



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 7th August in the Small Hall of the Village Hall, Gilberts Drive, East Dean, commencing at 7.30 pm

Councillors present: Cllr Fowler, Cllr Greenway, Cllr Hill, Cllr Larkin, Cllr Morris, Cllr Seeley & Cllr White. District Cllr Greaves.

In attendance: Clerk & RFO Phil Burgess.

3 members of the public were present.

Public Session: The condition of the beech hedge at the junction of Hillside and Deneside (outside no 2) was raised. *Action: Cllr Greenway to approach owner.*

Overnight parking was becoming a problem in the Village Hall car park, particularly from camper vans. Signage is not sufficiently clear. *Action: Cllr Greaves would contact Tina Ford to address.*

Police Action on anti-social driving and speeding was not given a high profile. *Action: Clerk to publicise details of operation crackdown and the increase in those fined or cautioned in the Parish Magazine.*

2124 Election of Chair. The clerk took the chair initially and Cllr White was elected as chair for the remainder of the meeting.

2125 Apologies for absence. Cllr Baker.

2126 Declarations of Interest. None

2127 Co-option of Councillor. Stephen Harvey gave a short resume and was duly elected as councillor. A Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed.

2128 Member of Parliament report. None received. James MacCleary would attend a public session on August 11th at 7pm.

2129 County Councillor Report. None received.

2130 District Councillor report. Written report would be forwarded to the clerk for distribution. *Action: Clerk*

2131 Minutes of the meeting on 3rd July. These were approved by council and signed by the Cllr Fowler as the chair was absent from the June meeting.

2132 Matters arising. None

2133 Update on Actions from June Minutes.

Minute 2052. Broadband. Still awaiting definitive answer from BT on supply cabinets but the approach from City Fibre to install fibre in the village is very promising.
Minute 2085 Internal auditor's recommendations completed on this agenda.
Minute 2086 Email communications with residents. Still outstanding.
All other items cleared or dealt with on this agenda.

2134 Lead Councillors for the current year. The following councillors were selected for indicated roles:

- Rights of Way & Highways *Cllr Harvey (north of A259) Cllr Hill (south of A259)*
- Recreation Ground *Cllr Fowler*
- Environment *Cllr Larkin*
- Tree Warden *Cllr Greenway*
- Defibrillators *Cllr Larkin*
- Social Media *Not allocated. Action: Clerk to approach Cllr Baker to define scope for October meeting.*
- Website *Parish Clerk*
- Disability *Not allocated – October agenda*
- Pavilion Proposals *Cllr Hill and Cllr Seeley*
- Tourism Strategy *Cllrs Hill, Morris and Seeley*
- Neighbourhood Plan liaison *Cllr Seeley*

2135 Outside Organisations. The following councillors were selected for indicated roles:

- Village Hall Trust *Cllr Seeley*
- ESALC *Cllr Fowler*
- Wealden Assoc of Local Councils *Not allocated – rarely meets*

2136 Emergency Plan. The following were elected to the Parish Emergency Response Team (PERT). Cllrs Seeley, Fowler, Hill, Morris, Greenway & Harvey plus Clerk. *Action: Clerk to update records and circulate latest emergency plan. Cllr Seeley would assist Clerk with updating & distribution of red folders.*

2137 Quotation for replacement Bollards Downlands Way and reinstatement of FP36. Quotation accepted. Concrete Bollards to be used. Quotation also accepted for resurfacing of FP36 (Wayside-Downlands) with a contribution from the resident. *Action: Clerk to advise contractor and resident.*

2138 Model Standing Orders. The revised model standing orders were adopted. *Action: Clerk to circulate to all councillors.*

2139 Financial Regulations. The revised financial regulations were adopted. *Action: Clerk to circulate to all councillors. Cllr Harvey, Hill and Seeley would compile a list of preferred suppliers.*

2140 Rental charges for Pavilion and Recreation Ground. To be retained at current level of £1080 p.a. and reviewed at 26-27 budget. *Action: Clerk to check the date of the last increase prior to budget debate.*

2141 Mowing of Downs View Lane bank. Bank to be mowed once a year in winter to avoid harm to wildlife. *Action: Clerk to arrange contractor at appropriate time. Cllr Greenway would inform the resident who requested a cut.*

2142 Football Posts on Recreation Ground. Council agreed the points raised by the cricket club and rejected the application for new posts. *Action: Clerk to advise applicant.*

2143 Parking on Downlands Way and Gilbert's Drive. Notes under wipers would not be used. White lining to the Downlands Way pavement would be tied in with lining to enlarge car park spaces at the shops. Council also agreed to co-fund 20 traffic cones for the market (half of funding provided by Village Hall Trust). *Action: Cllr Seeley to arrange purchase of cones, Clerk to arrange white lining.*

2144 **Siting of new Bench.** Cllr Fowler suggested the corner of Lower Street and Gilbert's drive where the existing bench was in poor condition. *Action: Cllr Hill to check and arrange installation.*

2145 **Qualifying projects for Wealden CLIF funding** The council would support the Cricket club in making a bid to Wealden. Cllr Fowler declared an interest and did not vote. See minute 2159f for details.

