

## **HERSTMONCEUX PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of Herstmonceux Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 21 June 2010 in Herstmonceux Village Hall, Herstmonceux.

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

Five Fire Officers from Herstmonceux Fire Station and two members of the public attended the meeting.

In the time set aside for public questions and statements Mr J Message, Watch Manager for Herstmonceux Fire Station made the following statement:

- Herstmonceux Fire Station, which has been in existence for many years, is staffed by Retained Fire Officers.
- The station area covers many of the surrounding villages and when needed supports other towns and villages further afield.
- Herstmonceux Fire Station does not have its full complement of staff at present.
- The Rural Review, which highlights the number of calls, types of calls together with a details of the community needs, recommends that Herstmonceux becomes a night time service only with cover provided from other areas.
- Hailsham is the nearest station with one appliance and is the busiest Fire Station in the area.
- The appliance attendance recommendations are 8 minutes for the first appliance and 13 minutes for the second appliance, which might be difficult to achieve during the day in this area if Herstmonceux Fire Station is not operational.
- The area served by Herstmonceux Fire Station has a number of high profile sites serving high numbers of people, including the university at Herstmonceux Castle, Herstmonceux Science Centre, PGL holidays at Windmill Hill Place, Herstmonceux C of E Primary School, Herstmonceux Pre School, rural units created by farm diversification, firework storage at Wartling and pubs and restaurants.
- The full details of the Rural Review are available on the East Sussex Fire and Rescue web site and it is important that the local community is made aware of the proposals in the review.

The Chairman thanked Mr Message for his presentation and confirmed that the Parish Council will consider the points raised and recommendations in the Rural Review. He expressed his concern that Councillor Willson had attended the East Sussex Fire and Rescue meeting in May and had understood that there were no changes applicable to Herstmonceux Fire Station. This had been reported to the Full Council Meeting on 17 May 2010.

Mr K Stevens from Wartling Parish Council gave a short report on the meeting at the Reid Hall, Boreham Street about the stone lions and creation of a park on Pevensey Marsh:

- Representatives from Wealden District Council and Natural England attended.
- The site is protected by the classification of SSSI and Ramsar and Natural England is taking Enforcement Action against the owner.
- A report from the Planning Inspectorate is expected in the near future although there have been many delays caused by the owners delaying tactics.
- Mr Stevens will contact Herstmonceux Parish Council when more information is available.

### **10.60 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors D Creasey and M Rice.

### **10.61 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 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.

### **10.62 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

None.

### **10.63 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.

### **10.64 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 £3,489.39 (copy attached) proposed by Councillor J. Tate, seconded by Councillor J. Angear. All councillors in favour.

### **10.65 DOCTOR'S SURGERY**

Following the approval of the planning application for the new surgery by Wealden District Council it is expected that the work will start on the new surgery late in 2010 or early in 2011. The Parish Council will need to look at the future rental of the existing surgery and the clerk will contact the District Valuer for a rental review. The Clerk will also contact Mr Taylor from Hedleys Solicitors for advice on the legal agreements required in respect of the use of the access road to the new surgery.

