

HERSTMONCEUX PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

Public present: Mr T. Martin

09.139 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor K. Game, B. Naish, M. Rice, East Sussex County Councillors W. Bentley and R. Thomas, and The Clerk, Mrs J. E. McInnes.

Absent: Councillors N. Lyon and Mrs M. Rice, and Wealden District Councillor A Long.

09.140 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2009 having 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 K Wheatley.

09.141 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None

09.142 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

09.143 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 £1,393.48 (copy attached) proposed by Councillor D. Creasey; seconded by Councillor M. Goodsell. All councillors in favour.

09.144 DOCTOR'S SURGERY

The content of a letter from the Parish Council to Dr Simmons, dated 16 December 2009, supporting the proposed new surgery on land adjacent to the Herstmonceux Village Hall, sent by the Clerk, was noted by the meeting.

09.145 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The meeting noted that EDF had undertaken work on the sub station, but it was uncertain whether the properties had yet been connected.

It was understood by The Parish Council that Wealden District Council would be interviewing prospective tenants for the North Lodge houses in early January 2010.

09.146 HERSTMONCEUX REGISTER

No further matters to report.

09.147 CLERK'S REPORT

Part One

Correspondence

1. NHS - a guide to the organisational structures for NHS East Sussex Downs and Weald and Hastings and Rother is available on the web site www.esdw.nhs.uk/aboutusi

2. Herstmonceux Sunday Football Club - copy of Public Liability Insurance document.
3. WDC - details of staffing duties available for the 2010 elections.
4. WDC - informing the Council that a member of the existing Remuneration Panel has been asked to continue in 2010. If approved by WDC a report will be circulated in January 2010.
5. BBA Couriers - details of courier service available.
6. Royal Air Force - details of a presentation at the Winter Garden on 21 January 2010.
7. Herstmonceux C of E Primary School - requesting a meeting with representatives from the Parish Council to discuss the Emergency Plan.
8. ESCC - review of supported bus services in Wealden, Lewes and Eastbourne areas.
9. ESCC Highways - response to letter from the Parish Council about problems with the A271/Victoria Road junction. **Copied to Councillor W Gower.**
10. Red Cross - informing the Council that it is seeking volunteers to empty collection boxes in the area and asking that an article be placed in the Council newsletter.
11. Rural Services newsletter.
12. WDC - details of a Walk Wealden Scheme and asking if the parish wishes to take part in the scheme. **Copied to Councillor J Tate.**
13. ESCC - informing the Council that the consultation on the Waste and Minerals Core Strategy has been extended to 15 January 2010.
14. ESCC - details of Youthbank grants - closing date 1 February 2010, projects must be completed by April 2010.
15. WARR (Wealden and Rother Partnership) newsletter.
16. ESCC - informing the Council that details of the rural health services event is available on the following web site:
www.eastsussexhealth.org/newskuralevent/html
17. Mr Gray, Colt Project Services Ltd - details of Risk Assessment System.
18. Health and Overview and Scrutiny Committee newsletter.
19. WDC - requesting details of bicycle spaces available in the WDC car park.
20. Applause Rural Touring Ltd - details of performances available for village fetes.
21. Dr Barnardos - details of the project by L W Sait and Sons to site textile banks in communities to raise money for Dr Barnardos.
22. Mr Pocock, Groundcare Contractors - quotation for grass cutting in 2010 – **refer to RFO and F&GP Committee members.**

Part Two Correspondence

1. Safer Wealden Partnership Community Safety News.
2. ESCC - details of wooden post suitable for the edge of Denefield Green to prevent parking – **refer to RFO and F&GP Committee members.**
3. English Rural Housing Report.

4. Agrifactors - quotation for grass cutting of recreation areas for 2010 – **refer to RFO and F&GP Committee members.**
5. WDC - details of the timescale of the completion of the houses at North Lodge, Hailsham Road, Herstmonceux.
6. East Sussex Fire and Rescue - thanking the Council for its response to the recent questionnaire on Service Planning for 2010/11.
7. WDC - draft Corporate Plan for consultation. Response by 18 January 2010.
8. WDC - informing the Council that information relating to the Kerbside Collection scheme is available on the WDC web site.

09.148 REPORTS

Finance and General Purposes

No meeting.

