm.*

Signed..... (Chair)

Date.....

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## APPENDIX

### **Proposed erection of a mobile phone mast and equipment beside the A259**

This proposal, which is currently at the pre-planning consultation stage, is being made by Telefonica, the owner of the O2 network. This network currently transmits from aerials located on top of the old water tower on Friston Hill but, due to the terrain, only achieves partial coverage of East Dean and the downs beyond. Since the aerials at the water tower have only recently been upgraded it can be assumed that the new mast is intended to be an addition, rather than a replacement, for this existing service. It should be noted that this proposed mobile phone mast will only improve reception on O2 and its associated networks.

From anecdotal evidence, the areas where coverage is poor (or non-existent) are those in the shadow of the Peak Dean/Micheldene ridge (e.g. Elven Lane, Sussex Gardens) or in the shadow of Went Hill (Village Green, Fridays, Birling Gap). This rules out the placing of a new mast in the Old Willingdon Road or co-siting with the TV transmitter in the field above The Link (besides this mast being unsuitable) since this would not improve coverage in these areas.

Any placement of a mast within the Eastbourne Heritage Downland has been deemed unacceptable to the owner, Eastbourne Borough Council. The other sites rejected by the contractors include (quite rightly) The Village Green and other parts of the Conservation Area.

The resulting proposal is therefore for a mast located on the north side of the A259, to the east of the bus shelter and approximately adjacent to the twitten that leads to Wenthill Close. The proposal is for a mast with antennae enclosed in a shroud and two equipment cabinets situated at the kerbside.

The proposed location probably represents the “least worst option” if it is accepted that mobile phone coverage in the village needs to be improved. It should be noted that, in this vicinity there is already some high level street furniture, such as the CCTV mast, traffic island lighting and two telegraph poles, as well as an assortment of road signs. Thus it can be argued that a mobile phone mast here will not be impacting on an area of visual sensitivity. However, the placing of the mast and equipment cabinets at the kerbside is a cause for concern. Not only is this more visually intrusive but the proximity to the carriageway increases the risk of damage by traffic.

The reason for locating the mast and equipment at the kerbside would appear to be because that area consists of grass verge with the asphalt footpath running adjacent to the boundary wall. However, adjacent to the bus shelter, the footpath is diverted out to the kerbside and the grass verge is adjacent to the wall. Placing the mast and equipment on the verge by the boundary wall next to the bus shelter would be much less intrusive and less prone to traffic damage.

It is acknowledged that a location next to the bus shelter would be at a slightly lower height and this might affect coverage (although this might be mitigated by having a slightly higher mast). If however, it were to prove impossible to locate it here, then an alternative would be to divert the footpath to enable the mast and equipment to be placed next to the boundary wall.