



**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017 in the Small Hall of the Village Hall, Gilberts Drive, East Dean, commencing at 6.30 pm**

**Councillors present:** Cllr P Hill (Acting Chair), Cllr B Greenwell, and Cllr A Hookham

**In attendance:** County Cllr S Shing (Item C.430); District Cllr J Wilton (Items C.427 – C.430); K Larkin (Parish Clerk)

*There were 4 members of the public present.*

#### **C.421 Election of Chair for the meeting**

RESOLVED - That Cllr Phill Hill be appointed Chair for the meeting

*The Acting Chair suspended the meeting to hold a Public Session*

#### **PUBLIC SESSION**

The following topics were raised:

- a) Phone mast on A259 – Mrs C Butler asked why BT had recently done excavation work for a ‘future phone mast’, when there was no planning permission for a mast. The clerk replied that the SDNPA Enforcement Officer had been notified and had advised that preliminary work could be done as Permitted Development, but that a full installation would require planning permission and an application was expected in the near future. Mrs Butler asked why the parish council had supported the initial enquiry from the phone company without consulting the residents of Wenthill Close. The Acting Chair stated that the council supported the principle of improving mobile coverage in the village, which was known to be important to many residents, and that Cllr Wilton had gathered opinion from Wenthill residents. The council had requested that alternative locations be considered for the mast. However, there would be no opportunity to comment further unless and until specific proposals were received in a planning application. Mrs Butler also requested that the paved area of the verge should not be moved nearer to the carriageway, to accommodate a mast, as pedestrians would then be too close to the traffic.
- b) Mowing of footpaths on the Downlands Estate – Cllr Greenwell asked who mowed these paths. The Acting Chair explained that they were done by the council’s contractor, on a schedule, but that hedges were the responsibility of householders.

*The Acting Chair closed the Public Session and re-opened the meeting*

**C.422 Acceptance of apologies for absence:** - Cllr S Fuller, Cllr I Haydock, Cllr M Keller, Cllr J Sargent and Cllr P Seeley. The Acting Chair suggested that the council should in future meet in August instead of September.

**C.423 Declarations of Interests: - None.****C.424 Approval of the Minutes: -**

- a) The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Acting Chair.
- b) The minutes of the Extraordinary parish council meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> July were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Acting Chair.

**C.425 BUSINESS IN PROGRESS**

The council considered report 5 on progress since the July meeting, and the following points were raised:

- a) Complaints on noise – this was a matter for the District Council, but the parish would like to have an overview of the regulations. **ACTION: PH/PS to liaise with JW and report**
- b) Emergency Plan – members thanked Cllr Fuller for completing a factual update of the Plan. It was noted that the Plan did in fact contain provision for the Parish Emergency Response Team leader to decide on an alternative location for the emergency response centre in the event of serious damage to the village hall (para. 19). **ACTION: BG/MK to undertake a review**
- c) Twitten railings – the Acting Chair was obtaining alternative quotes **ACTION: PH.** The question was raised why the railings only ran for a short distance. The Acting Chair stated that this was historic and probably aided residents living by the relatively steep opening section of the path.

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

**C.426 COMPLETION OF AUDIT 2016-17**

The council took note that the External Auditor had given unqualified approval to the Annual Return 2016/17 and that notice of the conclusion of the audit would be published alongside the certified Annual Return in the prescribed manner.

**C.427 PLAY AREA**

The council considered Report 7 by the Lead Member, and noted the key recommendation that as the project was likely to be funded entirely by the parish it should be scaled back, or done in phases, but that it should also build upon the excellent work and time already invested in the project by previous council members. Proludic should remain the preferred provider. Proludic had been invited to quote for a partial scheme whereby the existing cabin slide and multiplay climber (both of which were reaching the end of their useful life) would be removed and replaced by a 'Kanope' multi-play unit, which was the most expensive item on the previous quote at over £25,000 including installation. The remaining equipment was fundamentally in good condition, popular with families, and blended in with its environment. All the equipment had undergone minor repairs following the annual safety inspection and should be safe for the rest of the season, though monitoring would continue.

The revised quote for the upgrade, including ground work, installation, safety surfacing, and remediation of some existing wetpour surfaces which had shrunk back, was £35,000 plus VAT (including a parish discount of £5,638). The play area would also need to be re-fenced, but this was not included in the quote. Proludic had requested a firm order by 30 September, but it was suggested that the council ask for a further 2 weeks to enable funding to be finalised as part of the 2018/19 budget consideration at the October meeting.

