

## **HERSTMONCEUX PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of Herstmonceux Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 18 May 2009 in Herstmonceux Village Hall, Herstmonceux.

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

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

### **09.51 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Councillor Gower was proposed by Councillor M Goodsell and seconded by Councillor J Tate. All councillors in favour. Councillor W Gower was elected.

### **09.52 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

Councillor Angear was proposed by Councillor M Goodsell and seconded by Councillor D Creasey. All councillors in favour. Councillor J Angear was elected.

### **09.53 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Councillors W Gower and J Angear signed the Declarations of Acceptance of Office.

### **09.54 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from East Sussex County Councillor W Bentley.

### **09.55 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 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 M Rice.

### **9.56 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

No matters arising.

### **09.57 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

### **09.58 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 £5,842.16 (copy attached) proposed by Councillor J Tate, seconded by Councillor K Wheatley. All councillors in favour.

A Statement of Account for the period 1 January 2009 – 31 March 2009 was circulated to all councillors.

Copies of the Final Accounts were circulated to all councillors. The Final Accounts will be discussed at the next Finance and General Purposes Meeting. All councillors are welcome to attend this meeting.

### **09.59 DOCTOR'S SURGERY**

The Council understands that the project is progressing and a planning application for the new surgery will be submitted in the near future.

The outside of the present surgery needs painting. The clerk will obtain three quotations for the work.

### **09.60 AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

The RFO has been informed by WDC that the money awarded under S106 in respect of the development at North Lodge would be transferred to Herstmonceux Parish Council when the parish has completed the necessary Indemnity Forms. It was agreed that Councillor W

Gower and Mr S Goacher, the RFO, would sign on behalf of the Parish Council. **NB Since the meeting the signatories have been changed to Councillor W Gower and Councillor J Angear as both the signatories had to be councillors.**

Councillors expressed concern that part of the hedging between the site and the Village Hall has been removed although the Council was not been informed neither has it received any details of the proposed fencing that has been approved since planning permission was granted. The clerk will contact WDC and Town and Country Housing for more information. Councillor Gower will raise all Highways issues at his scheduled meeting with a Highways Engineer from ESCC.

#### **09.61 PARISH PLAN REVIEW**

Nothing further to report.

#### **09.62 HERSTMONCEUX REGISTER**

Details of any additions or changes should be forwarded to the clerk.

#### **09.63 ELECTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF COMMITTEES**

The following elections were agreed:

**Finance and General Purposes Committee** – Councillors W Gower, J Angear, D Creasey, J Tate and K Wheatley

**Planning** – Councillors W Gower, J Angear, D Creasey, K Game, M Goodsell, N Lyon, J Tate, K Wheatley and I Willson.

**Ground Committee** – Councillors W Gower, D Creasey, M Goodsell and B Naish. It is proposed to co-opt a member of one of the village sports clubs

**Footpath Committee** – Councillors K Game, M Goodsell, J Tate and I Willson

**Emergency Planning Committee** – Councillors D Creasey, K Game, K Wheatley and Mr A McInnes (co-opted member)

**Street Lighting** – Councillor K Game

**Highways and Traffic** – Councillor W Gower

**Youth and Young People** – Councillor M Rice

**Tree Warden** – Councillor M Goodsell

**Allotments** – Councillors D Creasey, K Game and I Willson

A number of councillor representatives were also elected to serve on external committees.

**Wealden Association of Local Councils** – Councillors M Rice and N Lyon

**Herstmonceux Village Hall** – Councillor K Game

**Information Centre** – Councillor D Creasey

**Local Action Team** – Councillors W Gower, D Creasey, M Rice and K Wheatley

It was agreed to postpone any discussion on the Terms of Reference of Committees to allow the committees to meet and discuss any changes they wish to make.

#### **09.64 CLERK'S REPORT**

##### **Correspondence**

1. WDC – copy of the report from the Housing Needs Survey Briefing. **Copied to Councillors Gower and Game.**
2. Allotments – request for permission to erect a shed from Mr and Mrs Phillips and Mr Carter – **Agreed.** Copy of the May report from Herstmonceux Allotment Association.
3. RoSPA – informing the Council that the recreation ground inspection will take place in June.
4. Herstmonceux Village Hall Committee – informing the Council that it accepts the Council's proposal for the rent review. The Committee also informs the Council that the rental charges for the hall will increase on 1 September 2009.
5. ESCC – informing the Council that the survey of the Public Rights of Way has been completed. **I have a requested a hard copy of the survey for the Council. Janet.**

6. Mr Mortimer, Badger Protection Society – informing the Council that an anonymous caller had alleged damage to a badger sett adjacent to the allotment site. The matter has been investigated and Mr Mortimer has confirmed that no action is needed.
7. Mrs C Wilson – thanking the Council for inviting her to the April Council Meeting.
8. ESCC – copy of the summary from the Community Transport Workshop Session.
9. WDALC – report on Quality Councils and outcome from East Sussex Local Area agreement and details of a meeting at Uckfield on 27 May to discuss Permitted Development, Affordable Housing and Section 106 funding.
10. Sussex Association of Local Councils - bulletins.
11. Hedleys Solicitors – copy of the register entry for the registration of the lease in respect of the allotment site.
12. ESCC – informing the Council of changes to the details in the application for Robins, Sandbanks, Chilsham Lane, Herstmonceux.
13. WDC – asking for information on possible rest centres in the parish that could be used in an emergency. **Councillor Naish agreed that the Council could nominate Herstmonceux Village Hall that as it is identified as rest centre in the Parish Emergency Plan.**
14. CPRE – asking for the Council's comments on charges from local authorities for clearing up fly tipping.
15. Rural Services - details of a Rural Communities Seminar on 26 June 2009.
16. ESCC – informing the Council that a decision on the request for the changes to the gates at Lime Park Football Field will be made in the near future.
17. Sussex Police – report from the new commander and details of two new assistant Chief Constables.
18. WDC – informing the Council that questionnaires have been sent out in respect of a car park survey.

