

HERSTMONCEUX PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Herstmonceux Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 19 January 2009 Village Hall, Herstmonceux.

Present: Councillors J Angear, D Creasey, K Game, M Goodsell, W Gower, B Naish, M Rice, J Tate and I Willson. East Sussex County Councillor R Bentley was also present.

Three members of the public attended.

The Responsible Financial Officer, Mr S Goacher and Mrs J McInnes, the clerk were in attendance.

09.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors N Lyon, K Wheatley and ESCC Councillor W Bentley.

09.02 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2008 have been circulated.

It was then resolved that the minutes be approved, adopted and signed as the correct record, proposed by Councillor J Angear, seconded by Councillor M Rice.

09.03 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Proposed new surgery adjacent to the village hall – ESCC Councillor R Thomas has met with representatives from ESCC to discuss the traffic access implications. ESCC has agreed that a dropped kerb and pedestrian refuge will be located to the east of the village hall entrance.

Web site – the new web site is progressing well. It was proposed by Councillor Rice, seconded by Councillor Angear that photographs of councillors and Officers should be listed on the web site. It was agreed by a majority decision.

It was proposed by Councillor Creasey, seconded by Councillor Tate that Computer Plus should install a router on the council computer. All councillors in favour.

09.04 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Goodsell – re minor maintenance work on the Recreation Ground and other Council sites.

09.05 FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The meeting having been presented with the Payment of Account Report and accompanying vouchers, authorised expenditure totalling £1,668.29 (copy attached) proposed by Councillor Goodsell, seconded by Councillor Rice. All councillors in favour.

A Statement of Accounts October – December 2008 was circulated to all councillors.

A copy of the Estimates for 2009/10 was circulated to all councillors.

09.05 DOCTOR'S SURGERY

Lease and rental of the existing surgery - Mr Credland from the Primary Care Trust has informed the Council that he has investigated the background to the rent paid to the Council by Dr Simmons and formerly Dr Baker for the existing surgery.

The rent of £10,000 was agreed as part of a Cost Rent Scheme based on the cost of building the surgery and not on the market rent.

It is expected that a current valuation of the rent for the surgery will still not be £10,000 and the PCT will not support the proposed increase to £11,500 as suggested by the Council's independent valuation.

Mr Credland will discuss the matter with the District Valuer and report back to the Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Game, seconded by Councillor Tate that the Council could request a valuation from the District Valuer. It was agreed by a majority decision. There were two abstentions.

09.06 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

No further to report.

09.07 ALLOTMENTS

- Mr Love agrees to the terms of the lease.
- The trees have been cleared but the smaller roots still need removing.
- It was suggested by Mr Love that manure could be spread on the site after the roots have been cleared but Herstmonceux Allotment Association (HAA) and the Council recommend that the manure be left at the site for the allotment gardeners to use as they wish. Mr Love has been informed.
- Members of HAA will help mark out the site.
- Mr Taylor has the markers for each allotment garden.
- Two shed applications were approved.

09.08 PARISH PLAN REVIEW

The Clerk will circulate a list of the recommendations from the review for the next meeting.

09.09 HERSTMONCEUX REGISTER

The review is ongoing.

09.10 CLERK'S REPORT – PART ONE

Correspondence

1. WDC – copy of Benefit Newsletter.
2. Freedom Leisure – details of Active Play Project.
3. Mr Wootton-Whitling – expressing his concern at the Council's decision regarding the application for a sign plate at Carters Corner.
4. PCSO L McDonagh – requesting permission to erect CCTV in operation notices on the recreation ground. **Agreed.**
5. Sussex Association of Local Councils – details of Quality Council Workshop on 23 January 2009.
6. Mr D Weeks – application for allotment. **Allocated.**
7. Mrs F Davis – comments on the use of chemicals on allotments.
8. Ms N Beart – comments on the allotment rules regarding fruit cages.
9. ESCC – details of the review of Street Lighting Maintenance Agreement. **Copied to Mr S Goacher and Councillor K Game.**
10. ESCC – school Travel Plan Information leaflet.
11. WDC - details of tree surgery within Tree Preservation Order 1071(7) at 7 Chestnut Close, Herstmonceux.
12. Sussex Association of Local Councils – bulletin. **Copied to all councillors.**
13. ESCC – details of the review of local bus services in Lewes and North Wealden.
14. WDC – informing the Council that the Wealden Open Space Study has now been completed and is available on the WDC web site.
15. Communities and Local Government – Consultation on Code of Recommended Practice on Local authority Publicity.
16. Centremaps – details of mapping service available.
17. Hailsham Town council – details of graffiti removal service.
18. NHS newsletter.
19. Anchor Staying Put – application for a grant.
20. ESCC – details of consultation on cycling policy.

