

## **HERSTMONCEUX PARISH COUNCIL**

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

Present: Councillors J Angear, D Creasey, M Goodsell, B Naish, J Tate, K Wheatley, I Willson and East Sussex County Councillor R Thomas.

The Vice Chairman, Councillor J Angear chaired the meeting.

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

Three members of the public attended the meeting.

### **09.80 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors K Game, W Gower, N Lyon, M Rice, East Sussex County Councillor W Bentley and Wealden District Councillor A Long.

### **09.81 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2009 have been circulated.

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

### **9.82 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

No matters arising.

### **09.83 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

### **09.84 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 £2,419.17 (copy attached) proposed by Councillor J Tate, seconded by Councillor K Wheatley. All councillors in favour.

A Statement of Account for the period 1 April 2009 – 30 June 2009 was circulated to all councillors.

### **09.85 DOCTOR'S SURGERY**

Three quotations for painting the outside of the surgery were considered and it was proposed by Councillor M Goodsell, seconded by Councillor D Creasey to accept the quotation from Mr J Message. All councillors in favour.

### **09.86 AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

A presentation was given by Ms H Frankham and Ms G Forshaw from Wealden District Council and Mr M Allwood from the Town and Country Housing Group.

Ms Frankham and Ms Forshaw informed the Council:

- Details of the housing need in Herstmonceux.
- Key statistics of households on the Housing Register.
- Details of who is eligible for affordable housing.
- Details of how to apply for housing through the Sussex Homemove magazine.
- How applicants are prioritised according to housing need.
- Details of the Rural Lettings Policy.
- Wealden District Council wishes to work closely with the Parish Council on issues surrounding the affordable housing at North Lodge. Information on when the units are available and when residents should apply will be sent to the clerk as soon as possible.

Mr Allwood informed the Council:

- The affordable houses on land at North Lodge are on schedule and will be available at the end of October.
- Four houses will be available for shared ownership as originally stated - one x one bedroom property and three x three bedroom houses. Applicants for these houses must be on the housing list.
- Town and Country Housing will send information on how to apply for the shared ownership properties in the near future so that the information can be circulated in the parish.

A local resident, who is on the housing register, expressed her concerns at obtaining accurate information on the affordable housing units at North Lodge. She is concerned that although she has the necessary local connections she will not be considered for one of the properties.

A private meeting was arranged with the representatives from Wealden District Council after the Council Meeting.

Councillor W Gower and Mr I Stewart, from the Village Hall Management Committee recently met with Mr J Wickenden, from the developers Cheesmuir to discuss the erection of the boundary fencing. Some of the hedging plants will have to be dug up and relocated; Mr Wickenden will arrange another meeting later in August to agree a fence line.

#### **09.87 PARISH PLAN REVIEW**

Information from the Review will be used in the Council's response to the forthcoming Local Development Framework consultation.

#### **09.88 HERSTMONCEUX REGISTER**

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

#### **09.89 CLERK'S REPORT**

1. Quotations for painting the exterior of the surgery. See surgery item 09.85.
2. Greymatters newsletter.
3. Herstmonceux Allotment Association – June report and request for grant to buy plastic containers for water harvesting.
4. Mr and Mrs S Bonnett – request to erect shed on allotment. **Agreed.**
5. Herstmonceux Cricket Club – application for a grant. **Referred to August F& GP Meeting.**
6. ESCC – copy of monitoring report Focus on East Sussex.
7. East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership letter.
8. Report on provision for gypsies, travellers and travelling show people.
9. ESCC – informing the Council that a 40mph speed limit will be introduced on a section of the C15 road at Carters Corner.
10. Composting Services – details of Soil Improver made from recycled green materials. **Copied to Herstmonceux Allotment Association.**
11. High Weald Management Plan.
12. Wealden View newsletter.
13. WDC – informing the Council that the District Conference will be held on 4 November 2009 at Uckfield Civic Centre.
14. Society of Local Council Clerks – details of conference from 23 October – 25 October 2009.
15. WDC – informing the Council that the kerbside recycling scheme will be extended to rural areas in the near future.
16. Mrs C Thompson – expressing concern at the speed of traffic through Windmill Hill. **The clerk will contact Sussex Police and ESCC.**
17. Crimestoppers – information.

18. Freedom Leisure – requesting permission to use Herstmonceux recreation ground for play sessions in August. Cricket Club has no fixtures on dates proposed.

**Agreed.**

19. ESCC – confirming that ESCC has no objection to a new entrance gate and a kissing gate being installed at Lime Park recreation area.

20. WDC – Local Development Framework consultation papers – details of public meeting on 5 August in councillors’ correspondence.

21. Mr Graham Keeley – copy of letter sent to WDC expressing concern at the vegetation growing over properties in Buckwell Rise and the overgrown state of an access footpath.

22. Uckfield town Council – details of playground inspection training.

23. Wealden and Rother Partnership newsletter.

24. RoSPA Play Safety Inspection Report. **Forwarded to Councillor Gower.**

25. WDC – swine flu briefing note.

26. Mrs Skinner – expressing concern at the poor state of verges in parish and the number of cars parked on the footpaths in Herstmonceux. **The clerk will contact Sussex Police and ESCC.**

27. Mrs Lucas – informing the Council that a short stretch of the hedge alongside Lime Park recreation area at the top of Church Road is very overgrown.