## **09.65 REPORTS**

### **Finance and General Purposes**

No meeting.

### **Planning**

Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held in the lounge in Herstmonceux Village Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 12 May 2009.

Present: Councillors J Angear, D Creasey, K Game, M Goodsell, N Lyon, J Tate, K Wheatley and I Willson.

**Application:** WD/2009/0974/F

**Applicant:** Mr and Mrs P Bishop

**Location:** Coopers Croft Nursery, New Road, Herstmonceux.

**Description:** Change of use of retail shop (A1) to tea rooms (A3)

**Parish Council Comments to Wealden District Council:** The Council supports this application which could lead to increased employment possibilities at the site.

**Application:** WD/2009/0947/F

**Applicant:** Mr J Thompson

**Location:** Brookside, New Road, Herstmonceux.

**Description:** Single storey extension to infill between detached garage and house.

Construction of conservatory to rear. Amendment to WD/2008/2741/F (addition of dormer to front roof slope of new extension)

**Parish Council Comments to Wealden District Council:** The Council had no objection to the original application for a single storey extension but has concerns at the insertion of two dormers into a single storey building, which suggests that it will become a two-storey extension. The Council has no objection to the conservatory.

**Application:** WD/2009/0639/F

**Applicant:** Mr J Page

**Location:** 1 Blanshard Close, Herstmonceux.

**Description:** Erect conservatory at rear. Amended plans showing correct area of red edging, reduction in depth of proposed conservatory and obscure glazing in lieu of brick to side (south east) elevation.

**Parish Council Comments to Wealden District Council:** The Council supports this application which addresses the concerns expressed about the previous application.

### **Correspondence**

1. Mr N Mileman, WDC – informing the Council that in the opinion of Planning Enforcement department at WDC, Herstmonceux PC needs to apply for planning permission for sheds on the allotment site at Greenaway Fruit Farm, Stunts Green.  
**Copied to all councillors, together with a response from Herstmonceux PC.**  
5 May 2009 – response from Mr Mileman repeating that WDC notes the comments from Herstmonceux Parish Council but considers that planning permission is required for sheds. This response was forwarded to the solicitor at National Association of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Ltd who repeats that note should be taken of Case 229 where Mr Justice Forbes states that the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 must take precedence.
2. Mr N Mileman, WDC – informing the Council that he has requested a meeting with the owners of Higham Cottage, Herstmonceux to discuss possible breaches of planning permission. He also informs the council that re the lions of Pevensy Marsh – the owner is preparing to submit a retrospective planning application for them (despite being advised that it would be unlikely to be considered favourably). He has also created a lake, but this has the benefit of an extant planning permission (ref.WD/89/1128/F) as (to cut a long story short) works under this permission were originally commenced prior to its expiry, and he has advised that it is to be used for his own private purposes only.  
12 May 2009 - Mr Mileman's report on his meeting at Higham Cottage in respect of possible breaches to the planning permission granted in 2008. He advises that the breaches are minor and WDC will not be taking any further action.
3. Mr Pugh, from the National Association of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Limited – advising the Council on the reasons why planning permission is not required for sheds on the allotment site. **Copied to all councillors.**

The Planning Committee is concerned at the comments from Mr Mileman about Higham Cottage and sheds on the allotment site and suggests that he and/or a representative from WDC Planning Department should be invited to attend a meeting with parish councillors.

**I have spoken to Mr K Williams Head of Planning at WDC who informed me that Planning Meetings will be held across the District later in the year. He suggests that if a meeting is held in Herstmonceux he will be happy to take questions from councillors. I understand from the WDC Planning Clerk that the meeting in Herstmonceux will be held sometime in September.**

### **Ground Committee**

The Ground Committee understand that the Bowls Club is interested in considering Lime Park as an alternative location for a new Bowls Green. The clerk will contact the Bowls Club Chairman for more information.

Denefield Green – the Council has not yet received copies of the transfer documents.

### **Street lighting**

Nothing to report,

### **Highways and Traffic**

Nothing to report.

### **Footpaths**

Report circulated.

### **Children and Young People**

Nothing to report.

### **Information Centre**

Nothing to report.

**East Sussex County Councillor**

Councillor Thomas extended his congratulations to Councillor Gower on his re-election as Chairman. He also thanked the Parish Council for its support over the past year.

**Wealden District Councillor**

No report.

**Tree Warden**

No report.

**Emergency Plan**

Nothing to report.

**Wealden District Association of Local Councils**

Nothing to report.

**Allotments**

The RFO reported that only one payment is outstanding.

**09.66 AGENDA**

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