Circulars

1. *Wealden Business Focus.*
2. National Association of Local Councils magazine – *LCR.*
3. *Clerks and Councils Direct.*

4. *The Clerk.***Correspondence**

1. Rospa – details of play ground inspection schedule.
2. Agrifactors – quotation for mowing recreation areas for 2009/10. **Copied to Councillor Gower and Mr Goacher.**
3. WDC – informing the Council that dog bin emptying costs will increase to £4.35 per bin per emptying from 1 April 2009.
4. Sussex Police – introductory letter from Superintendent Baker, the new superintendent for Neighbourhood Policing.
5. Monster Play Systems – invoice for youth shelter.
6. Sussex Police – informing the Council that is application for a grant from the Safer `Neighbourhoods Grant Scheme has been unsuccessful.
7. Mrs Davis – asking when the Tenancy Agreements will be sent out for the allotments. **To be discussed at Allotment Meeting on 10 February 2009.**
8. Mr Scarmardella – requesting permission to erect a shed on his allotment. **Approved.**
9. Mr Hazell – requesting permission to erect a shed on his allotment. **Approved.**
10. Mrs Blunden – cheque from sports Relief and fundraising for the new equipment on the skateboard park.

09.11 REPORTS**Planning**

Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 13 January 2009.
Present: Councillors J Angear, D Creasey, K Game, W Gower, N Lyon, B Naish, J Tate, K Wheatley and I Willson.
Apologies were received from Councillor M Goodsell.

Application: WD/2008/3063/F

Applicant: Mr C Haffenden

Location: 3 The Ridgeway, Herstmonceux.

Description: Garage extension.

Parish Council Comments to Wealden District Council: No objection.

Application: WD/2008/3107/F

Applicant: Mrs S Maitland-Jones

Location: Milland Farm, Church Road, Herstmonceux.

Description: New detached garage with covered parking for two cars along with integral stable and tack room.

Parish Council Comments to Wealden District Council: No objection.

Planning Consents received from Wealden District Council

1. WD/2008/2615/F Cherry Trees, Victoria Road, Windmill Hill – to convert existing garage and entrance porch to form new kitchen and entrance hallway. Brick up back door in existing kitchen and reuse as a study/bedroom.
2. WD/2008/2730/F Appletree Cottage, Stunts Green, Herstmonceux – demolition of existing garage and front porch and new two storey extension to side of existing chalet bungalow with integral garage.
3. WD/2008/2619/F 6 Blanshard Close, Herstmonceux – rear conservatory.
4. WD/2008/2571/F Osonby, Windmill Hill – conversion of loft space to achieve an additional bedroom. Creation of ensuite bathroom/cloakroom in existing bathroom. Enlarge kitchen and add extension to rear.

Planning Refusals received from Wealden District Council

1. WD/2008/2230/F Littlewood Farm, Carters Corner, Cowbeech – change of use of part of an agricultural building to stables and new ménage.