28. MLL Telcom – requesting permission for access across the recreation ground to install the antenna at the rear of Herstmonceux School.

## **Part Two - Correspondence**

1. Mr M Watson reporting damage to the artificial cricket wicket and problems with moles on the recreation ground. **Councillor Gower will contact the mowing contractors.**

2. Mr J Roberts – informing the Council that he is available for Internal audits.

3. Rural Services details of Primary Health Care and Social Exclusion Project.

4. Mr A McInnes – report from Herstmonceux/Varengeville Association and application for funding for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event in September. **It was proposed by Councillor J Angear, seconded by Councillor K Wheatley to make a one off payment of £400. All councillors in favour.**

5. Mrs Wimbush – expressing her serious concerns at the speed of traffic in Dacre Road which has caused the deaths of three cats in recent weeks. **Reported to Sussex Police.**

6. Rural Services newsletter.

7. Hedleys Solicitors – informing the Council that the completion of the Village Green to the Parish Council will be completed in the near future.

8. Mrs Blunden – details of expenses for the official opening of the skateboard park.

9. ESCC – informing the Council of the appeal by Mr M and Mr G Robins in respect of the Enforcement Notice for Robins, Chilsham lane, Herstmonceux.

10. Age Concern – details of the campaign to recruit volunteers to befriend older people.

## **09.90 REPORTS**

### **Finance and General Purposes**

No meeting.

### **Planning**

**Application:** WD/2009/1380/F

**Applicant:** Mr C Wakelin

**Location:** Home Cottage, Windmill Hill.

**Description:** Extensions and alterations including front and rear dormers and front roof lights.

**Parish Council Comments to Wealden District Council:** The Council supports the application as a character cottage is being improved to modern standards. Following a site meeting the Council understands from the applicant that the existing wooden garage will be removed. The Council wishes to emphasise that the site should retain one, preferably two parking spaces as the property is located on a main road where parking is difficult.

### **Planning Consents received from Wealden District Council**

- a. WD/2009/1163/F Bypasses, Stunts Green, Herstmonceux – rear first floor shower room extension.
- b. WD/2009/1048/F Apple Tree Cottage, Foul Mile, Cowbeech – single storey rear extension. Dormer window roof extension and timber garden shed/summerhouse.
- c. WD/2009/1157/f Meadow Croft, Bagham lane, Herstmonceux – form rooms in roof and erect extension and garage.
- d. WD/2009/0974/F Coopers Croft Nursery, New Road, Herstmonceux – change of use of retail shop (A1) to tea rooms (A3).
- e. WD/2009/0947/F Brookside, New Road, Herstmonceux - 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)

### **Correspondence**

- a. ESCC – informing the Council of the refusal of a Certificate of Lawful Use or Development in respect of Robins, Chilsham Lane, Cowbeech.
- b. ESCC – informing the Council of the appeal by Mr M and Mr G Robins in respect of the Enforcement Notice for Robins, Chilsham Lane, Herstmonceux. The appeal will be held at Herstmonceux School for three days starting at 10am on 27 July 2009.
- c. WDC – informing the Council that the application for a stable block at the Oast, Stunts Green has been withdrawn.
- d. WDC – informing the Council of a Certificate of Proposed Use or Development WD/2009/0914/LDP at Harting Cottage, Cowbeech for the construction of a conservatory to the rear.
- e. WDC – informing the Council of a Certificate of Proposed Use or Development WD/2009/1236/LDP at Puckridge, Under Road, Magham Down for a garage for private ancillary residential use.
- f. WDC – informing the Council that it has no objection to the installation of a single flat pole supporting a single flat antenna at Herstmonceux C of E School.

### **Ground Committee**

The ground committee have met and agreed to co-opt Mick Watson onto the committee  
The committee recommends the following courses of action:

1. That the Bowls Club consider Lime Park in preference to the move on the recreation ground.
2. Should this option be taken up, the building of showers and changing rooms for the Football Club be considered in this development.
3. That the existing Bowls Club site may be considered in a review of school facilities in view of possible future capacity requirements.
4. That the building of a hard netball court area on the old muga pitch site and refurbishment of the second tennis court be priorities for the use of North Lodge development fund monies.
5. That charging of sports clubs for recreation facilities carried out on an annual fee basis in proportion to use rather than a complicated game by game basis. These fees to be discussed once cost of maintenance are known this Autumn.

### **Street lighting**

Nothing to report.

### **Highways and Traffic**

The temporary 20mph sign put up by ESCC after the road was sprayed with stones is causing an obstruction to drivers. The clerk will contact ESCC and ask them to remove it.

### **Footpaths**

Report circulated.

### **Children and Young People**

Nothing to report.

### **Information Centre**

Nothing to report.

**East Sussex County Councillor**

Councillor Thomas reported the following:

- He is very busy as the elections were later in the year due to the European Elections.
- He now has responsibilities as Chairman of the Sussex Sea Fishing Fleet organisation.
- There have been incidents in the area with travellers moving on to private land. The problems are exacerbated by the lack of traveller sites in the area.

**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 opening event was very successful and was attended by Councillors W Gower and D Creasey.

**09.91 AGENDA**

Review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

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