

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024 in the Small Hall of the Village Hall, Gilberts Drive, East Dean, commencing at 7.30 pm**

**Councillors present:** Cllr T Bryant, Cllr M Bustard, Cllr J Greenway, Cllr P Hill, Cllr P Seeley (Chair) and Cllr D White.

**In attendance:** District Cllr D Greaves, Cllr S Shing, and Clerk & RFO Fiona Chalk.

Public Session: No members of the public were present.

The Chair closed the Public Session and opened the meeting.

Minute No.	Item	Action responsibility
1024	<b>Acceptance of apologies for absence:</b> Apologies were received from Cllr Fowler, Cllr Baker, and Cllr Larkin	
1025	<b>Declarations of Interest:</b> Item 1036 – Neighbourhood Plan, NDHA – Cllr T Bryant has made a submission.	
1026	<b>Approval of minutes on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024</b> <i>Resolved:</i> The minutes were approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chair, subject to minor spelling corrections.	
1027	<b>Report of the Member of Parliament</b> No report was received. The Clerk advised he is keen to hold a surgery in January 2025.	Clerk to request reports and arrange surgery.
1028	<b>Report of the County Councillor</b> Cllr Shing welcomed the Clerk and updated the Council on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CC overspend of £26m – Looked After Children costs have increased by 70%.</li> <li>2. Care for disabled children – By 27/28 this will rise to £78m per annum. CC are lobbying government for more money as they are being forced to cut other crucial services</li> <li>3. Waste and recycling review with a potential booking system, is being undertaken</li> <li>4. Grants from central government may not continue under the new government</li> <li>5. County Hall in Lewis is now underused due to homeworking, so a review is being undertaken to look at cost saving options</li> <li>6. CC budget for potholes is unlikely to increase next year</li> </ol>	
1029	<b>Report of the District Councillor</b> Cllr Greaves presented his report, noting: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="#">Funding</a> is available to improve greenspaces in Wealden</li> <li>2. WDC is partnering to give <a href="#">outdoor gym and health walks</a> on the Cuckoo Trail</li> <li>3. NHS <a href="#">health checks</a> are available in Hailsham during October and November</li> </ol>	

	<p>4. £3.5m funding from Football Association has been received for sports facilities near Hailsham, to be completed by 2026</p> <p>5. Employment advisory sessions are available for residents in Eastbourne and Hailsham</p> <p>6. Rural business <a href="#">grants</a> via WDC's allocation of the Rural England Prosperity Funding to support businesses with capital funding for projects including the purchase of equipment and machinery, adaptation of premises, the creation or expansion of rural leisure and tourism businesses and farm diversification outside of agriculture.</p> <p>7. Fly tipping <a href="#">survey</a> available until mid-October</p> <p>8. Repair to riverbank in Alfriston is to take place to help prevent flooding</p> <p>9. Free <a href="#">marketing programme</a> is available for new business in Wealden with business advice sessions running through to March 2025</p> <p>Councillors asked what pressure is being put on the Environment Agency to do more to prevent flooding? There has been a meeting, at which there was some disagreement over what work has actually been conducted. There has been significant pressure from the Council. Farmers are paying a levy into management boards, and the local boards are very proactive, but there are some areas under the Environment Agency management where work is not sufficient i.e., the work has not been carried out to keep vegetation at bay from sluice gates which are in place to prevent flooding.</p>	
1030	<p><b>Payments &amp; Receipts</b></p> <p>The Council took note of report 7.</p> <p><i>Resolved:</i> Councillors resolved to ratify the payments made since 1<sup>st</sup> August and approved the unpaid invoices for payment. [Note: the complete Payments Schedule is appended to these Minutes].</p>	
1031	<p><b>Approve quotation for playground repairs</b></p> <p>The Council took note of Report 8, namely that following the August meeting when the details of work listed was approved for playground repairs, the Locum Clerk was asked to obtain installations cost, with and without wet pour element. These quotes are attached. The wet pour option is £2891 (before VAT) and £683 without wet pour.</p> <p>Councillors noted the budget for general playground maintenance and replacement equipment for this year is £620 for playground equipment, although there is £1k allocated for general maintenance and £1k for tennis court repairs, which has not been touched at this point in the year.</p> <p><i>Resolved:</i> As the PC are likely to do more work in this area, it was agreed to approve the quotation without wet pour. This work will keep the playground compliant with current safety standards.</p>	Clerk to have works proceed.
1032	<p><b>Charity of the Year</b></p> <p><i>Resolved:</i> Beachy Head Chaplaincy to be the charity of the year. £500 is the usual spend.</p>	Clerk to notify and make payment.
1033	<p><b>Bank Signatories</b></p>	