Correspondence

1. PFA Consulting – details of proposed bus shelter at Windmill Hill – **this matter was referred to the Full Council Meeting on 19 January as the plans available were too small to see the details.**

The Council made the following comments:

- the proposed new bus shelter should be closer to the bus stop and not behind the footpath.
 - a clear shelter would have better visibility for bus users, although the Council is not sure that Adshel is the best suppliers if the shelter is going to display advertisements.
 - the dropped kerb crossing seems to be very close to Joes Lane which is difficult for vehicles to access and exit.
 - the existing brick bus shelter should have a polycarbonate window on the Windmill Hill Place side. The bus stop is actually too far from the bus stop and bus users occasionally miss the bus, as they are unable to see it approaching.
2. WDC – informing the Council that Mr Pendlebury is appealing to the Planning Inspectorate in respect of the refusal of WDC to grant planning permission for a house on the site at Drummers Warehouse, Gardner Street, Herstmonceux.
 3. WDC – requesting the Council's comments for the appeal by Aldi for a retail unit on the Cattle Market Site, Market Street, Hailsham. **Councillors agreed that it will submit a written submission repeating its previous comments and emphasising that a new viable market site should be in operation before the loss of the existing facility.**

Finance and General Purposes

Minutes of Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 13 January 2009.

Present: Councillors J Angear, D Creasey, K Game, W Gower, B Naish, J Tate, and K Wheatley.

01.09 Estimates

The RFO presented the 2009/10 Estimates to the F&GP Committee, after having discussed these with the Chairman and other Councillors, and answered questions in respect of the effect on the Tax Base and subsequent Council Tax banding charges. The Finance and General Purposes Committee recommends that a Precept of £58,700 be levied for 2009/10, an increase of 2.29% over the current year's level of Precept; proposed by Councillor Tate, seconded by Councillor Creasey. All councillors in favour.

A finalised version of the annual estimates would be distributed at Full Council for the retention and information of each Parish Councillor.

The F&GP Committee recognises that the Council needs to set out a rolling program for the future covering capital projects (new equipment etc), improvements and maintenance to its recreational facilities, and its other parish services. This program should be discussed and costed by the various committees and Councillors and fed into the annual estimate cycle in each year. It is recommend that this procedure is adopted by Council and is built into the Council's procedures.

The matter of the management of the recreational facilities was discussed under the Ground Committee and it was agreed that there was a need to invite representatives from all the sports and local organisations to attend the Annual Parish Meeting and discuss the possibility of the Parish Council recouping a proportion of its maintenance and repair charges by charging organised sports clubs and organisations for the use of sports facilities (pitches etc). The F&GP Committee recognises that the cost of repairs and maintenance of Lime Cross, Recreation Ground and the Village Green will fall solely onto the Parish Council as from 1 April 2009 and provision has been built into the annual estimates to cover this. Depending on the outcome of discussions with local sporting and other organisations, recommendations received from the Ground Committee, and decisions of Full Council in the future, any

charges for the use of sporting facilities would commence from 1st April 2010. It is recommended that this procedure is adopted by the Council.

Ground Committee

- A report was circulated to all councillors.
- The skateboard equipment will be installed as soon as possible, weather permitting.
- A copy of the letter sent to all sports clubs and which will be sent out to residents informing them of the changes to the maintenance of the sports areas in the parish, was circulated to all councillors. Residents are invited to attend the Parish Meeting on 16 March 2009 to discuss the issue.

Street lighting

Nothing to report,

Highways and Traffic

- All problems with potholes reported to Councillor Gower have been forwarded to ESCC.
- There are problems with flooding again in Cricketing Lane.

Footpaths

Nothing to report.

Children and Young People

Nothing to report.

Information Centre

Nothing to report.

East Sussex County Councillor

- It is very difficult to obtain funding from any government sources which is bad news for spending on local issues.
- There are still problems with flooding but an excellent report has been produced drawing together all aspects of the problems.

Wealden District Councillor

- There will be a 3.9% increase in Council Tax.
- Two consultation documents have been circulated: 1. The Corporate Plan and 2. Working Party Documents on looking at the pressure on WDC finances.
- Councillor Gower thanked Mr Long for his continuing support and advice on issues that affect the parish.

Tree Warden

Nothing to report.

Emergency Plan

Wealden District Association of Local Councils

No meeting.

Village Hall

The Review

09.12 AGENDA

Chairman..... Date.....