



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 2nd October in the Small Hall of the Village Hall, Gilberts Drive, East Dean, commencing at 7.30 pm

Councillors present: Cllr Baker, Cllr Fowler, Cllr Greenway, Cllr Hill, Cllr Morris, Cllr Seeley & County Cllr Shing.

In attendance: Clerk & RFO Phil Burgess.

1 member of the public was present.

Public Session: The condition of the beech hedge at the junction of Hillside and Deneside (outside no 2) was raised again. Cllr Greenway had approached the owner, and it had been trimmed. As this was insufficient to remedy the issue the owners would cut it back further

2163 Election of Chair. The clerk took the chair initially and Cllr Morris was elected as chair for the remainder of the meeting.

2164 Apologies for absence. Cllr Harvey, Cllr Larkin & District Councillor Greaves.

2165 Declarations of Interest. None

2166 Co-option of Councillor. Former councillor Michael Bustard was re-elected as councillor. A Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed.

2167 Member of Parliament report. Report distributed prior to the meeting.

2168 County Councillor Report.

Exeat Bridge Main work to start in spring. Clearance of vegetation has begun and this and bore-hole drilling can be undertaken without road closures. Cllr Seeley raised the issue of 3-way traffic lights which increased the delay at the bridge. Cllr Shing would press for 2-way to be used in future. Night work is preferred when major disruption is expected.

Local government Re-organisation ESCC support the One East Sussex approach although it does not have Wealden's support. This method has unitary authorities with approximately 600,000 inhabitants as apposed to the 300,000 with the Brighton proposal for 5 Unitaries. The Mayoral election will take place in May 2026.

Strengthening Local Relationships Cllr Shing has lost confidence in the SLR team and many issues remain unresolved.

2169 District Councillor report. Cllr Greaves was not present but details of the Ward member's grant scheme had been received and distributed by the clerk to potential beneficiaries and village publications. Cllr Hill reported that the signs were to be changed on the car park as they were misleading.

2170 Minutes of the meeting on 7th August. These were approved by council and signed by the chair.

2171 Matters arising. None

2172 Update on Actions from June Minutes.

Minute 2052. Broadband. Still chasing a definitive answer from BT on supply cabinets and a response form City Fibre regarding the range of their proposed installation.

Minute 2086 Email communications with residents. Applications had been invited up to the end of September. First circulation will go out mid-October.

Minute 2136. Updated plan distributed to councillors. Amendments still required to red folders (manual copies) to update the PERT (Plan emergency response team). All other items cleared or dealt with on this agenda.

Minute 2140 Recreation Ground Rent. Invoice issued for March 2025 and excess water charges will be reclaimed at the end of the calendar year.

Minute 2159f Letter of Support issued to Cricket Club for MUGA.

2173 Payments and receipts. All approved as detailed.

2174 Bank Balances and Reconciliations. Three accounts agreed and signed by the chair.

2175 External Auditor's Report. Council noted that the Annual Governance and Accounts Return had been passed by the external auditor with no issues.

2176 Communications with residents. The following were agreed:

- a) New councillor training would be compulsory as stipulated in the training policy. *Action: Clerk to arrange new councillor training for Cllr Baker and Cllr Harvey.*
- b) The recent email detailing ESALC courses would again be circulated by the Clerk. *Action: Clerk*
- c) Councillor Surgeries in association with the monthly coffee mornings had been tried but would be publicised through the mailing list and other outlets. If the surgeries become more popular, a rota would be devised to share the load.