	<p>The Council noted that it has taken a month of phone calls to get this far. ESALC have been contacted for recommendations on banking for parish councils, and advised they will be circulating some advice on banking options.</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> To approve Fiona Chalk, as the Clerk &amp; RFO, to be a signatory for the Barclays Bank Accounts.</p>	Clerk to complete forms.
1034	<p><b>Meeting Dates</b> The Council took note of report 11.</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> To move the time of the Planning Committee meetings from 7.30 pm to 6.30 pm from the November meeting. The Annual Village Meeting for 2025 will be held on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April</p> <p>The January PC meeting will be moved from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>, subject to Village Hall availability.</p> <p>All PC meetings to revert to 6.30pm January 2025.</p> <p>Annual Village Meeting to be held on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April, doors open 5.30 pm and meeting to commence at 6.30 pm</p>	Clerk to book hall & update website.
1035	<p><b>Horsefield Car Park – Asset of Community Value</b> The Council took note of report 12, which stated WDC have advised that the Horsefield Car Park's designation as an Asset of Community Value, expired in May 2024.</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> The Council agreed to re-apply to WDC for re-designation</p>	Clerk to complete application.
1036	<p><b>Neighbourhood Plan Consultation</b> The Council took note of report 13. Cllr Bustard advised the Plan is currently in consultation until 27<sup>th</sup> October and the next NPSG meeting is on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024, where feedback will be discussed.</p> <p>Cllr Bryant advised his planning consultant has raised some points regarding the consultation process, which have been circulated. The Consultant for the NPSG has been asked to respond. This will be discussed on the 5<sup>th</sup>. There is some concern as to the accuracy of the information on which the NDHA consultation letter was based.</p> <p>A meeting has been arranged for the Consultant and NPSG to meet with the PC to discuss the current plan and feedback. The Chair said there had been some previous concern expressed as to whether private properties should be included in the NDHA asset list.</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> The PC will feedback on the Neighbourhood Plan at the meeting with the NPSG.</p>	<p>Clerk to circulate letter to all Cllrs.</p> <p>Clerk to re-arrange date for PC/NPSG mtg</p>
1037	<p><b>Friston Pond &amp; Green – Ash Die Back</b> Councillors were advised that there has been a discussion with ESCC at SLR meeting last Monday, on this matter. A date is being arranged for Cllrs to meet with ESCC</p>	Clerk to pursue the meeting.
1038	<b>Pavilion Update</b>	

