

HERSTMONCEUX PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Herstmonceux Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 21 September 2009 in Herstmonceux Village Hall, Herstmonceux.

Present: Councillors J Angear, D Creasey, M Goodsell, W Gower, N Lyon, M Rice, J Tate, K Wheatley, I Willson, East Sussex County Councillor R Thomas and Wealden District Councillor A Long.

09.105 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors K Game, B Naish, Mr S Goacher and East Sussex County Councillor W Bentley.

09.106 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 August 2009 have been circulated.

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

09.107 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

1. Buckwell Rise - report on problems of vegetation from a Local Authority house overgrowing neighbouring properties – WDC has served notice on the tenant to clear the vegetation on the side of the house but this has not been done. The work will be carried out by WDC at the beginning of November and recharged to the tenant. The problem of the overgrown garden will be addressed after the clearance of the vegetation from the house and if the tenant does not carry out the work required, the Housing Department will decide what action is required.
2. Robins, Chilsham Lane – ESCC has sought leave to appeal on the Planning Inspectorate decision not to examine the evidence as the Enforcement Notice did not specify in sufficient detail, the alleged breach of planning control.
3. ESCC Councillor R Thomas reported to the Council that the Chief Constable had informed him that there had been an increase in police activity in Herstmonceux in response to the crimes and intimidation caused by a small group of people. A number of arrests have been made.
4. Councillor D Creasey, as the secretary of Herstmonceux Gardeners Club, expressed the Club's concerns at the report in the August Finance and General Purposes Committee minutes relating to the application for a reinstatement of the payment to maintain the planter outside the Old Post Office in Herstmonceux. The Chairman apologised to the Gardeners Club for the misunderstanding caused by the need to record the payment as a council expense and not a grant. The clerk will write to the Gardeners Club to apologise for the misunderstanding.

09.108 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

09.109 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 £4,777.77 (copy attached) proposed by Councillor J Tate, seconded by Councillor M Rice. All councillors in favour.

09.110 DOCTOR'S SURGERY

Nothing further to report.

09.111 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Nothing further to report.

09.112 HERSTMONCEUX REGISTER

Nothing to report.

09.113 REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Finance Regulations – no changes proposed. During the discussions about the Financial Regulations, the Council agreed that it will draw up a three year plan for the Council. This will be discussed further at the November F&FG Committee Meeting when the Estimates for 2010/11 are discussed.

Standing Orders – the following changes were agreed:

- Committees and Sub-Committees - point 41.5 – Ground Convenor should be changed to Chairman of Ground Committee. The section will read:

41.5 Committees shall make recommendations only to the Council. Each Committee may spend up to £100.00 to solve any emergency, but the Chairman of the Ground Committee may spend up to £400.00 to cover any emergency. For sums in excess of these amounts committee chairmen must seek the approval of the Chairman of the Council and the RFO or appropriate Officer.

- Contracts - point 74 – the amount £1000 should be changed to £2500 to bring it in to line with the Financial Regulations Contracts point 11 paragraph (b)1. The section will read:

74.1 Where it is intended to enter into a contract exceeding £2,500 but not exceeding £4,000 in value for the supply of goods or materials or for the execution of works, the Clerk shall give at least three weeks public notice of such intention in the same manner as public notice of meetings of the Council is given. Where the value of the intended contract exceeds £4,000 similar notice shall be given in addition to all firms included in the appropriate standing approved list of contractors maintained by the District Council or if no such list is maintained then in such newspapers circulating in the district as the Council shall direct.

It was proposed to draw up a diary of events for the Council and this will be discussed at the November F&GP Meeting.

09.114 CLERK'S REPORT

Correspondence

1. KPS Composting Services details of Open Day at Isfield site on 19 September 2009. Forwarded to Allotment Association.
2. WDC - copy of the agreement between Herstmonceux Parish Council and Wealden District Council relating to the commuted sums payable under S106 agreement dated 8 February 2008 for North Lodge, Herstmonceux.
3. Mr G Taylor - Allotment Association report. **Circulated to councillors.**
4. Mrs S Bishop, Coopers Croft Nursery – informing the Council that new signs, approved by ESCC will be erected at the nursery over the next few months.
5. Mr Barker – informing the Council that he is putting a fruit cage on his allotment in accordance with the Allotment Rules and Guidelines.
6. Mr Mileman, WDC – information re allotment sheds.
7. WDC – Review of Road Safety questionnaire – to be returned by 30 September 2009.
8. East Sussex Fire and Rescue – details of community safety partnership Grants.
9. Mr M Benier – copy of Herstmonceux C of E Primary School response to the LDF consultation.
10. WDC – details on the consultation of a scheme for parish and town councils to adopt a telephone box.

11. WDC – details of consultation on the statement of principles relating to the Gambling Act 2005.
12. Society of Local Council Clerks - notes of meeting held on 12 August 2009.
13. ESCC – response to the Parish Council’s comments on bus stops in Herstmonceux.

