

HERSTMONCEUX PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Herstmonceux Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 17 May 2010 in Herstmonceux Village Hall, Herstmonceux.

Present: Councillors Mrs J. Angear, J. Armstrong, D. Creasey, K. Game, M. Goodsell, W. Gower, B. Naish, M. Rice, J. Tate, K. Wheatley and Mrs I. Willson.

10.47 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor Gower was proposed by Councillor D Creasey and seconded by Councillor K Wheatley. All councillors in favour. Councillor W Gower was elected.

10.48 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

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

10.49 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE BY COUNCILLORS

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

10.50 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from the RFO Mr S Goacher and East Sussex County Councillor W Bentley.

10.51 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 April 2010 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 K. Wheatley. All councillors in favour.

10.52 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Meeting at East Sussex Fire and Rescue HQ about Rural Services Review –

Councillor I Willson attended. She reported that there are no proposed cuts which would affect Herstmonceux Fire Station. The meeting reported that 48% of calls were false alarms; it is proposed that there will be no response to automatic calls and a charge might be imposed for animal rescues.

North Lodge, Herstmonceux

- Councillors asked if there was any response to the comments to Ms Hunter, the site manager, about the Council's serious concerns at the locks on the front doors of the houses at North lodge which adjoin the main road. There is no Yale type lock on the doors, and so they can be opened easily by a child who could run straight out on to the road. If it is not possible to change the locks - would it be possible to put a fence at the front to make it safer for children? There has been no response and the clerk will contact Ms Hunter again.
- There has been complaints about tenants from North Lodge who regularly park cars and vans in the bus stop or close to the junction in Fiennes Road. Ms Hunter has met with tenants and representatives from Sussex Police and these problems have been addressed.
- In response to Ms Hunter's query about additional parking being available in Herstmonceux Village Hall car park to North Lodge tenants, the clerk was asked to inform Ms Hunter that this is not possible under any circumstances. This issue was raised at all stages in the planning consultations about the development at North Lodge and it was emphasised by Herstmonceux Village Hall Management Committee, who manage the hall and car park and supported by the Parish Council that parking at the village hall site by North Lodge tenants was definitely not allowed. There were long discussions with Cheesmuir, the developers, and Town and Country Housing representatives to create a secure boundary between North Lodge and the Village Hall to prevent any access by tenants between the two sites.

10.53 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.

10.54 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 £ (copy attached) proposed by Councillor J. Tate, seconded by Councillor M. Goodsell. All councillors in favour.

10.55 FINAL ACCOUNTS 2009-2010

The meeting, having received a copy of the audited Final Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2010, discussed these in the absence of the Finance Officer, together with the Internal Auditor's report in respect of the final accounts.

The Internal Auditor's report raised the issue of the need to review the bank arrangements with special reference to investments. The Finance Officer will look at the possibility of investing part of the Reserve Funds to increase the amount of investment income without compromising the percentage of liquid funds required in the day to day running of the Parish Council's affairs.

The Accounts showed that the accumulated funds carried forward amounted to £158,655.80 as at 31 March 2010.

The meeting **RESOLVED** to approve the Final Accounts for 2009-10, and authorise the Chairman and Clerk to sign the Annual Return on behalf of the Parish Council. Proposed by Councillor Creasey, seconded by Councillor Game. All councillors in favour.

10.56 DOCTOR'S SURGERY

Nothing further to report.

10.57 CLERK'S REPORT – part one

1. Herstmonceux Allotment Society – details of wicker structures for communal area on the allotment site. **The Council has no objection in principle but requested more details of location and future maintenance.**
2. Hedleys Solicitors – comments on the proposed recreation ground hire agreement. See Ground Committee Report 10.57
3. Homeworks – details of scheme.
4. ESCC – confirmation of the diversion of Public Bridleway 15b and 15c.
5. Sussex Police – details of Safer Roads Partnership scheme.
6. RoSPA – informing the Council that the playground and skateboard inspection will take place in June.
7. ESCC – School Travel Plan information.
8. East Sussex Downs and Weald Primary Care Trust – informing the Council that the open day for the new Health Centre at Hastings Station will be held between 10 -2pm on 20 May 2010.
9. Rural Services – newsletter.
10. Sussex Association of Local Councils – details of web site updates.
11. Action in Rural Sussex – Rural Priorities report.
12. ESCC – informing the Council that surface dressing work will be carried out on the C344 Cinderford Lane, Hellingly on one day between 1 June 31 July 2010.
13. Sussex Police – Neighbourhood Watch update and District Commander's update.
14. ESCC – details of Positive Images Award (improving the media portrayal of young people).
15. ESCC – Tree Warden newsletter. **Copied to Councillor Goodsell.**
16. ESCC – invitation to the Parish Council Chairman or representative to the official opening of Heathfield Children's Centre at 11.30am on 26 May 2010.