Planning

Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 8 December 2009 in Herstmonceux Village Hall

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

Dr Simmons gave a short presentation on the proposed new surgery for Herstmonceux. It is expected that a planning application will be submitted in the near future.

The Council repeated its support for a new surgery in Herstmonceux.

1. **Application: WD/2009/2392/LB** - Councillor Gower Declared an Interest as he is a neighbour of the applicant.
Applicant: Mr P Wellings
Location: Yew Tree Cottage, Lower Road, Herstmonceux.
Description: Single storey extension.
Parish Council Comments to Wealden District Council: The Council supports this application:
It is pleased to see that the proposed materials will be in keeping with the existing building.
It expects that the application is in line with Listed Building conditions.
2. **Application: WD/2009/2327/F**
Applicant: Mrs 3 Grant
Location: Southlea, Stunts Green, Herstmonceux.
Description: Garage conversion to provide additional living accommodation ancillary to existing dwelling
Parish Council Comments to Wealden District Council: The Council strongly objects:
The proposed conversion will create an entirely separate dwelling with kitchenette and bathroom, and so will not be ancillary to the existing dwelling. The location of the garages at some distance from the main dwelling and the access of the proposed conversion means that it will not be ancillary to the main dwelling.
There are no details of the drainage from the proposed conversion.
Neighbouring properties are lower than this site.
The Council has received complaints from residents in neighbouring properties. The drawing of the layout of the site is inaccurate and misleading as it shows the existing garage located further on to the site and not on the boundary where it is actually located.
Herstmonceux Parish Council wishes to express its serious concerns at the number of garage/barn/stable conversions to residential dwellings or holiday

lets. In some cases applicants have put forward a number of reasons why a garage/or garages with stores are needed on a site but within a short time a further application is made to convert a convenient garage and store into living accommodation.

The Parish Council has made WDC aware of their concerns on a number of occasions, particularly when garages/stores are built in the style and form of a residential dwelling.

3. **Application: WD/2009/2469/F** - The Parish Council was advised that this application was incomplete, and so it was not discussed.

Applicant: Mr and Mrs A Thomas

Location: Cobwebs, Stunts Green, Herstmonceux.

Description: First floor extension and alterations. Replacement detached three-bay garage.

Parish Council Comments to Wealden District Council:

Planning Consents received from Wealden District Council

WD/2009/1733/F Forge Meadow, Hammer Lane, Cowbeech - change of use of part of detached four-bay garage with store to one bedroom holiday cottage.

Correspondence

WDC - copy of response to the Council about comments on recent planning applications - Copied to all Councillors. Councillors were unhappy at the comments made by Mr K Williams, Head of Planning and Building Control. The clerk will draft a response and circulate to councillors.

WDC - comments on the erection of sheds on the allotment site at Greenaway Fruit Farm.

Mr C Walker - copy of letter sent to WDC with his objections to application WD/2009/2240/F.

Planning Applications dealt with at the meeting of 21 December 2009:

1. **Application: WD/2009/2483/F**

Applicant: Mr T. Martin

Location: Martins Coppice, Bemzells Lane, Cowbeech, BN27 4QN.

Description: Stationing of a mobile home.

A Statement was submitted by Nigel Alderton BTP MRTPI, and read to the meeting by Councillor Mrs J. Angear. The statement was as follows:

"Thank you Chairman

Nigel Alderton on behalf of the applicant, Toby Martin

I am here to seek your Council's support for my Client's application for the stationing of a mobile home at his premises at Martins Coppice in Bemzells Lane.

The mobile home would be occupied by Toby and his family and is justified on agricultural and forestry grounds.

We have submitted to the District Council a full statement of case and we are clear that in terms of national and adopted local planning policy there are good grounds for this proposal.

You may well be aware that Toby has a successful timber business based at Martins Coppice and as such is a valuable rural enterprise supplying logs to the Herstmonceux community and the wider area.

The business receives wood from, amongst others, local authorities and processes it into mainly fire wood. He has contracts with the Highway Authorities to take what is known as bulky green waste which is tree trunks too

large to chip on site. For this type of recycling enterprise a rural location is appropriate.

The use of Martins Coppice for this business has been established by the District Council who had granted a certificate of lawful use in 2005. Toby is operating from the land and using the buildings in accordance with the provisions of this certificate.

