

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 7th November 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), Cllr T Larkin, and Cllr D White.

In attendance: District Cllr D Greaves, PCSOs L Tilbury (ED&F & Cuckmere Valley) & I Wood (Jevington & Willingdon) and Clerk & RFO Fiona Chalk.

The PCSOs gave an overview of their remit. They are in the village, walking and driving, 1-2 times a week, and recently attended the market. They cover issues such as anti-social behaviour - vandalism, neighbour disputes, speeding, etc. Cllrs stated speeding is an issue, and a PSPO extension was requested but currently only goes around 2/3rds of the road around Birling Gap. The PCSO's agreed to follow this up and advised that issues such as lamping are dealt with by the Rural Crime Team. The PCSOs were invited to attend the village meeting and the village fair.

Public Session:

Crowlink – 12 houses at present are impacted by poor broadband, which is now required for healthcare, education, home-businesses etc. There is a collective effort to research options and write a letter to Openreach to undertake a survey and hopefully replace the old copper wire. The PC were asked to support this. It was noted that broadband is an issue across other areas of the village, somewhat due to a mast not being put up as previously proposed. It was agreed it would be helpful to get a plan/schedule for the village on broadband rollout. The PC **resolved** to support a letter to Openreach.

The Chair closed the Public Session and opened the meeting.

Minute No.	Item	Action responsibility
1044	Acceptance of apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Cllr Shing, Cllr Baker.	
1045	Declarations of Interest: None.	
1046	Approval of minutes on 3rd October 2024 Resolved: The minutes were approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chair Actions: A meeting is outstanding with Anthony Becvar Tree Officer regarding Ash Dieback. Cricket Club waste disposal. VH Trust have stated the CC can use the bins at the VH at a charge of approximately £300 a year. The Parish Council resolved to agree to pay the cost and to agree with the CC a contribution towards this cost.	Clerk to chase Clerk to contact CC

	<p>The H&S issues in the Pavilion kitchen have been resolved. Cllr Fowler advised that mirrors and decoration works need to be undertaken on the changing rooms.</p> <p>The addresses of the properties with overhanging growth abutting a highway, to be put in a list to the Clerk who will write to the occupiers.</p> <p>Acacia trees by the shops have been cutback.</p> <p>Bench at southside of the Bus Stop – A request will be put in the Parish Magazine asking if any resident wishes to sponsor a bench for a dedication.</p> <p>Downs View Lane hedge to cut back.</p>	<p>Cllr Fowler to bring back details and estimates Cllr White to provide address. Clerk to write.</p> <p>Clerk to action</p> <p>Cllr Greenway to get a quote.</p>
1047	<p>Report of the Member of Parliament No report was received. Meeting dates have been requested and reports will be submitted next year.</p>	
1048	<p>Report of the County Councillor Cllr Shing was absent and submitted a report which was noted by the Council.</p>	
1049	<p>Report of the District Councillor Cllr Greaves presented his report, noting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WDC have distributed £1.2 m from CIL in the 6 months to September 24. A 15% contribution is given to Parishes, and those with a Neighbourhood Plan in place, get 25%. • Details of SE Water webinar on the 12th regarding their service, environmental issues, affordability etc. • Current issues ESCC have in recruiting and retaining staff. 	
1050	<p>Preliminary Consideration of the Budget and Precept for 25/26 The Council discussed proposed grant work for the Cricket Club. The PC requested a costed plan be submitted to the next meeting, regarding the long-term plans and any interim requirements – such a masterplan is required before the Council can agree and budget accordingly.</p> <p>The pre-budget papers provided by the Clerk were discussed. Councillors agreed to submit proposals and costs to the Clerk by Friday 22nd November.</p> <p>It was noted the Asset List requires updating.</p>	<p>Cllrs Fowler & Bryant to provide to the next PC mtg.</p> <p>Cllrs to submit</p> <p>Clerk to update asset list.</p>
1051	<p>Payments & Receipts The Council took note of report 8. Resolved: Councillors resolved to approve the unpaid invoices, for payment in November, and ratify the paid invoices. [Note: the complete Payments Schedule is appended to these Minutes]. Resolved: To contribute 50% to the Finger post sign for East Dean/Tiger Inn/shops</p>	<p>Clerk to make payments</p>