Part two

1. Redlynch Leisure – revised quotation for work on tennis courts.

2. Sussex Association of Local Councils – informing the Council of the costs of New Governance and Accountability publication.
3. Laser Energy – informing the Council that the Council’s Fixed Term Contract for unmetered energy supplies expires on 30 September 2010. **Copied to Mr S Goacher.**
4. ESCC – informing the Council that the East Sussex Health Overview and Annual Report for April 2009 – March 2010 has been published and is available on the East Sussex web site.
5. Herstmonceux Allotment Association – report and details of water meter monitoring.
6. Information Centre Report.

10.58 REPORTS COMMITTEES 2010

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

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

Planning Committee – Councillors J Angear (Chairman), J Armstrong, D Creasey, K Game, M Goodsell, W Gower, J Tate, K Wheatley and I Willson.

Ground Committee – Councillors W Gower, D Creasey, M Goodsell and B Naish.

Footpath – Councillors J Tate (Chairman), K Game and M Goodsell and I Willson.

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

Councillors with special responsibilities are as follows:

Street Lighting – Councillor Game.

Highways and Traffic – Councillor W Gower.

Youth and Young People – Councillor M Rice.

Tree Warden – Councillor M Goodsell.

Schematic map – Councillors D Creasey, K Game and I Willson.

Council representatives to the following organisations were elected:

Wealden Association of Local Councils – Councillors M Rice and J Armstrong.

Herstmonceux Information Centre – Councillor D Creasey.

Herstmonceux Village Hall – Councillor K Game.

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

Finance and General Purposes

No meeting.

Planning

Minutes of the Herstmonceux Parish Council Planning Committee Meeting held at 7.30pm in the school hall in Herstmonceux C of E Primary School on Tuesday 11 May 2010.

Present: Councillors J Angear, J Armstrong, D Creasey, K Game, M Goodsell, W Gower, B Naish, J Tate, K Wheatley and I Willson.

15 members of the public attended.

Prior to the meeting Mr D Green, the architect for Dr Simmons, the applicant for the surgery proposal gave a short presentation about the proposed new surgery:

- The existing surgery is too small for the current needs of the parish and there is no scope to extend on the site.
- The Primary Care Trust support the scheme.
- Over the past 10 years a number of sites in the village have been investigated but none were found to be suitable.
- The proposed site is outside the village boundary but WDC has indicated its support in pre application meetings.
- The building will be set down into the site and not be visible above the hedge line of

the A271.

- The design of the building shows great commitment to green principles.
- There will be a pedestrian access with very gentle slopes separate from the vehicle access.

A local resident, Mr L Keeley queried whether the new surgery could incorporate other community services.

Application: WD/2010/0916/F

Location: Land adjacent to Herstmonceux Village Hall, Herstmonceux.

Description: Construction of new surgery.

Parish Council Comments to Wealden District Council: The Parish Council fully supports this application:

- The existing surgery is too small for the needs of the parish and there is no scope to extend on the site.
- The existing surgery does not meet the NHS Standards for the Built Environment.
- A number of other sites have been investigated over the last ten years but none was found to be suitable.
- The Primary Care Trust supports the scheme.
- The proposed surgery would be able to offer more primary care facilities and support the Primary Care Trust's policy of "improving the health and well-being of its local population by providing a range of high quality and efficient services".
- The expansion of the surgery facilities is needed to accommodate the existing patients and to provide for any future increase in patient numbers.
- The proposal has the enthusiastic support of the local community – approximately 100 people attended a public meeting and there were no objections.
- The proposed surgery will share the access to Herstmonceux Village Hall and the Hall Management Committee fully support the scheme.

Application: WD/2010/0783/F

Location: 2 Monkey Puzzle Close, Windmill Hill, Herstmonceux BN27 4ST

Description: Loft conversion with 4 velux roof windows.

Parish Council Comments to Wealden District Council: No objection.

Application: WD/2010/0634/F – Councillor J Angear Declared a Prejudicial Interest as she is the mother of the applicant. She left the room whilst this application was discussed. Councillor W Gower Declared an Interest as he is a relative of the applicant.

Location: Willow Farm, Under Road, Herstmonceux.

Description: Proposed ménage.

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

- It is for the personal use of the applicant, particularly in bad weather conditions.
- There will be no lighting on the ménage.
- There are a number of other similar menage in the immediate area.

Application: WD/2010/0920/F

Location: 2 Ferndale, Hailsham Road, Herstmonceux.

