

HERSTMONCEUX PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Herstmonceux Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 20 April 2009 in Herstmonceux Village Hall, Herstmonceux.

Present: Councillors J Angear, D Creasey, K Game, M Goodsell, W Gower, N Lyon, B Naish, J Tate, K Wheatley and I Willson. Wealden District Councillor A Long attended.

Mrs C Wilson, Chairman of Wealden District Council and Ms J Dunk, Wealden District Councillor attended.

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

09.39 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received Councillor M Rice and East Sussex County Councillors R Thomas and W Bentley.

09.40 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2009 have been circulated.

It was then resolved that the minutes be approved, adopted and signed as the correct record, proposed by Councillor K Game, seconded by Councillor J Tate.

09.41 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Parish web site – councillors requested that their personal emails and mobile telephone numbers be removed from the web site.

Contact emails for councillors will be set up as planning@herstmonceuxparish.org.uk etc after the May Council Meeting.

09.42 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

09.43 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 £9,262.83 (copy attached) proposed by Councillor M Goodsell, seconded by Councillor N Lyon. All councillors in favour.

09.44 DOCTOR'S SURGERY

Nothing to report.

09.45 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Work is continuing. The clerk has contacted WDC for information on the boundary hedge between the village hall and the new housing site.

09.46 PARISH PLAN REVIEW

Nothing further to report.

09.47 HERSTMONCEUX REGISTER

The review is ongoing.

09.48 CLERK'S REPORT – PART ONE

Correspondence

1. ESCC – information on Tree Warden events. **Copied to Councillor Goodsell.**
2. Action in Rural Sussex – informing the clerk that the Quality Council portfolio can now be returned to her. **It was agreed to request the return of the portfolio, proposed by Councillor Tate, seconded by Councillor Wheatley. All councillors in favour.**

3. Southern Water – informing the Council that investigations are to be carried out to install an anti-flood device at the Homestead, Windmill Hill.
4. WDC – copy of the Corporate Plan 2009 -2012.
5. Hedleys solicitors – copy of letter regarding the fence at Denefield Green, Herstmonceux. Mr Taylor also informs the Council that he will arrange for registration of the lease, in respect of the allotment site, at the Land Registry. He also advises that he does not consider that the Council needs to seek planning permission for sheds on the allotment site.
6. Mr S Nash – request for permission to erect a shed on his allotment. **Agreed.**
7. Mr Paterson – expressing concern at the laying of hardcore on fields at Coopers Farm. He also expressed concern at problems with footpaths in the parish.
Wealden District Councillor A Long advised that under General Permitted Development Rights owners of agricultural sites over 5 hectares are permitted to put down hardcore for access roads and hard standing areas. Copied to Councillor Tate.
8. Mr Thompson – estimate for installing seating in the bus shelter at Windmill Hill.
It was resolved to accept the quotation, proposed by Councillor Tate seconded by Councillor Wheatley. All councillors in favour.
9. Mrs Chaplin – expressing concern at the narrow footpath from the school to the village hall and the large amount of dog excrement on this footpath. **Councillor Gower will meet with Mrs Chaplin to look at the footpath.**
10. WDALC – minutes of meeting held on 1 April 2009. **Copied to Councillor Rice.**
11. Mr Riggs – requesting permission to use the recreation ground for stoolball in 2009 and for a tournament on Sunday 5 July 2009. **Approved.**
12. Mrs Whittering – asking the Council if it wishes to receive two old photographs of Arnocks in Herstmonceux. **Agreed, the clerk will contact Mrs Whittering.**
13. Mrs G Newcombe – asking for information on 1 Rose Villa, Gardner Street. **The clerk will contact Mrs Newcombe.**
14. WDC – asking for the Council’s comments on how the Environmental Protection Service dealt with a complaint from the Parish Council.
15. WDC Enforcement – response to the Parish Council’s concerns at a possible increase in activity at the Causeway Yard, Bodle Street Green.
16. ESCC – asking if the Council wishes to take part in the Village Maintenance Scheme this year. **Agreed, the following areas were suggested for attention - siding of the footpath between the Horseshoe Inn and Herstmonceux, clear triangle at the top of Cowbeech Hill and clean the fingerpost, side the footpath from the entrance to Chapel Row down to Lime Park, clear twitten from Monceux road to Bagham Lane and clear path from Chapel Row to the entrance of the footpath 30b.**

Part two

Correspondence

1. Ramblers – copy of new publication publicising footpaths that are open. **Copied to Councillor Tate.**
2. Equality and Human Rights Commission – details of Public Sector Equality Duties.
3. ESCC – informing the Council that repairs will be made to Bemzells Lane, Chilsham Lane and Lower Road sometime between 18 May and 31 July.
4. ESCC – informing the Council that the East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee’s Annual Report and Accounts for April 2008 to April 2009 is available on the ESCC web site.
5. Mr P Neary, Allotment Regeneration Initiative - comments on allotment sheds.
6. Mr L Blunden – details of memorial plaque for the skateboard park. **Approved.**
7. Sussex Association of Local Councils – details of councillor training for Well-being Powers.
8. Marie Curie Cancer Care – details of fundraising event.
9. Sussex Police – report from new District Commander from Wealden.
10. WDC – response to the Council’s request for Tree Preservation Orders on trees at Wainford, Church Road, Herstmonceux.