	Councillors viewed some sketches on the size, shape, and location of a proposed replacement cricket pavilion. The next step will be further site analysis and then pre-application consideration. A new car park and multi-surface recreation area are also being discussed. The relocation of the playground and bowling green is also part of these discussions. Funding will need to be sought for up to £2 million.	
1039	<b>Urgent Items</b> None.	
1040	<b>Reports</b> a) Chair of the Council Christmas events in the hall.  <b>Resolved:</b> The Parish Council will take a table at the event in the Village Hall on 5 <sup>th</sup> December and contribute to the refreshments.	Clerk to action.
	b) Planning Committee The Council noted the draft minutes of the planning committee meeting.	
	c) Finance. The Council received a report of the 6-month budget position, which showed a positive variance in income of £8759.00, due to an internal transfer of £4100 from the defibrillator account to the Free Account to cover defibrillator expenses, and a larger than budgeted grant for the Neighbourhood Plan. Other variances over 5% were highlighted noted. The Clerk advised that bank reconciliations have not happened for September and October (a requirement under the finance regulations) as she has not yet had access to the bank accounts. These will be done before the next meeting. The November meeting will be discussing budgets for 25/26.  <b>Resolved:</b> All Councillors to come to next meeting with expenditure requests under budget headings and proposed costs.	Clerk to conduct bank reconciliations.  All Councillors to consider plans for 25/26 and bring requests to the November meeting.
	d) Cricket Club (email of outstanding items) Outstanding items were discussed. <b>Resolved:</b> Parish Council to consider providing a bin or pay a contribution to existing ones. Health & Safety Items - These are items were discussed and Cllr Fowler to provide an update to the Council at the November meeting.	Cllr Seeley to action Cllr Fowler to provide an update.
	e) RoW & Highways <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SLR meeting discussed many of these issues, such as Old Willingdon Road. Highways attended the SLR meeting, and the PC has asked for RoW officers to attend future SLR meetings. A separate meeting will be held with ESCC Highways and RoW Officers and Cllrs to walk around the village.</li> <li>Councillors to identify properties with overhanging growth abutting highways and advise the Clerk. The Clerk to write to residents.</li> </ul>	Councillors to notify the Clerk.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bench at south side at the Bus Stop has been vandalised.</li> <li>• The weeding at the shops does not appear to have been done.</li> <li>• PC to clear out hanging baskets from Spring</li> <li>• Phone Box at Bus Shelter has been vandalised.</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved:</b> Repairs/replacements to be conducted where vandalism has taken place.</p>	Cllr Seeley to investigate Clerk to arrange site meeting with Grants Clerk to write to BT about repair to vandalism.
	f) Recreation Ground Nothing further discussed.	
	g) Tree Warden National Tree week coming up. Put an article in the Parish Magazine offering free small saplings	Cllr Greenway to action
	h) Downlands Estate Management Group Nothing to discuss.	
	i) Defibrillators Nothing to discuss.	
	j) SLR meeting update Covered under highways item above.	
1041	<b>External Audit Report</b> The final report and certificate were noted as being received from the Auditors, and the Notice of Completion has been advertised.	
1042	<p><b>Correspondence Report</b> The Council took note of a report by the Clerk on correspondence received since the August meeting, and the following matters were discussed:</p> <p>1. Downs View Lane (Appendix A – photos and previous correspondence) A resident has raised points concerning the lane, namely: the bank needs a wider cut at the end of the mowing season as brambles and nettles are overhanging the lane; the ivy on wall at junction with A259 is obscuring visibility to the right; the junction sign on A259 is partially obscured by foliage; the obstruction to the only passing place at the A259 end of the lane needs to be removed. <b>Resolved:</b> The Council to action overgrown vegetation.</p> <p>2. Fossick Pictures (Appendix B – letter) A number of letters and email correspondence has taken place regarding the photo in the banner header on the Parish Council website, regarding copyright infringement as the image supposedly belongs to David Lliff. Such activity is now common, with fines being sought for breaches of copyright, which is a rightful legal proposition. However, we believe this letter to be a phising letter - fraudulent. Having done a Google scan of the internet, there are no other instances of this image being used, other than by ED&amp;FPC. We have however removed the image and replaced it. <b>Resolved:</b> The Council to agree no further action to be taken at this time in regard to Fossick Pictures, and to decide if a new image be uploaded.</p> <p>3. Full Fibre Broadband</p>	<p>Clerk to Action.</p> <p>Clerk to add new banner to website.</p>