1052	2025/26 Meeting Timetable The Council resolved to approve the meeting timetable for 2025/26.	Clerk to publish on website
1053	Planning Committee Report Resolved: To approve the recommendation to update the Planning Committee's Terms of Reference to take account of the draft Neighbourhood Plan, and to move all non-planning responsibilities, to the Parish Council meetings.	Clerk to update
1054	Policy Review and Approval The policy review timetable was noted. The Council resolved to approve the following updated policies: Code of Conduct; Risk Management Strategy; Terms of Reference of the Planning Committee The Council resolved to approve the following new policies: Communications & Social Media policy; Equality & Diversity	Clerk to update website
1055	Parish Council Grants The Parish Council resolved to make a grant of £250 to the Parish Magazine.	Clerk to make payment
1056	ESCC Grass Cutting Contract Councillors discussed the proposal from ESCC. It was resolved to choose option 3 – Self delivery: Parish Council to continue to deliver all urban grass cutting in their area. This must include a minimum of two cuts over the course of the year. ESCC will not conduct any urban grass cutting in the area. ESCC will pay the Parish Council the sum of £515.42 to cover the 2 cuts they would have been providing in other options.	Clerk to advise ESCC
1057	Urgent Items not on the agenda None.	
1058	Reports: a) <u>Chair of the Council</u> English devolution bill – ESCC could take over the running and maintenance of the County, reducing local borough council's work. It was noted that ESCC will be standalone, WSCC are working with Brighton & Hove. Each devolved area will appoint a Mayor. Transport for the SE plan is coming out on 12 th December with consultation over 12 weeks, and could include the A259. Village lunch – Councillors to attend on 5 th December.	Cllrs to advise Chair on attendance
	b) <u>Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group</u> Consultation period has now finished, and the feedback is being considered, with the Plan being amended accordingly. It will come back to the PC for approval in December.	
	c) <u>Rights of Way & Highways</u> A meeting took place with SLR team on 8 th November, and further onsite meetings in the Parish will follow this month to discuss the issues. Road signs - 4 plastic posts will replace wooden posts that are damaged across the parish, including Peakdean Lane and Jevington Road signs which are damaged.	Cllr Fowler & Cllr Seeley to action
	d) <u>Recreation Ground</u> A report will be brought back to the December meeting, on maintenance works including the benches.	Cllr Fowler
	e) <u>Tree Warden</u>	

	No response was received to the offer of tress for planting in the magazine article.	
	<p>f) <u>Downlands Estate Management Group (RC/RA/PC)</u> An email has been received from ESCC confirming the PC can put the 20mph signs in as requested, subject to a Road Traffic Order, which could take up to 12 months to receive. The cost is £5200 for the Order, and about £2000 for the installation works. This cost could be in this fiscal year. There will be a consultation with stakeholders as part of the process to obtain the Order. Councillors noted that the Neighbourhood Plan supports this work. Discussions are taking place with the Roads Company on this matter.</p>	Cllr Seeley to bring paper to December mtg.
	<p>g) <u>Defibrillators</u> They have all been tested. It was resolved that a training session be organised at the village hall.</p>	Clerk to arrange for Spring 25
	<p>h) <u>Greensward Meeting</u> Cllr Hill attended as an observer. It was a valuable meeting – Cllr Hill and Cllr Greenway to attend future meetings alternatively. Councillors noted that the Neighbourhood Plan raises the matter of potential future use of the Greensward.</p>	Cllrs Hill/ Greenway to alternate attendance
	<p>i) <u>To note a report by the Clerk on progress items since the October meeting</u> The Clerk gave an update on empty properties, her attendance at the Eastbourne Bus User Group meeting, Cricket Club Grant, and SLR meeting subsequent correspondence.</p>	
1059	<p>Correspondence Report The Council noted the letter of thanks from Beachy Head Chaplaincy for the donation.</p>	
1060	<p>Date of Next Meeting 5th December at 7.30 pm at the Village Hall. The meeting closed at 9.15pm.</p>	

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

	PAYMENTS		
PAYEE	DETAILS	TOTAL	APPROVE/D
WDC	Waste management	343.20	Ratify
Rialtas	System Introductory Training - Clerk	168.00	Approve
Tinsley's	NP copies for Cllrs	40.00	Approve
Beachy Head Chaplaincy Team	Charity of the Year Donation	500.00	Approved
Tim Pontin	NPSG expenses	238.57	Approve
Cllr Seeley	Remembrance Sunday expenses	179.98	Approve
ESALC	Clerk training	48.00	Approve
ESCC Pension	Clerk Pension	446.00	Approve
Clerk	Printer Cartridge (50% contribution)	100.45	Approve

EDF	Cricket Pavilion	61.20	Approve
Grants Eastbourne	Grass Cutting & Maintenance	816.00	Approve
Rialtas	Budget Training - Clerk	180.00	Approve
Gilbert Estate	Tiger Inn signage (50% contribution)	146.18	Approve
HMRC	PAYE & NI	186.95	Approve
Tony Millar	NP banner and posters - design printing	952.00	Approve
Village Hall	Hire October	42.00	Approve
Clerk	Salary and allowance	1594.20	Ratify
TOTAL	TOTAL	6,042.73	