

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 6th December 2018 in the Small Hall of the Village Hall, Gilberts Drive, East Dean, commencing at 6.30 pm

Councillors present: Cllr M Keller (Chair), Cllr K Godden, Cllr P Hill and Cllr P Seeley

In attendance: County Cllr S Shing (Item C.672); K Larkin (Parish Clerk)

There were two members of the public present.

Public Session

The Cricket Club – representatives of the Cricket Club gave an update on the Club's proposals including:

- Digitising the pavilion – the Club had successfully obtained grant funding for this project [see item C.670 below].
- Moving the cricket square – an application for funding had been sent to Wealden District Council. A sum of £5,000 was said to be on offer from the Gilbert Estate and a decision was awaited from the parish council on a requested grant of £5,000. The new pitch would be constructed to English Cricket Board standards at a total cost of £26,000. Letters of support had come in from a number of village organisations including the Residents' Association; from Maria Caulfield MP; and from numerous individual residents. The parish council requested further financial information, and the Lead Member for Finance agreed to compile a list of questions to be forwarded to the Club **ACTION: KG/KL**. One of the proposed nine wickets would be artificial and handy for all-weather use; private hires; colts etc. It was not yet known whether planning permission would be required for this. The Club would play no games in September 2019 when the work should be done. The new square should be ready to play on in 2020.
- Ball-stop nets – a planning application was in preparation. However, this was not the preferred option as the use of nets required extra manpower and maintenance costs, as well as looking unsightly.

The Chair thanked the Club members and closed the Public Session

C.665 ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: - Cllr T Bryant, Cllr N Day and Cllr L d'Urso

C.666 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS: - None

C.667 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: - The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 1st November 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

C.668 COUNCILLOR APPOINTMENTS

- a) Resignation of Cllr Greenwell – members noted with regret the resignation of Cllr Greenwell, Vice Chair of the Council, and Lead Member for the recreation ground. Members recorded their thanks to him for his service and in particular for obtaining the grant that had enabled the upgrading of the Play Area to go ahead.
- b) Appointment of Vice Chair – Councillor Paul Seeley had been nominated to serve for the remainder of the period of office of the present council (until May 2019) and this was agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED - That Councillor Paul Seeley be appointed Vice Chair of the Council

- c) Appointment of Lead Member for the Recreation Ground – Councillor Nigel Day had been nominated to serve for the remainder of the period of office of the present council (until May 2019) and this was agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED - That Councillor Nigel Day be appointed Lead Member for the Recreation Ground

- d) Bank signatories – the council needed a minimum of two cheque signatories in addition to the authority given to the clerk to make payments online. It was agreed that the Chair and Vice Chair should be the two signatories and the clerk/RFO should continue to do online banking. Barclay had been advised that other historic signatories were no longer valid. The banking arrangements would be reviewed again in May 2019 and Barclays had been apprised of this. The Lead Member for Finance would retain his separate role in checking payments. **ACTION: KL to update Barclays**

RESOLVED – That Cllr Keller and Cllr Seeley be authorised to sign cheques if required.

C.669 BUSINESS IN PROGRESS

- a) The council considered Report 5 on progress since the November meeting, and the following points were discussed:
- Decorations at the pavilion – the council thanked the Cricket Club most warmly for their work and financial input, which was very much appreciated.
 - Repairs at the pavilion – members agreed that as the water had been drained down for the winter the plumbing repairs should be deferred to the spring.
 - Rude Mechanicals Theatre visit – it was agreed that the theatre company should be asked to pay a donation to the East Dean Responders.
ACTION: KL

- Road drain on Friston Hill – it was reported that residents had cleared this drain of surface debris themselves.
- Emergency Plan – it was agreed that one hard copy of the Plan with its confidential phone directory should be placed in the Emergency safe. Welcome packs for councillors would be deferred until after the May 2019 elections. **ACTION: KL**
- CIL payments – the council should ask whether the installation of an all-weather cricket pitch might qualify for a grant from the CIL fund. **ACTION: KL**
- NHS pop-up clinic – the council would advertise this event to gauge support before making a booking. Possibly to be deferred until after the 2019 Annual Village Meeting. **ACTION: KL to keep this 'live'**.
- Risk Assessment – no further action now required

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

- b) Wayleave at Friston Pond for UK Power Networks – members agreed to sign the wayleave requested by the utility company. Work would begin on 10 December and should last 5 days.