In discussion, there was support for these recommendations. It was noted that the council should be able to finance the revised quote from its own funds and without taking on a heavy loan, if the work were done in the second quarter of 2018. Proludic should be asked for a small extension of time to enable this to be put to council for a final decision on 5<sup>th</sup> October **ACTION: BG**. However, an application for grant aid should also be made to Wealden District Council **ACTION: KL**. It was also noted that further maintenance was required to the barrel roll on the existing Fitness Trail, which needed oiling to reduce noise. **ACTION: KL to ask Wicksteed for a quote**. Finally it was agreed that fresh efforts must be made to publicise the proposals, including leaflets as suggested in the report. Members thanked Cllr Greenwell for his report.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted and its recommendations accepted and put forward for decision at the October meeting.

#### **C.428 HIGHWAY MATTERS**

##### **a) Friston Community Match Funding (Report Item 8a)**

The council took note of the ESCC Feasibility Study for the provision of a raised kerb on the A259 Friston bus layby (south side). The Acting Chair explained the rationale of the proposal, which would not provide a formal crossing point (because the site did not meet the criteria), but would in practice reduce the risk to pedestrians, many of whom were school children or elderly residents using the bus stops or accessing Friston Church. The council did not currently have a budget to finance the scheme, but could factor this in to the next round of budgeting. Members agreed that the project should be seen as part of the council's duty of care, and should proceed to the next stage (preparation of a consultation report), subject to the October budgetary review. In the meantime, ESCC Highways should be asked to provide a temporary warning sign on Friston Hill. **ACTION: KL to add this to the next ESCC liaison meeting agenda**.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and commended for action, subject to budgetary approval

##### **b) ESCC site meeting on Yellow Lines (Report Item 8b)**

The council took note of a report by Cllr Hill. Proposals for additional yellow lines in the village had been drawn up some years ago and agreed in principle with ESCC Highways, but had only just reached the head of a queue. The opportunity could now be taken to add more proposals, in

particular the provision of yellow lines at the Micheldene Road/A259 junction. All the proposals would be subject to public consultation carried out by ESCC Highways as they would require Traffic Regulation Orders. As Micheldene Road was unadopted and privately owned, the parish would need to seek the consent of the Roads Company to add yellow lines to the section from the A259 to the Estate 'gateway'. Concrete planters could also be placed on the verge at the junction, subject to the permission of the highway authority. This was agreed: **ACTION: PH/PS to consult the Roads Company**. The Friston Church slip road had also been considered and here it was recommended that No Parking signs be affixed to the flint wall of the churchyard, subject to the agreement of the church authorities. This too was agreed: **ACTION: PH to consult**. Cllr Hill also reported that soil had been cleared away from the gully at the Upper Street/A259 junction and should reduce the flow of surface water down the main road.

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

#### **C.429 COUNCIL WEBSITE AND USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA**

The council considered report 9 by Cllr A Hookham following attendance at a Workshop on the use of social media in the council sector, run by the Sussex Association of Local Councils. Facebook was the recommended medium because of its versatility, allowing pictures and information to be shared with users who would check in regularly and be able to comment. A short demonstration was given, with practical advice on the terms and conditions of use; a filtering policy; and a start-up strategy that should rapidly build up the necessary following. In discussion members queried whether a Facebook page was needed as well as a website. Cllr Hookham stated that because Facebook users would typically log in on a daily basis, it was a very good medium for disseminating information at exactly the right moment, and could contain links to more detailed material such as council papers on the website. It was also a very good way of reaching people who did not use more traditional media.

Members were interested in these possibilities but also concerned that a Facebook page could open the door to abuse. It was explained that usage could be controlled and offensive material taken down. It was agreed that Cllr Hookham should prepare a short supplementary report on the pros and cons for the October meeting **ACTION: AH**. Members thanked Cllr Hookham for an interesting and detailed report.

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

#### **C.430 REPORTS OF THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

The following matters were raised:

- a) District Councillor J Wilton
  - i. Retractable bollards - Cllr Wilton proposed that these be provided between the Downlands Way precinct and Gore Farm Close, in place of the present fixed bollards, to provide an alternative emergency access to the Estate in the event of closure of the Micheldene Road junction (see

report 16 – Correspondence). The need for this had been demonstrated recently and the council would be asked to consider it at the October meeting.