### **10.66 CLERK'S REPORT – part one**

1. Herstmonceux Bowls Club – requesting that the sign for the Cricket Club and Bowls Club at the entrance to the track to the recreation ground be put up again. **Cheesmuir representative has reinstated sign.**
2. Victim Support – requesting a donation. **Referred to the August Council Meeting.**
3. WDC – details of a report investigating ways in which WDC can work more closely with towns and parishes on environmental initiatives.
4. East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service – details of the next meeting about the Rural Review. The meeting will be held the Eastbourne HQ from 10 -1pm on 12 July 2010. **Councillor Willson will attend.**
5. Sussex Print – details of printing costs.
6. St Wilfred's Hospice – information about the proposed new hospice in Eastbourne.
7. Leisure Surfaces – quotation for the extending fencing at the tennis courts.
8. Mr S Shaw, Unlock Democracy - comments on the Sustainable Communities Bill.
9. WDC – informing the Council about the launch of the WDC Parish Bulletin.
10. Rural Services newsletter.
11. WDC – comments from WDC Planning Officer about the informal planning meeting in respect of the proposed scout hut at the recreation ground. **Copied to all councillors. The clerk will notify the residents in the properties adjoining the recreation ground about the proposal and also put an article in the newsletter. The proposal will be discussed at the July Council Meeting.**
12. Freedom – requesting permission to install a backstay for a wooden lighting pole on Deneffield Green. **Copied to Councillor K Game, W Gower and Mr S Goacher.**
13. ESCC – comments on the recent Waste and Minerals Core Strategy Consultation.
14. Sussex Association of Local Councils – newsletter.
15. Herstmonceux Football Club – requesting information on hire charges and asking for the Council's comments on the erection of a dug out at Lime Cross. **Copied to Councillors W Gower, D Creasey, M Goodsell and B Naish. The Council**

- requested more information about the size and location of the dug out.**
16. Councillor Creasey – comments on recent playground and skateboard inspections.
17. Mr R Tate – comments on recent site meeting at Higham House. **Copied to Councillors J Angear and W Gower.**

## **10.67 REPORTS**

### **Finance and General Purposes**

No meeting.

### **Planning**

Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held at 7.30pm in the lounge in Herstmonceux Village Hall on Tuesday 8 June 2010.

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

**Application:** WD/2010/0948/MAJ

**Location:** Herstmonceux Service Station

**Description:** Demolition of existing car showroom, unused bungalow and adjacent buildings and construction of new car showroom.

**Parish Council Comments to Wealden District Council:** The Parish Council supports the application as the proposed development will improve the site, and will bring people into the village of Herstmonceux. The Parish Council notes the 'Environmental Impact' document and the concerns regarding the existing fuel tanks and the possible impact these will have on the immediate ground area and risk to watercourses.

**Application:** WD/2010/1070/F

**Location:** Higham Cottage, Gardner Street, Herstmonceux.

**Description:** Proposed open garage and shed.

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

- The proposed garage is cut off from Higham Cottage by a fence.
- The applicant owns more of the adjoining properties than is shown on the application drawing, and so the proposed garage could be used for another property. If the garage is for Higham Cottage conditions should be imposed to tie it exclusively to that property.

**Application:** WD/2010/1135/FE

**Location:** The Old Rectory, Lime Park, Church Road, Herstmonceux.

**Description:** Conversion of existing buildings and addition to form residential retirement cottage (annexe)

**Parish Council Comments to Wealden District Council:** The Parish Council fully supports the renewal of this planning permission.

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

1. WD/2010/0320/F Pendyke, Victoria Road, Windmill Hill – retrospective application for the erection of a conservatory attached to the rear of the property.
2. WD/2010/0338/F Lime End Farm, Church Road, Herstmonceux – to cover an existing cow loafing area with a roof to separate clean rainwater from the dirty water on the yard entering the slurry storage system and enable rainwater harvesting.

### **Certificate of Proposed Use or Development**

WD/2010/0616/LDP – reinstating original pitched roof on garage to replace sheeted roofing – this application has been refused and will therefore require full planning permission.

### **Correspondence**

1. **Leisure Surfaces – re Herstmonceux Tennis Courts.** The Parish Council accepted a quotation at the May Council Meeting from Leisure Surfaces and Agrificators to carry out work on the tennis courts at the recreation ground. There is a proposed amendment to the quotation, which will incur extra costs. Councillor

Gower will inform the Council of these amendments at the Planning Committee. If necessary a site meeting will be held after the meeting.

### **Planning Applications discussed on Monday 21 June 2010**

**Application:** WD/2010/1316/F

**Location:** 1 All that Cottages, Victoria Road, Windmill Hill.

**Description:** Variation of planning consent WD/2009/2639/F. Minor change to the roof ridge level to line with the existing house ridge line.