Description: Single-storey Edwardian style conservatory.

Parish Council Comments to Wealden District Council: No objection.

Application: WD/2010/0801/F – Councillor J Angear Declared a Prejudicial Interest as she is the mother of the applicant. She left the room whilst this application was discussed. Councillor W Gower Declared an Interest as he is a relative of the applicant.

Location: Willow Farm, Under Road, Herstmonceux.

Description: Proposed alterations and additions to form two bedrooms with bathrooms in roof space.

Parish Council Comments to Wealden District Council: The Council supports the

application:

- A previous application at this site was refused by WDC as it was considered too big and the applicant has complied with WDC comments.
- It integrates well with the existing building.
- It is not intrusive in the landscape.
- The design is appropriate to the area.

Correspondence

1. Herstmonceux Scouts – copy of pre application papers. Councillors W Gower and K Game will attend pre application meeting on 12.05.10. **The meeting was very positive and the Case Officer, Ms J Bolton, will send a report to the Parish Council in the near future with her recommendations.**
2. WDC Parish Planning Forum will be held 6pm on 27.05.10 on 27 May. **Councillors J Angear and D Creasey will attend.**
3. Herstmonceux Bowls Club – copies of the proposed new Bowls Club building and details of the suggested cladding were circulated to councillors. Councillors J Angear and B Naish Declared a Prejudicial Interest as they are members of Herstmonceux Bowls Club. They left the room whilst the scheme was discussed. Some councillors expressed concern at the visual impact of the building. A decision on whether to approve the design and location will be taken at the Full Council Meeting on Monday 17 May 2010. WDC Councillor Long requested a site meeting with representatives from the Bowls Club and the Parish Council.

A site meeting, attended by Parish Councillors W Gower, J Angear, WDC Councillor A Long and four representatives from Herstmonceux Bowls Club was held at 8.30am on 17 May 2010. The area of the proposed rink and club house was marked out at the site with the rink at the edge of the site to the right of the entrance gate and the club house immediately inside the gate to the right. A copy of the drawing showing the location of the proposed rink and club house is attached to the minutes.

The proposal was discussed at length by the Council. Councillors J Angear and B Naish Declared a Prejudicial Interest as they are members of Herstmonceux Bowls Club and left the room whilst the matter was discussed.

The location of the rink and club house was reviewed, together with the proposed cladding for the club house. It was proposed that the rink and club house should be located at Lime Cross according to the attached drawings, proposed by Councillor D Creasey, seconded by Councillor K Game. It was passed by a majority vote.

Copies of the proposal will be sent to ESCC for their comments.

WDC Strategic Land Assessment

Councillors expressed concern at the recent WDC Land Assessment Report – the clerk will compile a report from the comments expressed and present it for approval at the next Council Meeting.

Ground

- The Ground Committee recommended to the full Council that the quotations from Agrifactors and Leisure Surfaces for renovation work at the tennis courts be accepted. Leisure Surfaces will do the ground work with the installation of the multi use goal ends by Agrifactors, proposed by Councillor K Game, seconded by Councillor J Tate. All councillors in favour.
- The weed control treatment has been carried out at the tennis courts.
- There is a large amount of old equipment and rubbish at Lime Cross recreation area. The clerk will contact the football clubs to check if there is anything they need to claim and then Councillor Goodsell will clear the area.

- Hire Agreement and Regulations for the recreation ground and Lime Cross – the Ground Committee recommended that the recent Agreement and Regulations circulated to committee members and approved by Mr Taylor of Hedleys solicitors be approved, proposed by Councillor K Game, seconded by councillor M Goodsell. All councillors in favour. A copy of the Hire agreement and Regulations is attached to these Minutes.

Street lighting

- ESCC lighting has advised the Council that the recent letter about the need for a new lighting pole at Buckwell Rise was incorrect and no new light is needed in this location.

Highways and Traffic

- There are still problems with potholes in Butlers Lane and Church Road.
- It was proposed to have a dog bin in West End in the area near to the commemorative bench. The clerk will contact the Dog Warden.

Children and Young People

Nothing to report.

Information Centre

Nothing to report.

East Sussex County Councillor

- There will be announcements in the near future about new ministers.
- Funding streams will be changed to local decisions.
- There will be a number of cuts in services announced in the next few weeks.

Wealden District Councillor

No report.

Tree Warden

Nothing to report.

Emergency Plan

Nothing to report.

Wealden District Association of Local Councils

No meeting.

Allotments

There have been problems with the lawnmower and new parts have been ordered.

Herstmonceux/Varangeville Twinning Association

Nothing to report.

10.59 AGENDA

Chairman.....

Date.....2010.