



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 1st June 2017 in the Small Hall of the Village Hall, Gilberts Drive, East Dean, commencing at 6.30 pm

Councillors present: Cllr M Keller (Acting Chair), Cllr I Haydock, Cllr J Sargent and Cllr P Seeley

In attendance: County Cllr S Shing (Item C.404); K Larkin (Parish Clerk)

There were three members of the public present.

PUBLIC SESSION

The following topics were raised:

- **Communications during water supply failure** – thanks were due to Cllr Seeley for keeping residents informed of developments during the current failure of the water supply to parts of the village
- **Overgrown trees in Gilberts Drive** – the mature trees on the eastern verge before the A259 junction needed trimming as visibility was obscured. Cllr Seeley agreed that the parish council would have this done but that work might be delayed to avoid disturbing nesting birds.
- **Proposed mobile phone mast** – an update was requested on the proposal by Telefonika to install a mast on the A259 Eastbourne Hill near the Wenthill twitten. Residents of Wenthill Close would strongly object to this location. The Acting Chair stated that there was no actual planning application, and the parish council would not be able to comment unless and until one was received. However, the council accepted in principle that mobile phone coverage needed to be improved in the village and that there was a fairly restricted area within which a mast could be sited. The South Downs National Park Authority had given pre-application advice expressing concern about the proposed location and requesting that alternative positions along Eastbourne Road be considered, as well as screening. It would now be for Telefonika to decide whether to submit a planning application. There had been no further word from the phone company.

The Acting Chair closed the Public Session and opened the meeting

C.392 Acceptance of apologies for absence: - Cllr S Fuller, Cllr R Maxwell, Cllr P Hill, Cllr A Hookham; and District Cllr J Wilton.

C.393 Declarations of Interests: - None

C.394 Approval of the Minutes: - The minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 5th May 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Acting Chair;

and the minutes of the ordinary May council meeting were also confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Acting Chair.

C.395 BUSINESS IN PROGRESS

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

- a) Play area sign – a draft sign was considered including a new warning notice about cricket balls. It was agreed that the sign should also include information about the nearest public telephones. A quote for a permanent aluminium sign had been obtained from the Sussex Sign Company in the sum of £81.06 plus VAT. It was agreed that this should be accepted. **ACTION: KL**
- b) Village Hall Trust – it was agreed not to pursue the request for inclusion in the circulation of Trust meeting papers at the present time.
- c) War Memorial - a quotation had been received for shot blasting and repainting the railings in the sum of £2,740 plus VAT; and for repointing the plinth area in the sum of £1,660 plus VAT. It was agreed that the work to the plinth should go ahead as this could be accommodated within the original budget of £7,000, and that a fresh budget of £3,000 for work on the railings should be set aside in the next financial year. The refurbishment of the names on the memorial still remained to be done; this had been added to the original specification without extra charge. **ACTION: PS to contact the contractor.**
- d) Litter bins – a resident had reported that the old concrete litter bin in the upper car park was still in use and still overflowing. He requested its replacement with one of the new bins. It was noted that Wealden District Council had not removed this bin because they did not believe it to be their property. The Gilbert Estate had stated that it was not theirs. It was agreed that the parish council should take it away, and move one of the new bins to that location. **ACTION: PS/PH**. The need for a third bin would be reviewed at a later date. The parish council would have to pay collection charges for a third bin.
- e) Play area maintenance – Cllr Sargent reported that the protruding screws under the cabin slide had been made safe. The fence was now leaning too far over, and when replaced it should have a wooden top rail to make it firmer. A hole had appeared between the first two memorial seats along The Drove, partially concealed by grass. This should be filled and made safe. Cllr Seeley agreed to add this to the list of minor repairs already agreed. **ACTION: PS/PH**
- f) Highway matters – a further meeting with the Highway Steward to consider outstanding matters would take place after the general election. However, it was suggested that the council could simply paint out the reference to the Sheep Centre (now closed) on the brown tourist sign. **ACTION: PS/PH**. A limited range of safety critical repairs had been done on the Jevington Road, and no more works were currently planned.
- g) Twitten railings (Footpath 25) – Cllr Hill had obtained quote for the agreed maintenance works.

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

RESOLVED - That the installation of a new play area sign be approved as discussed, and the clerk be authorised to place the order with the Sussex Sign Company

C.396 NEW PLANNING APPLICATION

SDNP/17/02362/HOUS – 1 Micheldene Road, East Dean, BN20 0HP

Proposed single storey extension at rear

There were no known objections to this application.

RESOLVED – To recommend that the application be approved

C.397 ANNUAL RETURN 2017

The council considered Report 6, and noted that the Internal Auditor would carry out his annual inspection at the parish office on 5th June 2017. The items raised in the previous year's Internal Audit had all been considered and the auditor's advice implemented. No additional items had been raised by the External Auditor in the previous year. The council confirmed the effectiveness of the internal audit regime in place between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2017, as set out in the Report.

The council then considered the clerk's draft of the Annual Governance Statement and Annual Accounting Statement 2017, with supporting end of year bank reconciliation and Explanation of Variances between the summary figures for 2015/16 and 2016/17. The draft final accounts had been approved at the May meeting [Item C.386]. It was agreed that these documents were satisfactory and should be signed. Members also agreed that the period appointed for the exercise of electors' rights in relation to the Unaudited Annual Return should run from Monday 12 June to Friday 21 July 2017. Notices would be posted online as well as on the council noticeboard.