Part two

Correspondence

1. ESCC – details of the YouthBank Grab a Grant Event at the De La Warr pavilion in Bexhill on 24 October 2009.
2. ESCC – mobile library schedule.
3. Hedleys Solicitors Account for the Land Registry for Denefield Green, Herstmonceux.
4. East Sussex Fire and Rescue – asking if the Council wishes to be a consultee on Community Risk Management Planning and Service Planning and Resource Issues.
5. ESCC – informing the Parish Council that any plans to relocate the Bowls Green and Bowls Club house to Lime Park should be submitted to and approved by ESCC before submitting them to WDC.
6. ESCC – informing the Council that the work on the installation on the new 40mph speed limit through Carters Corner is going well and the signs will be installed in October or November 2009. ESCC had proposed to include Village Name Plate on the speed limit sign but this was refused by the Carters Corner residents’ group. The Council confirmed that it considers that Carters Corner is the settlement south of Squab Lane, and so the only location for a Village Name Plate should be at the same location as the new speed limit sign.
7. WDC – informing the Council that a Tree Preservation Order was placed on an oak at April Cottage (formerly Wainford) Church Road, Herstmonceux.
8. Mr Heap – copy of a letter sent to WDC requesting permission to remove an oak tree in the garden of April Cottage (formerly Wainford), Church Road, Herstmonceux.

09.115 REPORTS

Finance and General Purposes

No meeting.

Planning

Planning applications discussed at the Council Meeting.

Application: WD/2009/1733/F

Applicant: Mr and Mrs T Neville

Location: Forge Meadow, Hammer Lane, Cowbeech.

Description: Change of use of detached four bay garage with store to two one-bedroom holiday cottages.

Parish Council Comments to Wealden District Council: The Council objects to this application:

- It draws attention to its previous comments (application WD/2004/1424/F) on the scale of the garages now subject of this application.
- The conditions imposed by WDC on application WD/2004/1424/F state that the garage permitted shall not at any time be converted to living accommodation. The reason given is to enable the District Planning Authority to properly consider and control development, having regard to Policy EN27. The Parish Council considers that this condition should remain as there are no reasons for it to change.
- The existing garage and store is built on the footprint of a pole barn. This application would lead to the site changing in use from pole barn to garage to living accommodation.
- If this application is approved, the Council requests that Permitted Development Rights are removed from the property and conditions imposed relating to the use of the proposed holiday lets.

Application: WD/2009/1923/F

Applicant: Mr J Clarke

Location: Court Lodge, Foul Mile, Cowbeech.

Description: Single storey side extension.

Parish Council Comments to Wealden District Council: The Council has no objection to this application which is in keeping with the main dwelling.

Application: WD/2009/1883/F

Applicant: Mr R Hassell

Location: 1 Monkey Puzzle, Close, Windmill Hill.

Description: Ground floor extension to provide bedroom and shower room.

Parish Council Comments to Wealden District Council: The Council supports this application as the reasons detailed in the application show a clear need for this extension.

Planning Consents received from Wealden District Council

1. WD/2009/1380/F – Home Cottage, Windmill Hill - extensions and alterations including front and rear dormers and front roof lights.
2. WD/2009/1250/F – Diamond House, Hailsham Road, Herstmonceux - conversion to form pair of dwellings and dormers in roof.
3. WD/2009/1520/F Old Barn farm, Cinderford Lane, Hellingly - retrospective planning application for timber frame stables.

Correspondence

1. WDC - informing the Council that planning application WD/2009/1488/LB Yew Tree Cottage, Lower Road, Herstmonceux has been withdrawn.
2. WDC – informing the Council that application WD/2009/1613/F The Oast, Stunts Green is incomplete and new plans will be sent to the Council in due course.
3. Mr L Keeley – copy of comments sent to WDC on the LDF consultation.

Ground Committee

The mole catcher has dealt with the moles on the recreation ground.

Street lighting

Nothing to report.

Highways and Traffic

- Potholes reported in Chapel Row near Wisteria Cottage, Church Road outside Lime End Farm and opposite Penlands, Cowbeech near Merrie Harriers, Cowbeech Hill and Butlers Lane.

Footpaths

A number of stiles, including two on the land belonging to Councillor W Gower, have been removed by ESCC with no prior consultation. Councillor Gower was informed after the removal that it was now his responsibility to replace the stile.

The stiles allowed access to paths across fields where crops were planted and by leaving the access open could cause problems of crop damage by stray animals.

ESCC policy is to contact landowners if there is concern about the condition of stiles or gates on their land but in this case and others reported to the Parish Council, this has not happened. I also understand that ESCC wishes more stiles to be replaced with gates to allow easier access for walkers.

The clerk will contact ESCC to obtain information on the exact procedures followed by Rights of Way Officers on the removal of stiles and also details of the policy relating to the replacement of stiles with gates.

Children and Young People

No report.

Information Centre

No report.

East Sussex County Councillor

The Flood and Water Bill is progressing slowly – information is still needed on some issues including the maintenance of reservoirs.

Wealden District Councillor

No report.

Tree Warden

Councillor Goodsell has visited Coombe Close where a tree in the garden of a house in Victoria Road is overshadowing neighbouring properties. As the owner of the tree has not responded to requests to cut the tree back councillor Goodsell has advised the resident to contact Mr J Mellor, the arboriculturist at WDC.

Emergency Plan

No report.

Wealden District Association of Local Councils

No report.

Allotments

Report attached.

Herstmonceux/Varangeville

The 20th Anniversary Celebrations were a big success with nearly 50 visitors from Varangeville staying in Herstmonceux. A afternoon of bowls and stoolball followed by a cream tea at Herstmonceux School was supported by Herstmonceux Bowls and Stoolball Clubs.

Future events under discussion include an invitation for school children to stay overnight in Varangeville next year, a joint art exhibition and a music festival.

09.116 AGENDA

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