2146 **Downlands Way car park and shop access.** White lining would be tied in with Downlands way pavement (see item 2143). No decision was taken on the accessibility of the shops.

2147 **Budget Performance.** Healthy budget noted. Allocated amounts for War memorial cleaning and Accessibility still remain unspent.

2148 **Payments and receipts.** All approved as detailed.

2149 **Bank Balances and Reconciliations.** Three accounts agreed and signed by the chair.

2150 **Clerk's Salary. Salary settlement as recommended by NALC agreed.** *Action: Clerk to process.*

2151 **Rude Mechanical Theatre Co.** A fee of £75 per visit was agreed with effect from this year's event *Action: Clerk to invoice.*

2152 **Digital switchover.** The council would not host an information event as there was plenty of publicity surrounding the changeover.

2153 **Temporary Road Safety posters.** There was no requirement for these.

2154 **Annual Village Fete.** Following a representation from The EDFRA chair and an explanation from Cllr White, the council resolved to donate £250 this year. Cllr White provided information on this item but did not vote as he chaired the fete committee. *Action: Clerk to inform EDFRA chair and request a representation for the 2026 fete prior to council budgets being set.*

2155 **Grant Applications.** A grant of £250 was approved for Wealden Citizens' Advice. Grant funding for Action against Abuse was refused. *Action: Clerk to process.*

2156 **Council Awards Scheme.** The scheme was deferred until next year. The awards night had been scheduled to coincide with the 25-year celebrations at the Village Hall but this was ruled out at recent meeting of the Village Hall Trust attended by councillor representatives. The 25-year event will include an afternoon tea in addition to the evening buffet for 120 guests. *Action: Clerk to liaise with Cllr Seeley to use council e-mail address to co-ordinate invitations.*

2157 **Footpaths and Bridleways.** The closed bridleway alongside the recreation ground had been the subject of court action in recent years and despite regular use the decision went against the village. The assistance offered was not, therefore, necessary. *Action: Clerk to inform the gentleman concerned.*

2158 **Urgent Items.** None reported.

2159 Reports.

- a) **Chair of the council.** No report.
- b) **Defibrillators.** All in order.
- c) **Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.** Examiner appointed and will report initial findings shortly. Steering group to meet when these are received.
- d) **Rights of Way and Highways.** On-going issue of FP8 Ridgeway to Old Willingdon Rd will be chased again by Cllr Greenway. Sussex Gardens to Michel Dene Rd (FP32) has overgrown hedge issues again.
- e) **Tree Warden.** Cllrs Greenway and Hill would arrange for Ash trees around the bus shelters to be cut back/removed. *Action.*
Plants for winter hanging baskets have been ordered by Cllr Hill.
- f) **Recreation Ground.** Jason Woodford (chair of Cricket Club) addressed the council regarding a project to convert the existing Tennis/basketball court into a multi-use games arena (MUGA) in line with WDC sports strategy. This is a completely separate project from the Pavilion replacement. The new development (on the site of the existing court) would extend tennis facilities and provide an all-weather 5-a-side football pitch. Council representatives were required for the project team (Cllr Fowler +1 TBA). 50% matched funding is required and a list of potential funders was produced and will be circulated to councillors. Council funding and support was requested. *Action: Clerk to send letter of support and include in October agenda. Also to check with Cllr Greaves that CC is able to request grant funding from two WDC grants for the same project.*
- g) **Downlands Estate Management Group.** No report
- h) **Traffic Group.** Minutes of previous meeting with agenda documents. A further meeting will take place after consultation with Sarah Taylor (local police inspector).

2160 Correspondence. Noted.

2161 **Date of next meeting.** This will take place on Thursday 2nd October at 7.30 pm, or following Planning committee if that finishes later.

2162 **Councillor Resignation.** Cllr White tendered his resignation.

Meeting Closed at 9.40 p.m.

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