



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 4 August 2022 in the Small Hall of the Village Hall, Gilberts Drive, East Dean, commencing at 6.30 pm

Councillors present: Cllr P Seeley (Chair), Cllr M Bustard, Cllr G Fowler, Cllr P Hill, Cllr M Keller, Cllr H Milligan and Cllr S Thorogood

In attendance: County Cllr Shing (Items C.624 - C.625)
K Larkin (Parish Clerk), and D Picknell (Admin Officer)

C.620 Acceptance of apologies for absence: Cllr T Bryant, Cllr C Lees

C.621 Declarations of Interests: - None

C.622 Minutes

The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 7 July 2022 were corrected in paragraph C.617 (e) (i) as follows: *delete* 'Went Way' and *insert* 'Went Lane'. The minutes were then confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

C.623 Report of Maria Caulfield MP

The council took note of a written report from Maria Caulfield MP on general constituency matters. The Chair had attended a public meeting held by Ms Caulfield in the parish on 5 July providing an update from central government.

C.624 Business in Progress

The council received and took note of Report 7 on progress made since the meeting on 7 July 2022. The following matters were discussed:

- a) Children's Holiday Club request to hire the cricket pavilion from Monday 24th to Friday 28th July 2023 – members noted that this long-standing annual event was intended to re-launch in 2023 after a break during the Covid lockdowns. The Club had requested a 50% discount on the hire charge as in previous years and this was approved. The dates would be checked with the Cricket Club which had worked around the Children's Holiday Club in past years. **ACTION: DP**

RESOLVED – That the Children's Holiday Club be offered the hire of the cricket pavilion from Monday 24th to Friday 28th July 2023 at a 50% discount on the normal hire charge

- b) Parish council grant scheme 2022/23 – members agreed that the scheme should be re-launched in the summer inviting local organisations to send in applications not later than 15th October 2022, for consideration at the council meeting on 3rd November 2022. **ACTION: MK/KL**

RESOLVED - To relaunch the council grant scheme for 2022/23 with a cut-off date of 15 October 2022 for applications

- c) The Jubilee beacon and village sign – (i) Village sign: the Lead Member reported that a 'do I need planning permission' enquiry had been registered with the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNP/22/03646/DINPP) for the proposed location of a Jubilee village sign within the curtilage of the recreation ground, adjacent to the highway verge and close to the southern boundary wall. If the advice was that planning permission would not be required, the council should formally apply for a Certificate of Lawful Development for which a fee of approx. £100 would be payable (including 50% council discount). Materials would cost upwards of £520 plus VAT, depending on the size of the timber post. An update would be brought to council in October. (ii) Jubilee beacon – quotations had been obtained for refurbishing and painting the beacon basket and its supporting timber. Members agreed to accept the quote from Mr Dalby in the sum of £200 for labour and materials, but requested that the post be treated with two coats of wood preservative and stain tinted green, rather than painted. It was appreciated that this might make a small alteration to the quotation which would be deemed acceptable. **ACTION: MK**

RESOLVED - To accept the quotation from Mr Dalby for refurbishing the Jubilee beacon

- d) Allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy funds – members noted that the council had £1,926.63 to be allocated to suitable new infrastructure project(s). It was agreed that CIL funds should be used to pay for the new Village Sign, and could also be applied to the project to install a ramp for access to the cricket pavilion. However, neither project was yet fully costed. The replacement of the damaged litter bin on the A259 (eastbound bus stop) was also considered but would not qualify as new provision. The allocation would be considered again in October.

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

C.625 Report of the County Councillor

County Councillor Shing reported on the following matters:

- a) Burst main in Jevington Road – South East Water had attended to this recent problem and done repairs
- b) County funding from central government for bus services – the indications were that £41 million would be provided in the coming year, but this was only half of what was needed. The support of discounted fares alone would cost the county £6 million.
- c) Gulleys at Upper Street/A259 junction – a survey would be done in September to establish what remedial work was required. Members urged the county not to try to divert traffic, which would be wholly impractical in this location, but to provide Stop/Go signals.