RESOLVED - That the Chair should sign the Wayleave requested by UK Power Networks Ltd on behalf of the council

- c) Vacancy for an Administrative Assistant – the Chair reported on the applications received. It was agreed that interviews should be held before Christmas and a recommendation brought to council for decision in January 2019. The interview panel would comprise the Chair of Council, the Chair of Planning and the clerk.

C.670 DIGITIZATION OF THE PAVILION

The council considered in principle a proposal from the Cricket Club to equip the pavilion with a smart TV and broadband subscription (Report 6). A grant had been offered by the England Cricket Board. Members were glad to see the Club developing and growing, but queried the effect of the proposal on the village hall, and on occasional private hires of the cricket pavilion.

Standing Orders were suspended to enable Club representatives to explain that the Club did not expect to book more hires of the pavilion than in 2018. It would use the new equipment to collect subscriptions, facilitate scoring, and meet the expectations of younger members. Standing Orders were re-imposed.

On balance members agreed that the proposed development would benefit both the council and the community and raise the profile of the pavilion, which might one day need to be rebuilt. However, it was noted that if the work went ahead the pavilion would need a TV licence and a satellite dish, plus augmented security and insurance

cover. These details would require further discussion. **ACTION: ND to liaise with the Club.**

RESOLVED - To approve in principle a proposal from the Cricket Club to equip the pavilion with a smart TV and broadband subscription

C.671 RECREATION GROUND - TEMPORARY LICENCE

The council considered Report 7 regarding a request from Gladiator Events Ltd to have a temporary licence for parking on the recreation ground on Saturday 30 March 2019. Members noted that the proposed event would raise money for the Battersea Dogs Home charity, and would be based primarily at the village hall with overflow parking in the Horsefield. The recreation ground was required as a secondary overflow parking area. There was concern that parking should not spill into Gilberts Drive. It was agreed that a licence could be granted for parking two rows of cars on the north side of the field adjacent to The Drove, on the following conditions:

- The area should be specified and roped off by the council
- Cones should be placed along Gilberts Drive by the organisers
- Full marshalling should be provided by the organisers
- A £50 fee should be charged.

RESOLVED - That a temporary licence be granted to Gladiator Events Ltd for parking on the recreation ground on 30 March 2019 subject to conditions as discussed

C.672 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

County Cllr Shing reported on the following matters:

- a) ESCC 'Core Offer' – the county council had begun to publicise the list of essentials it would continue to fund during the continued period of extreme cost-cutting and austerity. Further information would be available after the next Cabinet meeting (7 December 2018).
- b) Road closures – temporary closures had been notified due to roadworks at Friston Pond and Polegate.
- c) Friston Build-out - the parish council's request for Community Match Funding had been approved. ESCC Highways would contribute £10,000. Members thanked Cllr Shing for this very good news, and for his continued support of the project.

RESOLVED – That the report of the County Councillor be noted

C.673 MEETING DATES 2019

Members noted the proposed timetable of meetings for 2019, following the usual pattern (Report 8). The Annual Parish Council Meeting would be delayed until 16th May due to the general parish elections taking place in the first week of May 2019. The Annual Village Meeting would similarly be delayed to 17th May due to the elections and the late date of Easter.

