



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Friday 5th May 2017 in the Small Hall of the Village Hall, Gilberts Drive, East Dean, commencing at 7.10 pm

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

In attendance: K Larkin (Parish Clerk)

There was one member of the public present.

Public Session: - No matters were raised

C.379 Acceptance of apologies for absence: - Cllr I Haydock; Cllr J Sargent

C.380 Declarations of Interests: - None

C.381 Approval of the Minutes: - The minutes of the meeting held on 6th April 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

C.382 BUSINESS IN PROGRESS

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

- a) War Memorial - a quotation was awaited for refurbishing the railings. The original schedule of work was complete except for snagging and refurbishment of the names on the memorial plaques.
- b) Litter bins – members agreed that three more high capacity Leafield bins should be ordered (two for the East Dean bus stops, north and south of the A259; and one for the recreation ground). The clerk was authorised to pay for the bins at the time of placing the order (£338.17 plus VAT, per bin). **ACTION: PH/KL**
- c) Play area maintenance – Cllr Hill and Cllr Seeley would repair the cabin slide and (if possible) oil the barrel roll on the Trim Trail; if the barrel roll required specialist attention then the supplier (Wicksteed) should be asked to do maintenance. It would be retained if the play project went ahead. The fence was partially leaning but work would be deferred until the play project was finished, when a complete new fence would be installed. **ACTION: PH/PS**

RESOLVED – That the Progress report be noted

RESOLVED - That three more high capacity Leafield litter bins be ordered for use at the East Dean bus stops and at the recreation ground, and the clerk be authorised to pay for these before the next meeting

C.383 NEW PLANNING APPLICATION**SDNP/17/01623/FUL – Longview Cottage, Micheldene Road, East Dean, BN20**

0HP *Demolition of existing garage and construction of a new single storey garage with attached store in a different location. Landscaping works to the site including the creation of a new vehicular access and driveway, level changes to create new terraces and the construction of new retaining walls.*

The council noted the recommendation of the Planning Committee (18th April 2017) that this application be commended to the SDNPA for approval, subject to the condition that contractors' vehicles be kept on site during the construction phase:

RESOLVED – To endorse the recommendation of the Planning Committee

C.384 VILLAGE SAFETY DAY

The Council considered Report 6 on the possibility of holding a Village Safety Day later in 2017. It was noted that the last time a Safety Day had been held, attendance by frontline services had been good, but attendance by the public had been poor. Service organisations were very willing to try again; the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance had recently offered to attend local meetings. It was agreed to gauge support from residents at the Annual Village Meeting, by a show of hands.

C.385 OPEN AIR CINEMA EVENT

The council considered Report 7 and took note that a request had been received to use the recreation ground for an open air cinema event. The Cricket Club had been consulted and did not object provided that the pitch was protected. However, members were concerned that the event would be advertised on social media, and could have the character of a festival attracting a large influx of non-residents. Permission had already been given for a one-day event in 2017 (the Rude Mechanicals Theatre Company). It was agreed that the cinema request should be refused in 2017 but reconsidered in 2018 with more complete information about the type of event proposed. **ACTION: KL to write to the organisers.**

RESOLVED – Not to give permission for an open air cinema event on the recreation ground in 2017

The question was raised whether the pavilion and cricket ground should be considered as a revenue earner or as a social asset. Members inclined to the latter: it was difficult to raise revenue from the pavilion because the pavilion required intensive cleaning after almost every hire, and the work was seasonal. If the volume of hires increased, the current sole cleaner would need additional help, due to other commitments. **ACTION: PH to contact a possible helper.** It had been suggested that current hire rates were low, but in fact the cost was comparable to that of hiring the small hall. The hiring policy should be reviewed at the end of the current season. **ACTION: KL**

C.386 DRAFT FINAL ACCOUNTS 2016/17

The council considered Report 8 containing the draft final accounts for the financial year 2016/17. It was noted that the surplus at the end of the year was larger than planned (£48,057 as compared to £36,136 in the previous year). The following reasons were identified:

- Asset maintenance - £5,000 budgeted for the pavilion would roll over into 2017/18; £2,000 allowed for repair of safety surfacing had been done in house at a cost of only £120, for which thanks were due to Cllr Hill and Cllr Seeley; £7,500 had been budgeted for work to the War Memorial which had been done but not yet invoiced; £5,000 had been set aside for a future play area upgrade, and the money saved on surfacing repairs would be added to this 'pot'. A wave of expenditure on other items was coming (e.g. maintenance at Downlands Way and Friston Pond; purchase of new litter bins).
- Services - £3,000 budgeted for Bonfire had not been spent, but receipts from Bonfire had also been budgeted at £3,000, so the result was cost neutral
- Council Office and Professional/Councillor Expenses – slightly under budget