09.49 REPORTS

Finance and General Purposes

Minutes of Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 14 April 2009.

Present: Councillors J Angear, D Creasey, M Goodsell, W Gower, J Tate and K Wheatley.

Herstmonceux Scout Hut

The Scout Hut was badly damaged by fire on Friday 4 April 2009. The damage was so extensive that the remains of the hut have been cleared from the site. Councillor Gower informed the Council that the Scout Troop has received many offers of help of temporary accommodation until the hut can be rebuilt.

The clerk will send a letter to the Scout Troop expressing their sympathy at the loss of the Scout Hut and equipment. The Council will ask to be kept informed of the investigations for a new hut.

2008/09 National Final Salary Award for Council Officers

The RFO circulated reports to councillors on the National Salary Scales informing the Council of the adjustments to the clerk's and RFO's pay scales.

Lease between the Parish Council and the Peace Memorial Trust

The rent review under the terms of the lease between the Parish Council and the Peace Memorial Trust is now due. An informal briefing meeting was held recently between members of the Parish Council and members of the Village Hall Management Trust.

The F & GP Committee discussed the review and made the following recommendations:

- The Council will request a rent of 75% of the District Valuer's ground rent valuation of £2,200. The rent would be £1,650 per annum until the next rent review in 2013.
- The Council will not request a 10% charge on the profit of income over expenditure.
- The Council will continue to pay a peppercorn rent for the office.

Planning

Report attached.

Ground Committee

- There have been problems with vandalism and criminal damage on the recreation ground. A section of fence has been broken and cars have been driven at speed around the recreation ground. The incidents have been reported to Sussex Police who have attended on several occasions. The gate is now locked with a combination padlock and the users have been informed. Sussex Police have advised that speed bumps along the access road to the recreation ground car park will help prevent speeding. Funding could be made available for the speed bumps from the Joint Action Group (JAG). The owner of the road, Mr J Ford has no objection to this work being done. Councillor Gower will contact Mr Southouse for a quotation for this work.
- PCSO Liz McDonagh presented a cheque for £700 to the SK8 Massive Team towards the new skateboard equipment.
- The Bowls Club has decided to submit an application to relocate the Bowls Rink to the entrance of the car park.

Street lighting

Nothing to report,

Highways and Traffic

There are problems throughout the parish with potholes. Councillor Gower will keep reporting them to ESCC.

Footpaths

Nothing to report.

Children and Young People

Nothing to report.

Information Centre

There has been a reduction in funding from the churches and fundraising events are being arranged to increase the funds.

East Sussex County Councillor

No report.

Wealden District Councillor

- WDC will have to reduce costs over the next year, as there will be a shortfall in the budget.
- The North and South Development Control Planning Sub-committees will now be known as the Planning Committee.

Tree Warden

The tree warden will investigate a report that several trees will be felled at Wainford, Church Road, Herstmonceux.

Emergency Plan

Nothing to report.

Wealden District Association of Local Councils

Copy of the minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2009 is in the Clerk’s Report.

Village Hall

Nothing to report.

Allotments

I enclose the monthly report for HAA which I am afraid is somewhat brief again.

As the Council is aware we have had 2 people drop out but both gardens have been offered to someone else, one of which is already under cultivation and we have a waiting list.

At 8.00pm on Sunday 26th April we have our AGM at the Merrie Harriers pub. Shortly after this we will have our first Committee meeting when hopefully we will talk about an Opening ceremony and the possibility of an Open Day. Also perhaps we can look at water harvesting, as I believe water shortages and climate change will be our biggest challenges.

The Council will of course see the Balance Sheet and other news.

At present I am not aware of any other problems.

I have been giving tours around the site to Parishioners and if any councillor would like to be shown around I would of course be happy to oblige.

George Taylor

09.50 AGENDA

Mrs C Wilson, Chairman of Wealden District Council thanked the Council for inviting her to attend the Council Meeting. She found it interesting to see the diversity of the parish and was impressed by the Parish Council’s commitment to the needs of the parish. She hoped that WDC would continue to work with the Parish Council.

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