	<p>A resident has asked if there is any update on this issue in the village. The Council stated that no new information is available at this time.</p> <p>4. Bowls Club An anonymous resident has expressed concern on learning that approx. £50-60k is to be spend by WDC/ED&amp;FPC on building a new Bowls green and club behind the cricket pavilion. The resident believes that this is a poor use of money. The Council noted that no funds have been allocated to this at the current time.</p> <p>5. Rude Mechanical Theatre Correspondence has been received seeking permission from the Parish Council and the cricket club to perform on the War Memorial Recreation Ground in East Dean - the date proposed being Wednesday 2nd July 2025. <b>Resolved.</b> The Council agreed permission should be granted, subject to availability.</p> <p>6. VE Day 80 Correspondence has been received to ascertain whether or not the Council wishes to participate in national activities and for such to be registered with this group. The Council stated discussion on this will take place at a later date.</p> <p>7. Noisy Vehicle Action Correspondence has been received from Cllr Tigg at Lewes Town Council regarding collective action amongst parishes to deal with noisy vehicles. The group has so far researched acoustic cameras and are hoping to get a few parishes together to give greater weight so having such in place. <b>Resolved:</b> The Council agreed to progress this further.</p>	Clerk to confirm availability
1043	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b> 7<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 pm at the Village Hall. The meeting closed at 9.15pm.</p>	

Signed (Chair)..... Dated.....

PAYEE	DETAILS	SUB TOTAL	VAT	TOTAL	REF.NO	
Grants (Eastbourne)	Contract Grounds Maintenance	770.00	154.00	924.00	3178	Ratify
Village Hall	Hire	63.00		63.00	3179	Ratify
Vision ICT	Web & Email support 2024 - 2025	188.13	37.63	225.76	3180	Ratify
Janet Smith	Cricket Pavilion cleaning	581.65		581.65	3181	Ratify
Geosphere Ltd	Mapping Software	45.00	9.00	54.00	3182	Ratify

Julia Shelley	Locum Clerk	2037.80		2,037.80	3183/3183B/3199	Ratify
Darren Vassie	Plumbing Cricket Pavilion	259.00		259.00	3184	Ratify
Village Hall RA	Grant	250.00		250.00	2185	Ratify
Wealden Citizen Advice	Grant	300.00		300.00	3186	Ratify
Jozef Maintenance	Jozef Maintenance	430.00	86.00	516.00	3187	Ratify
Cllr Hill	Cllr Hill Expenses	16.98		16.98	3188	Ratify
Cllr Hill	Cllr Hill Expenses	19.22		19.22	3189	Ratify
Village Hall	Village Hall	84.00		84.00	3190	Ratify
EDF Cricket Pavilion	EDF Cricket Pavilion	138.23		138.23	3191	Ratify
Cllr Hill	Cllr Hill Expenses (sign & hanging baskets)	185.76		185.76	3192	Ratify
Sovereign Alarms	Sovereign Alarms - Pavilion Fire Exit	32.81	6.56	39.37	3193	Ratify
Residents Association	Residents Association - market	15.00		15.00	3194	Ratify
Vision ICT	Vision ICT email hosting	180.00	36.00	216.00	3195	Ratify
Grants (Eastbourne)	Contract Grounds Maintenance (August)	680.00	136.00	816.00	3196	Ratify
Groundworks	NP refund unspent grant	226.94		226.94	3202	Ratify
Nalc	Cllr Training	98.93		98.93	3197	Approve
Cllr Bustard	NP Stationery	20.00		20.00	3200	Approve
Grants (Eastbourne)	Contract Grounds Maintenance (Sept)	680.00	136.00	816.00	3201	Approve
F Chalk	Offices Expenses	26.00		26.00	3203	Approve
F Chalk	NP Consultation Expenses	80.90		80.90	3204	Approve
F Chalk	Salary	1668.08		1668.08	3205	Approve
HMRC	NI	53.92		53.92	3206	Approve
F Chalk	Training ILCA and FILCA	288.00		288.00	3207	Approve
PKF Littlejohn (Auditors)	Annual Audit Fee	315.00	63.00	378.00	3208	Approve
Business Stream Scottish Water	Cricket Pavilion Water Bill	69.41		69.41	3209	Approve
ED&F Village Hall Trust	Hall Hire PC and NP	105.00		105.00	3210	Approve
EDF Cricket Pavilion	Utility Bill CC	59.58	2.98	62.56	3211	Approve
Cuckmere Buses	Service 41 3-months to Sept 30	448.43		448.43	3212	Approve
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8298.35</b>	<b>513.17</b>	<b>10,144.51</b>		