

HERSTMONCEUX PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Herstmonceux Parish Council held at 7.00pm on Monday 15 March 2010 in Herstmonceux Village Hall, Herstmonceux.

Present: Councillors Mrs J. Angear, D. Creasey, K. Game, M. Goodsell, W. Gower, B. Naish, M. Rice, J. Tate, K. Wheatley, Mrs I. Willson, East Sussex County Councillors W. Bentley and R Thomas.

10.26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Wealden District Councillor A. Long.

10.27 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2010 have been circulated. It was then resolved that the minutes be approved, adopted and signed as the correct record, proposed by Councillor K. Wheatley, seconded by Councillor K. Game. All councillors in favour.

10.28 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

No matters arising.

10.29 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor M. Goodsell – minor maintenance work on the Recreation Ground and other Council sites. Councillor W. Gower matters relating to the proposed new scout hut.

10.30 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 £2572.46 (copy attached) proposed by Councillor D. Creasey, seconded by Councillor K. Game. All councillors in favour.

10.31 PRESENTATIONS FOR THE COUNCILLOR VACANCY

There were two presentations, one from Mr J. Armstrong and one from Mr G. Umney for the vacancy. After a secret ballot Mr Armstrong was invited to join Herstmonceux Parish Council. He signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was welcomed to the Council by the Chairman.

10.32 DOCTOR'S SURGERY

Nothing further to report.

10.33 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

It is expected that the properties will be available in the near future. Councillors would like the opportunity to look around the site; the clerk will arrange this with Town and Country Housing.

10.34 CLERK'S REPORT

Correspondence

1. Herstmonceux Allotment Association – informing the Council that it is working with Councillor D. Creasey to check whether the water meter on the allotment site is leaking. The AGM will be on a Sunday in April; the date is to be confirmed. The speaker will be Mr R Twort who will talk about watering crops. **Now confirmed as 7.30pm on 18 April 2010 at the Merrie Harriers.**
2. WDC – informing the Council that the charge for emptying the Dog Waste Bins from 1 April 2010 will be £4.45 per bin per emptying.
3. WDC – details of the list of Buildings and Structures of Local Importance.
4. East Sussex Fire and Rescue – invitation to a stakeholder forum from 10-12 noon at the Maresfield Training Centre on 14 May 2010.

5. ESCC – details of the Village Maintenance Team Scheme for 2010 and questionnaire on the quality of highways work carried out. **Clerk will details of requests for work. Councillor W. Gower has completed questionnaire.**
6. Herstmonceux Bowls Club – copy of letter to Mr Baker about the pre planning advice from WDC. **Copied to Councillors J. Angear and W. Gower.**
7. Sussex Police – District Commander’s Report.
8. WDC – details of road safety review. **Copied to Councillor W. Gower.**
9. Mr G. Saunders – requesting information about the Wenham family. **Councillor D. Creasey has contacted Mr Saunders.**
10. ESCC – details of the Transport and Environment Scrutiny Committee report.
11. WDALC – minutes of meeting held on 9.02.10.
12. Mr Baker – reporting problems with the street lights in Victoria Road and Middle Way.
13. Mrs M Gordon – details of Spring Clean in Cowbeech.
14. WDC – details of e-planning training. **The clerk and Councillor D. Creasey will attend.**
15. ESCC – details of the Youth Bank grants.

Circulation

1. Sussex Review.
2. Wickstead play equipment.
3. Lister benches.
4. S&S Slatter –sports and play equipment.

Part two

1. Mr Baker – informing the Council that the light in Victoria Road near the junction of Middle Way has been repaired but the light cover was not closed and is dangling in the wind. The lights in Middle Way are still on 24 hours a day. **Councillor K Game will contact ESCC.**
2. ESCC – thanking the Parish Council for its response to the winter maintenance programmes and copies of the reports into the winter maintenance programme.
3. Southern Water – noting the comments from Herstmonceux Parish Council about flooding at the Homestead, Windmill Hill but advising the Council that there is no date set for the remedial work to be carried out.
4. Mr L Blunden – requesting the Council’s permission and if approved, suggested dates for a SK8 Massive demonstration day at the skateboard park on Herstmonceux recreation ground. **Agreed, suggested date either 18 or 25 September 2010.**
5. Mr M Collins – requesting the Council’s support for a Speed Watch Scheme in Cowbeech to discourage drivers exceeding the speed limit. **Agreed to support, the clerk will request more information on the scheme.**
6. ESCC – response to the Parish Council’s concern at the wooden posts erected on the verge outside Thorn Cottage, Cowbeech. **Councillors strongly object to these posts, the clerk will contact ESCC again.**
7. Sussex Air ambulance – application for a grant. **Referred to August meeting.**
8. WDC – informing the Council that Tree Preservation Order 2009/0023 relating to trees at April Cottage, Church Road, Herstmonceux has been confirmed with modifications.
9. Hedleys Solicitors - advising the council that the Parish Council is not required to notify the original donors of the recreation ground of nay new building.

10.35 REPORTS

Finance and General Purposes

No meeting.

Planning

The following planning application was discussed at the meeting.

Application: WD/2010/032/FR

Applicant: Mr M Pontet

Location: Pendyke, Victoria Road, Windmill Hill.

Description: Retrospective application for the erection of a conservatory attached to the rear of the property.

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

· The conservatory exceeds the size of the living room of the property, and so it is not of suitable scale and mass for the location.

Ground

- Tennis Courts – quotations will be considered at a Ground Committee meeting on 29.03.10.
- Scout Hut – a meeting was held at the recreation ground on 7.03.10 and it was agreed that the preferred site would be on the left of the entrance to the recreation ground; it was also agreed that the Parish Council will offer to submit the planning application to Wealden District Council on behalf of the Scouts, proposed by Councillor K. Game, seconded by Councillor K. Wheatley. All councillors in favour. The clerk will notify the Scout Committee. The clerk will also contact Mr Ford about increased usage of the access road and Mr Taylor of Hedleys Solicitors for advice about building on the recreation ground.

Street lighting

- EDF has a programme under way to upgrade cabling and posts of street lamps. However, some lights are too old to upgrade and there will be a cost to the Parish Council to replace those lights that cannot be upgraded. It is expected that the cost will be £1,500.
- There is a problem with some of the lights in Middle Way which remain on 24 hours a day since the upgrade work was carried out. This means an additional electricity costs for the Parish Council.

Highways and Traffic

- There are many potholes throughout the parish and most have already been reported to ESCC.
- There is a large hole at the entrance to the car park behind the Woolpack and one outside Laburnham Cottage, Church Road, Herstmonceux.
- The ditches near to Lime End Farm, Church Road, Herstmonceux need clearing out.

Children and Young People

Nothing to report.

Information Centre

The next meeting will be on 17.03.10.

East Sussex County Councillor

Interviews for a new Chief Executive will be held shortly.

Wealden District Councillor

No report.

Tree Warden

Nothing further to report.

Emergency Plan

Nothing to report.

Wealden District Association of Local Councils

No meeting.

Allotments

Report attached.

Herstmonceux/Varangeville Twinning Association

Nothing to report.

10.36 AGENDA

Chairman.....

Date.....2010.