2177 Parish Council Policies. The following policies were reviewed and adopted without change:

- a) Code Of Conduct for councillors
- b) Code of Conduct for employees
- c) Civility and respect Councillor and Employee
- d) E-mail and Internet Usage
- e) Training and Development

Once all policies had been reviewed and agreed during the council year. A declaration would be made by all councillors to confirm the policies were read and understood. *Action: Clerk to arrange once all policies addressed.*

2178 Pavilion Project. This had been a friendly and productive meeting. The Cricket club accepted the need for restrictions in terms of size and height. Other stakeholders would be invited to join the group once outline sketches and a site plan have been received from Peter Shoesmith. The meeting with the architect would be arranged for w/c 20th October. *Clerk to arrange.*

2179 Fly tipping on Downs View Lane. The reported dumping of garden waste and concrete/building waste would be addressed by letter from the Clerk after liaison with Cllr Greenway. Each letter will be personally addressed and will outline the consequences associated with fly tipping, as well as emphasize the importance of maintaining the bank by ensuring it is mowed and free from obstructions. *Action: Clerk to create letter with Cllr Greenway*

2180 Greensward Litter Bin. In order to restrict on-going costs from WDC for the emptying of bins, the current dog bin on the greensward will be replaced by a large capacity multi-purpose bin. The positioning of the bin would be left to the Greensward Company. Cllr Hill

had a record of bins used in the past and would advise the clerk. *Action: Clerk to purchase bin and arrange installation.*

2181 **Social Media.** This item was deferred to allow a check to be made on other parish council's social media policies. *Action: Clerk to liaise with Cllr Baker and check other policies.*

2182 **War Memorial.** No cleaning or restoration is required at present. Minor expenses would be incurred for the Remembrance Sunday Service. Agreed expenditure for the trumpeter fee and additional large poppies would amount to around £150.

2183 **Urgent Items.** The chair addressed a concern from the member of public present regarding the layout at council meetings. A new layout would be trialled at the November meeting where the council will face the public

2184 **Old e-mail contacts.** Councillors agreed to check their address books for old .org council e-mails which are now no longer in use.

2185 **Reports.**

- a) **Chair of the council.** No report. Councillors would chair meetings as follows: Cllr Baker November, Cllr Fowler December, Cllr Bustard January.
- b) **Defibrillators.** All in order.
- c) **Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.** Fact checking report now submitted to examiner. Final Examiner report expected shortly. The Steering group would attend the November meeting to outline expected budgets for the forthcoming financial year and beyond. Referendum is expected February/March time.
- d) **Rights of Way and Highways.**
 - Participants in the Duke of Edinburgh awards scheme were depositing rubbish as they walked along the Old Willingdon Rd. *Action: Clerk to approach DofE organisers.*
 - The single bench has been installed on the Gilbert's Drive junction with Lower Street.
 - Horsefield. The damaged post supporting the handrail will be replaced very shortly.
 - The path between Warren Lane and Peakdean Close is covered in slippery leaves. This is in hand and will be raked and topped with bark chippings.
 - Linden close overgrown hedge has been addressed.
 - Peakdean Close overhanging verge has been addressed.
- e) **Tree Warden.**
 - The 3 large Ash trees on the bank opposite the Grange would be raised at the forthcoming SLR meeting.
 - The Ash sapling at the bush shelter will be removed shortly.
 - A dead tree on Hillside (property on Deneside) will be removed by the householder.
- f) **Recreation Ground.** Cllr Fowler would renovate the benches shortly as agreed. Pavilion Project - see minute 2178
- g) **Downlands Estate Management Group.** No report.
- h) **Traffic Group.**
- i) **Friston Pond.** The pond had been drained and cleaned in recent years. Clearance of weed is planned. There is a pond specialist in the area and Cllr Hill will investigate.

2186 **Correspondence.** None.

2187 **Date of next meeting.** This will take place on Thursday 6th November. It was agreed that the time would be moved forward by 30 minutes. Planning would therefore occur at 6.30 pm with Parish Council following at 7pm. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will be invited at the start of the Parish Council meeting. *Action: Clerk to publicise and arrange Village Hall diary changes.*

Meeting Closed at 9.15 p.m.

Minutes confirmed as a true representation: Signed.....Date.....

DRAFT