- d) Alfriston traffic management – a public consultation would be launched to try to achieve a compromise solution
- e) Works on A22 Hailsham – these works had been set back one year due to Covid.
- f) Parking at Polegate station – residents should be aware that part of the car park was privately owned and parking could prove costly
- g) Fruit, Vegetable and Flower Show – Cllr Shing would attend this show over the August Bank Holiday as usual.
- h) Exceat Bridge – a decision on the planning application had now been put back to November. The work was expected to need a little more land than was currently available.

RESOLVED – That the report of the County Councillor be noted

C.626 Consultation on short term holiday lets

The council took note that the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) had launched a consultation to find solutions to the problems caused by short term holiday lets, and that the National Association of Local Councils had published a questionnaire seeking the views of member councils to inform its own submission to the DCMS. The principle recommended by NALC was that there should be parity of regulation between formal lets and informal lets such as AirBnB. Members agreed that there should be mandatory regulation with lettings required to meet a minimum standard. This would provide some protection for home owners as well as agencies. There was no opposition to informal lets on principle. It was agreed that the Chair should complete and return the NALC questionnaire **ACTION: PS**

C.627 Payments and Receipts

The council took note of Report 9 containing the schedule of payments for August 2022 and receipts in July 2022. Two routine payments were added to the schedule.

[Note: the complete Payments Schedule is appended to these Minutes].

RESOLVED – That the payments totalling £4,781.05 be approved

C.628 Reports:

- a) Chair of the Council – (i) Remembrance Sunday: Eastbourne Silver Band should be requested to supply a bugler for this event **ACTION: KL**; (ii) Blue Plaque: it had emerged that a valuable wartime spy for the allies, Diana de Rosso, had operated out of East Dean and had remained living in the parish until 2003. The family had owned Grimaldi's (now the Thai restaurant). It was agreed that the council should make enquiries about obtaining a blue plaque in her memory **ACTION: PH to investigate**
- b) Planning Committee – the council took note of the draft minutes of the committee meeting held on 19 July 2022.
- c) Finance – the council took note of the Budget Monitoring Report to the end of July 2022. No problems were identified. A mid-year report would be brought to the October meeting. The bank balance at the end of July was £76,310.56.

- d) Traffic Management Working Group – it was noted that the speed sign in Gilberts Drive should be moved about once a month which should be a two person job. Cllr Seeley would seek volunteers each time; Cllr Bustard would assist with the next move. Similarly the battery should be recharged approx. every three weeks and this could be a two person job for safety reasons.

ACTION: PS/MB

- e) Rights of Way and Highways – (i) Tidying the shopping precinct car park: it was agreed that Rustic Gardens should be contracted to do a clear-up and that consideration should be given to making this a regular occurrence e.g. every three months. The planters had not been watered and the plants had died. Consideration would be given to moving the planters further into the car park. The budget for maintaining the precinct should be reviewed in the autumn and a sinking fund set up for the future resurfacing of the car park
ACTION: PS/PH; (ii) Footpath 19 (Micheldene Road to Peakdean Lane) – this had now been strimmed. However, residents should be aware that responsibility for cutting back hedges that were obstructing rights of way rested with the owners of adjacent properties, not with the council.

- f) Tree Warden – (i) the diseased elm at Friston Pond had been felled and carefully removed. Some further diseased trees in the Twitten (Footpath 25 from Upper Street to Friston Church) had been reported to the county council. (ii) Trees for the recreation ground – some additional free trees had been ordered from the South Downs National Park Authority for the recreation ground and it was understood that some had also been ordered by the Residents' Association for the Greensward. (iii) The Gilbert Estate had sought permission from the planning authority to trim the tree owned by them on the village green.