- ii. Facebook – the council should recall the possible effect of social media on the numbers attending Bonfire or similar events

RESOLVED - That the report of the District Councillor be noted

b) County Councillor S Shing

- i. Phone mast – Cllr Shing requested further information about the possible installation of a phone mast adjacent to the A259 near Wenthill Close. Certain restrictions applied to the installation of masts on highway verges. **ACTION: KL to send information when available.**
- ii. Temporary lights at Exceat Bridge - Cllr Shing also requested feedback on the effect of the temporary traffic lights installed at Exceat Bridge during the 2017 Airbourne event. The Acting Chair and the District Councillor replied that feedback had been very positive. There had been no local traffic problems attributable to Airbourne, and the action of Eastbourne Borough council in paying for the lights was very much welcomed and appreciated. It was to be hoped that the arrangement would be repeated in 2018. It was noted that more information on the construction of a new Exceat Bridge should be available in a few months.
- iii. Drainage gulley at Upper Street/A259 junction – Cllr Shing had recently inspected the site with the Highway Steward who had agreed that the soil of the verge should be cut back to free the drain.

RESOLVED - That the report of the County Councillor be noted

#### C.431 PLANNING APPLICATION

RESOLVED - to ratify the recommendation of the Planning Committee that the following applications be supported:

**SDNP/17/04005/HOUS and SDNP/17/04006/LIS – Birling Manor, Gilberts Drive, East Dean BN20 0AA**

*Internal alterations, enlargement of entrance hallway, alterations to fenestration, glazed roof to light well, re-instatement of drive adjacent to house and formation of parking space*

#### C.432 SDNPA INFRASTRUCTURE BUSINESS PLAN

The council considered report 11 regarding the submission of expressions of interest for infrastructure projects suitable for funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy (response deadline: 29 September 2017). Members agreed to support the retention of the existing proposal for a cycle route from Friston Church to Eastbourne Golf Club, put forward by the SDNPA and to be funded by them. There was also support for providing a supplementary cycle route from the village to the Golf Club via Birling Gap, subject to a feasibility study. This would be suggested to the SDNPA for a second stage of implementation.

It was also agreed to make an application for assistance with the upgrade of the play area, on the basis that usage of the existing site would increase following the development of the adjacent Land at The Fridays, which had planning permission.

**ACTION: KL**

RESOLVED - To support the retention of the cycle route in the Plan

RESOLVED – To submit an expression of interest for the play area upgrade

**C.433 EASTBOURNE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

The council took note of the following:

- a) Consultation on Public Spaces Protection Orders

<http://www.eastbourne.gov.uk/about-the-council/consultations/public-spaces-protection-orders-consultation/>

Comments were invited on the draft Dog Ban PSPO and the draft Dogs on Leads PSPO. Members agreed not to comment.

- b) Consultation on Town Centre and Seafront Conservation Area Appraisal

<http://www.eastbourne.gov.uk/about-the-council/council-policies-plans-and-strategies/planning-policy/conservation/conservation-areas/> [ends 9<sup>th</sup> October 2017]. Members agreed not to comment on these forthcoming Area Appraisals

**C.434 PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS**

The council considered Report 13, the Schedule of Payments and Receipts already made for the months of July/August 2017 and proposed for September 2017 [*Note: the complete Schedule is published on the council website*]. Two further invoices had been received for Data Protection training (£57.60 incl VAT); and for cleaning the pavilion (£65.00). Both payments were approved.

RESOLVED - That the Payments totalling £6,815.13 be approved and the clerk be authorised to make the payments online.

**C.435 URGENT ITEMS**

Cllr Greenwell asked why the fingerpost at Friston Pond had disappeared. The Acting Chair stated that the main post had rotted and was being replaced with a reclaimed timber post, as part of a rolling programme.

**C.436 REPORTS:**

- a) Acting Chair of the council - nothing to report

- b) Planning Committee – the council took note of the minutes of the committee meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> July and the draft minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2017

- c) Finance - the clerk reported that the balance in hand at the end of August was £49,185.54

- d) Recreation ground – Cllr Greenwell reported that the fence between the play area and the pavilion had come loose again. Cllr Hill agreed to obtain quotes for repair/replacement **ACTION: PH/BG**

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

#### **C.437 CORRESPONDENCE**

The council considered Report 16 by the Clerk, and the following matters were noted:

- a) 30 mph speed limit on A259 – members sympathised with public demand for a further speed restriction on the A259 but confirmed that this stretch of road did not meet the national criteria for the number of driveways that must open onto the main road within a set distance. However, ESCC had agreed to run a further speed monitoring exercise at the bottom of Friston Hill.
- b) Community Governance Review – members noted that Wealden District Council had invited proposals for consideration, and that a resident had suggested that the village of Jevington be transferred from the parish of Willingdon and Jevington to East Dean and Friston. However, there had been no communication with Willingdon and it was agreed that the timescale was too short to embark on this.

RESOLVED – That the Correspondence report be noted

**C.438 Date of next meeting** – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at 6.30 pm in the Village Hall.

*There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.13 pm.*

Signed..... (Chair)

Date.....