RESOLVED – That the timetable of council meetings for 2019 be approved

C.674 PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS

The council considered Report 9 the Schedule of Payments for December 2018 (there were no Receipts for November 2018. *[Note: the complete Schedule is published on the council website]*. The council also took note of a summary of expenditure on the Carols event, which had cost just over £600 but due to adverse weather had raised £470. However, the lights purchased at a cost of £97.97 were now a council asset and would be available for future occasions. A shoulder of pork which was surplus to requirements would be resold for £30. The event would therefore break even. Members thanked Cllr Hill and Cllr Seeley for their hard work in launching this event, which would be worth repeating. The council also recorded its thanks to Mr John Dann for providing music for the carols, and agreed to make a donation of £20 to a charity of his choice. **ACTION: KL**

RESOLVED – That the payments totalling £2,948.90 be approved and the clerk be authorised to make the payments

RESOLVED - That a payment of £20 be made to Mr John Dann's cancer charity

C.675 URGENT ITEMS

The Chair reported that following an enquiry from a resident as to the ownership of the pavement in Downlands Way on the opposite side of the road from the shopping precinct, the Hon. Solicitor had advised that although the title was complex the owner did after all appear to be the parish council. The council would need to consider consequent action and a report would be brought to the next meeting. **ACTION: KL**

C.676 REPORTS

The following items were discussed:

- a) Chair of the Council – the council would soon need to decide its Charity of the Year for 2019. The Chair nominated the Air Ambulance (Kent, Surrey and Sussex) for consideration.
- b) Planning Committee – the council took note of the draft minutes of the committee meeting held on 20th November 2018
- c) Finance – the council took note of the progress of the Budget Working Group. The Lead Member reported that he was putting together a Neighbourhood Planning budget. The bank balance at the end of November 2018 was £65,261.14.
- d) Rights of Way and Highways – the council took note of the draft minutes of the SLR (County liaison) meeting held on 23rd October 2018. The Lead Member reported that the resident researching The Drove was nearly ready to report and would attend the council meeting on 3rd January 2019.
- e) Recreation Ground – see Business in Progress [Item C.669 above]
- f) Cuckmere Buses – the council took note of the financial summary to the end of September 2018. The company had a large balance sheet which was thought to be needed for replacement vehicles. Members queried whether leasing had been considered. The cost of the service had gone up, but

members agreed that the bus was a lifeline for some residents with mobility problems and provided their only access to a library now that ESCC had withdrawn the Mobile Library service. There was therefore support for its continuation. Performance data should be sent to the Lead Member for Finance. **ACTION: KL**

- g) Village events – (i) The Council’s support for the Christmas Lunch had been very well received, though numbers were down this year. (ii) Carols at Christmas – see Payments and Receipts [Item C.674 above].
- h) Parish Conference 5th December 2018 – Cllr Godden reported that there had been a good focus on policing, planning and recycling:
- The Sussex Police were implementing a recruitment drive financed by a specially approved increase in council tax, which would produce a net increase of 200 officers by 2022. Community teams were still operational and willing to visit parishes, and problems with the 101 service were being resolved. The main outstanding grievance was over parking and the lack of enforcement.
 - Planning – Wealden’s own Local Plan was nearing the submission stage
 - Recycling - The District Council was promoting an end to the use of bottled water and the introduction of a scheme whereby participating outlets would provide free water to those bringing their own bottle. This should be commended to local outlets. **ACTION: KL**
 - Modern slavery – the message was that this could be closer than people realised. The police now had five officers working on it, twenty partner organisations, and a confidential public reporting system. Members agreed that a link to the reporting system should be provided on the council website. **ACTION: MK**

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

C.677 CORRESPONDENCE

The council took note of report 12 by the clerk, and the following items were discussed:

- a) Post Office – members noted the lack of any update and queried whether a parish council had authority to lend money e.g. for a shop project. **ACTION: KG/KL to report**
- b) Christmas tree decorations – more volunteers would be welcome to help organise and marshal the Carols event next year.

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

C.678 Date of next meeting: Thursday 3rd January 2019 at 6.30 pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Signed..... (Chair) Date.....