- g) Recreation Ground – Play area repairs: two new cradle seats had been ordered for the swings and would be fitted by Wicksteed as part of their forthcoming annual inspection visit. Parts had also been ordered for the repair of the 'spider web' on the multiplay climber (supplied by Proludic) and the Lead Member would do the repair. A spare repair kit had been ordered for future use. It was noted that the council had previously agreed to order a skip and would reimburse the Lead Member who would organise this **ACTION: GF**

- h) Neighbourhood Plan – (i) Expressions of interest in joining the Steering Group were coming in from residents and would be reviewed after the closing date of 2 September 2022. More names would be welcome, and a poster would go up shortly **ACTION: MK**; (ii) Planning consultants: the East Sussex Association of Local Councils had recommended two possible consultants who would be contacted by the Chair of the Steering Group **ACTION: MB**; (iii) There should be a standing item for Neighbourhood Planning updates on future council agendas **ACTION: KL**

- i) Defibrillators – it was agreed that there should be a standing item on defibrillator maintenance on future council agendas **ACTION: KL**

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

C.629 Correspondence

The council took note of Report 12 on Correspondence received since the July meeting, and the following matters were discussed:

- a) Roadside bank at Forge Cottage, Friston Hill – members agreed that following a serious accident the highway authority should be lobbied to put up a sign 'Beware concealed entrance' on the eastbound verge approaching Forge Cottage. The bank should also be regularly trimmed or re-surfaced to maintain visibility on the short and fast approach to the residential access. There was also a case for making Friston Hill 30 mph all the way down.
ACTION: KL to add to the next SLR agenda
- b) Mobile post office – the enquiry made to the Post Office about the possibility of a mobile van visiting East Dean had been referred to the relevant department and a response was awaited. Members agreed that Maria Caulfield MP should be requested to take up this matter.
- c) Friston Pond – the Residents' Association Ecocare group had noted the low water level in the pond and asked if it could be topped up. Members responded that the pond was fed by surface water and that no other source was available. Unfortunately all the dew ponds on the Downs were at low level or had dried up temporarily in the drought.

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

C.630 Date of next meeting: - parish council meeting on Thursday 6 October 2022 at 6.30 pm in the Small Hall. *The parish council does not meet in September.*

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.42 pm.

Signed..... (Chair)

Date.....

PAYEE	DETAILS	SUB TOTAL	VAT	TOTAL	REF.NO	DATE	
Air Ambulance	Jubilee event donation	550.77	-	550.77	1869	04/08/2022	Includes bi BBQ proce Sheppar
HMRC	PAYE/NICS - July 2022	243.52	-	243.52	1870	04/08/2022	
D Picknell	Office costs July; Zoom annual subscription; ink cartridges	184.98	-	192.79	1871	04/08/2022	
K Larkin/D Picknell	Net salaries (aggregated) - August 2022	1,555.14	-	1,555.14	1872/1873	28/08/2022	
ESCC	LGPS pension contributions	494.31	-	494.31	1874	04/08/2022	
K Larkin	Office costs/mileage - July 2022	38.78	-	38.78	1875	04/08/2022	
R Franklin	Cleaning bus shelters - June 2022	60.00	-	60.00	1876	04/08/2022	
Grants (Eastbourne) Ltd	Grounds mtce - July 2022	923.00	184.60	1,107.60	1877	04/08/2022	
Climpson Bros Ltd	Felling dead elm and removing produce	180.00	36.00	216.00	1878	04/08/2022	
EDF Energy	Pavilion supply 27Apr to 26 July	55.60	2.78	58.38	1879	04/08/2022	
Vision ICT	Web hosting 2022/23	188.13	37.63	225.76	1880	04/08/2022	
Village Hall Trust	Hall hires - July 2022	38.00	-	38.00	1881	04/08/2022	
TOTAL		4,512.23	261.01	4,781.05			
RECEIPTS							
Sheppards Café	Jubilee donation for Air Ambulance	75.00	-	75.00	BGC	11/07/2022	
Village Hall Trust	Refund of Village Hall Rent 2022/23	375.00	-	375.00	BGC	27/07/2022	
TOTAL		450.00	-	450.00			