RESOLVED – That the effectiveness of the council's Internal Audit regime between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2017 be affirmed

RESOLVED – That the Annual Governance Statements 2017 be approved and signed for submission to the auditors

RESOLVED - That the Annual Accounting Statements 2017 be approved and signed for submission to the auditors with the end of year bank reconciliation and Explanation of Variances

RESOLVED – That the period from 12 June to 21 July 2017 be appointed as the period for the exercise of electors' rights in relation to the Unaudited Annual Return

C.398 MEMORIAL TREE

The council took note that a request had been received from a private individual to plant a tree on council land as a memorial to a deceased relative with strong connections to the village. Members were sympathetic to this proposal in principle, and agreed to consider a more detailed application to plant a tree on the recreation

ground, subject to approval of the species and position, and council control of any associated plaque. **ACTION: KL to report back to the enquirer.**

C.399 TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2018

Members took note of the suggested dates of council meetings up until May 2018. It was agreed that the established pattern of holding council meetings on the first Thursday of the month (except August), and Planning Committee meetings on the third Tuesday of the month should be maintained. A date would need to be fixed for the Annual Village Meeting 2018.

RESOLVED - That the timetable of meetings to May 2018 be approved.

C.400 PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS

The council considered Report 9, the Schedule of Payments and receipts for the month of June 2017. *[Note: the complete Schedule is published on the council website].*

RESOLVED - That the Payments totalling £4,459.05 be approved and the clerk be authorised to make the payments online

C.401 URGENT ITEMS

The Acting Chair put on record the fact that there had been a burst at the Friston water pumping station on 31st May, leading to a prolonged loss of supply to approx. 400 customers, and the distribution of bottled water. Cllr Seeley reported that the burst had occurred in a 21 inch main in the valve housing, and a bespoke replacement had had to be manufactured at very short notice. It had yet to be installed, which would necessitate getting into a confined space under metres of concrete. Supply should be restored from 9.30 pm on 1st June onwards. Members agreed there was no need to activate the Emergency Plan. The community had rallied round to take water to vulnerable residents. Members thanked Cllr Seeley for keeping the community informed through the Residents' Association's email register.

C.402 REPORTS:

- a) Wealden District Council – Cllr Wilton had notified the parish that a resident had complained of the difficulty of driving up Friston Hill behind cyclists. She had requested that a cycle path be formed in the Twitten. However, members noted that this idea had been fully investigated with ESCC and found to be unworkable. Cllr Wilton also reported that a number of residents of Wenthill Close objected strongly to the possibility of a mobile phone mast being installed near the rear of their properties. [See also the report of the Public Session, above].
- b) Chair of the council – the Acting Chair reported that on 25th May one minute's silence had been observed at the village coffee morning as part of the national remembrance of the victims of the Manchester bombing.

- c) Planning Committee – the council took note of the minutes of the committee meeting held on 16th May 2017. The Committee Chair stated that the council had contacted BT about their plans for the telephone kiosk at Birling Gap, having heard that the SDNPA had refused permission for it to be replaced with a modern K100 kiosk. The council had impressed upon BT the need for a public phone in this location for safety reasons. BT had responded with reassurance that the K6 kiosk would be repaired and repainted, though this would take some months.
- d) Sheltered Housing Working Group – Cllr Haydock gave a brief final report and proposed that the council should write to Mrs Lys Page to formally report the completion of the fact-finding exercise begun on the initiative of the late Rob Page. This was agreed **ACTION: KL**. The Group's report had been considered at the Annual Village Meeting 2017, and the council would review this and other outcomes of the AVM at their July meeting.
- e) Finance - the clerk reported that the balance in hand at the end of May was £65,598.
- f) Rights of Way and Highways – see Progress report C.395 above
- g) Recreation Ground – see Progress report C.395 above
- h) Village Events – the next event would be the Village Fete on 22nd July. Cllr Sargent and Cllr Hookham would manage the council's stall.

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

C.403 CORRESPONDENCE

The council considered Report 12 by the Clerk, and the following matters were noted:

- a) East Sussex Against Scams Partnership – it was agreed that the council should sign up to the proposed Charter to signal their commitment to raising awareness about the impact of scams upon East Sussex residents. This theme could be further explored as part of a Parish Safety Day.
- b) 'Ownerless' land – it was agreed that a letter should be sent to the adjacent household to advise them that title to the land had been registered **ACTION: KL**

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

C.404 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

County Cllr S Shing reported on the following matters:

- a) Results of the May 2017 county elections – the Conservatives now had 30 seats; the Liberal Democrats 11 seats; Labour 4 seats; and the

Independents/Independent Democrats 5 seats. The Conservatives therefore had an overall majority. Members congratulated Cllr Shing on his own re-election.

- b) Parish Magazine – Cllr Shing thanked the parish for sending him regular copies and including his contact details
- c) Temporary traffic lights during Airbourne 2017 – Eastbourne Borough Council had agreed to meet the full cost of temporary lights at Exeat Bridge on the two main days of the 2017 air show.
- d) Exeat Bridge – the county council was still seeking to obtain funding for a second bridge. The actual cost of an annual safety check and maintenance on the existing bridge was only £100,000 per year.

RESOLVED - That the report of the County Councillor be noted

C.405 Date of next meeting – Thursday 6th July 2017 at 6.30 pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.02 pm.

Signed..... (Chair)

Date.....