Toby also works for the farmer at Lime End Farm, Church Lane, Herstmonceux for whom he undertakes the milking as part of a team and he has overall responsibility for a large herd of dairy cows at Blackford Farm in Cowbeech. For this, he is expected to be able to respond to emergencies arising from the husbandry of the live stock and we are contending that this requirement is better served if Toby was living at Martins Coppice.

It is our strong contention that Toby needs to live at Martins Coppice to both assist in the running of nearby farms, as a valuable member of the local agricultural community and to efficiently run his wood recycling business from the site.

The mobile home will not be seen from outside the site and it will not therefore have any detrimental affect on the amenities of the area.

We would therefore urge you to support Toby and recommend to Wealden that planning permission is granted."

The Chairman asked Mr Martin if he would like to add any comments, but Mr Martin declined.

Parish Council Comments to Wealden District Council: The Parish Council support this planning application as long as it meets the criteria applicable to Agricultural planning requirements

2. **Application: WD/2009/2491/F**

Applicant: Mr B. J. Elphick

Location: New Barn Bungalow, Stunts Green, Herstmonceux, BN27 4PL.

Description: Proposed extensions and rooms in roof.

Parish Council Comments to Wealden District Council: The Parish Council are concerned that the proposed development is an over-development of this site. The Parish Council would ask that the original curtilage of the garden is maintained.

3. **Application: WD/2009/2479/F**

Applicant: Herstmonceux Pre-School

Location: Herstmonceux Village Hall, Hailsham Road, Herstmonceux, BN27 4JX.

Description: Proposed covered play area.

The Parish Council discussed this application at length, stating that legislation now required a covered area for children to play under. The Parish Council were concerned that this was to extend the Village Hall building and that the comments of the Herstmonceux Village Hall Management Committee would need to be taken into account before it was in a position to make comments to WDC on the plans. The Parish Council, as owners of the land, felt that some form of official permission for the extension of the building should be sought. The acting Clerk was asked to write appropriately to the Village Hall Management Committee regarding these matters and to WDC asking for an extension of the period of consultation, on this application, to Friday 15th January 2010.

Parish Council Comments to Wealden District Council: No comments submitted at this time.

4. **Application: WD/2009/2534/F**

Applicant: Mr J. Sasse

Location: Hoad Hill Cottage, Wartling, BN27 1RX.

Description: Two storey side extension.

Parish Council Comments to Wealden District Council: The Parish Council would not support this application as it is considered that the proposed development is an over-development of the site and that the overall plans are not in keeping with the rest of the property.

Correspondence

The meeting considered the draft response to the Council about comments on recent planning applications to Mr K Williams, Head of Planning and Building Control. The draft letter was amended by adding the word 'allegedly' to the first sentence of the fourth paragraph regarding Higham Cottage. The meeting **RESOLVED** to approve the amended letter and to instruct the Clerk to send this on her return.

Proposed by Councillor J. Tate; seconded by Councillor Mrs I. Willson. All councillors in favour

Ground Committee

Councillor Gower informed Councillors that he would convene a meeting of the Ground Committee to discuss hire agreements and charges for the use of the recreation ground and Lime Park, in January 2010.

Street lighting

A light on the recreation ground, near to pavilion, appears to be shining towards Church Road, and needs attention. A light reported to be unlit in the twitten off Bagham Lane towards Monceux Road.

Highways and Traffic

Councillor Gower stated that ESCC had not yet signed off the work undertaken on the A271 between Collin's Garage and the entrance to the Village Hall. Works had been carried out to the edging of West End.

Footpaths

No report.

Children and Young People

No report.

Information Centre

No report.

East Sussex County Councillor

No report.

Wealden District Councillor

No report.

Tree Warden

Councillor Goodsell reported that a Silver Birch, near to Collin's Garage, was leaning badly and he would inspect this as soon as possible.

Emergency Plan

No report.

Wealden District Association of Local Councils

No report.

Allotments

Report attached.

Herstmonceux/Varangeville

No report.

Other Matters:

Mrs Salvage's flooding problems – to action.

09.149 AGENDA

No indication of items required for the next meeting

Chairman.....

Date.....2010.