Members approved the draft final accounts which would be audited on 5th June 2017. It was noted that the mowing contact had one season left to run and would need to be re-negotiated in the autumn. **ACTION: SF/KL to include in next Budget**

RESOLVED - That the draft final accounts for 2016/17 be approved

C.387 INSURANCE

The council took note that the current insurance policy with Zurich Municipal would be renewed automatically on 01 June under a Long Term Agreement which had one more year to run (01 June 2017 - 31 May 2018). This too should be reviewed during the coming year. **ACTION: KL**

C.388 PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS

The council considered Report 10, the Schedule of Payments and receipts for the month of May 2017. *[Note: the complete Schedule is published on the council website]*. An additional payment of £21.96 was added to the schedule for the purchase of compost for the hanging baskets.

RESOLVED - That the Payments totalling £4,140.19 be approved and the clerk be authorised to make the payments online

C.389 URGENT ITEMS

The clerk reported that solicitors acting in the sale of a Downlands Way freehold had reissued the Deed of Covenant regarding the maintenance charge payable to the council annually by the holders of the relevant shop unit, to pass responsibility to the new owner. This would need to be signed on behalf of the council. This item of business did not require any fresh decisions to be made.

RESOLVED - That the Deed of Covenant be signed on behalf of the council

C.390 REPORTS:

- a) East Sussex County Council – in the recent county elections, Cllr Stephen Shing had been re-elected as county councillor for the Willingdon and South Downs ward
- b) Wealden District Council – no report
- c) Chair of the council – no report
- d) Planning Committee – the council took note of the minutes of the committee meeting held on 18th April 2017. The following matters were also raised:
 - i. Land east of Gilberts Drive – the potential developer would give a public presentation on his plans at the next meeting of the parish council Planning Committee (Tuesday 16th May, 6.30 pm)
 - ii. 32 Hillside – the position of the proposed summer house had been slightly amended but the application did not require reconsideration
 - iii. 21 The Brow – two recent applications to extend the property had been withdrawn
 - iv. Fridays car park – a tent had been pitched in the car park and left there. **ACTION: KL to notify Wealden's Housing Department**
- e) Rights of Way – no report
- f) Strengthening Local Relationships – a site meeting would be held with representatives of East Sussex Highways on 10th May to assess the viability of the Friston Crossing project. A further meeting would be held to review yellow lines and signage, after the general election (8th June 2017)
- g) Finance – the Chair reported that the balance in hand at the end of April was £69,432 (including the first of two instalments of the parish precept).
- h) Recreation Ground – the Cricket Club had expressed concern about the proposed new zip wire in the play project. This was noted for future reference. The Club had also advised that as a result of other clubs folding there might be an opportunity to form additional East Dean teams which would require extra bookings of the pavilion on Saturdays. The council was requested to comment in principle and on any cost implications. Members agreed that the move would be welcome and that extra bookings in the current season would only be charged at a rate to cover costs (e.g. £15 plus VAT per booking). No stoolball was being played on the rec in 2017. The water usage in the men's toilets should be monitored following problems in the previous season.
ACTION: PH/PS
- i) Village Events – the next event would be the Annual Village Meeting on 11th May. Setting up would begin at 11.30am and help would be appreciated.

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

C.391 CORRESPONDENCE

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

- a) Football goal at the recreation ground – a resident had reported that holes had appeared in the mouth of the football goal and should be re-filled to encourage the grass to re-grow. **ACTION: PH/PS to add this to their inspection/maintenance list**
- b) BUPA land – the owners of The Grange had indicated that ‘it would be an option’ for them to sell land for assisted living accommodation. However, the existing car park area did not fall within the Development Boundary proposed in the SDNPA’s draft Local Plan.
- c) Bulbs in the village car park – a resident had enquired whether the Rotary Club could supply crocuses for planting in this area as well as at the bus stops. The Club was understood to be supportive of this idea. **ACTION: KL to refer the request to Wealden District Council as owners of the car park**

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

C.392 Date of next meeting – Thursday 1st June 2017 at 6.30 pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

Signed..... (Chair)

Date.....