**Parish Council Comments to Wealden District Council:** The Council has no objection to the proposed to the proposed change in the roof ridge line. It objects to the additional window, which is not noted in the application as it overlooks the neighbouring property. The Council is aware of the concerns from the neighbours about windows overlooking their property. Any windows, which overlook adjoining properties, should be of obscured glass.

**Application:** WD/2010/1019/F

**Location:** Broomy Meadow Cottage, Cowbeech.

**Description:** Garage and outbuilding.

**Parish Council Comments to Wealden District Council:** The Council supports this application as it considers that proposed garage and outbuildings is preferable to the previously approved larger garage with rooms above.

**Application:** WD/2010/1071/F Councillor K Game

Declared a Prejudicial Interest as he owns the adjoining property. He left the room whilst the application was discussed.

**Location:** Keys Cottage, Gardner Street, Herstmonceux.

**Description:** Two dormer window on side (west) elevation.

**Parish Council Comments to Wealden District Council:** Wealden District Council: the Council objects:

- It considers that the building is too small for two dormers.
- The proposed dormers overlook the neighbouring property and any dormer/dormers would be better on the other side.
- The drawing is inaccurate as only one tree with Tree Preservation Order is shown when there are two trees listed.
- It appears that a conservatory is under construction at the site and it is not mentioned on the plans.
- The applicant owns more of the adjoining land than is shown on the drawings.

**Application:** WD/2010/1044/F

**Location:** Old Post Office, Cowbeech.

**Description:** Reinstatement of original pitched roof to replace corrugated sheeted roof.

**Parish Council Comments to Wealden District Council:** The Council supports this application as it will be an improvement to the existing.

### **Ground**

- The proposed location of the Scout Hut on part of the recreation car park needs clearing back. Councillor Gower will arrange for this to be done.
- Quotations have been requested for the proposed hedge cutting.
- Work starts on the tennis courts on 23.06.10; the clerk will put up a notice informing the parishioners of the work to be carried out.
- The RFO will send out the new Hire Agreements for the recreation ground and Lime Cross Recreation Area.
- The chairman will meet with ESCC about the posts at Denefield Green on 23.06.10
- The tree in the WDC car park needs cutting back.

### **Street lighting**

- The problem of day burning lights has still not been resolved – Councillor Bentley

informed the meeting that Hailsham Town Council is taking legal advice on this issue. The clerk will contact Hailsham Town Council.

**Highways and Traffic**

- The Council has received a number of complaints about the poor maintenance of the grass verges in the parish. The clerk will contact ESCC.
- The installation of the new kerbs in West End caused serious inconvenience for residents particularly as the road-closed signs were left in place over the Bank Holiday weekend.
- Holes were reported in the following roads: Church road outside Lime End Farm and the Welcome Stranger, Chilsham Lane, Cowbeech Hill and outside Scripp Cottages, in Stunts Green.

**Footpaths**

Nothing to report.

**Children and Young People**

Nothing to report.

**Local Action Team Meeting**

- Meeting was held on 10.06.10
- Sussex Police have set up a rehabilitation scheme to monitor behaviour of the members of a local family when they are released from custodial sentences.
- The installation of CCTV cameras is being investigated.

**Information Centre**

Nothing to report.

**East Sussex County Councillor**

- Cuts in spending are inevitable as there will be a £5 million cut to ESCCs budget but it is hoped to protect local interests.
- It is hoped that there will be only small cuts to adult social care.
- The budget will be presented on 23.06.10 and more information will be available after that date.
- There will be a spending review in September 2010 which will impact on services.

**Wealden District Councillor**

No report.

**Tree Warden**

Nothing to report.

**Emergency Plan**

Nothing to report.

**Wealden District Association of Local Councils**

No meeting.

**Village Hall**

Nothing to report.

**Allotments**

- Report attached.
- Councillor Creasey has circulated a detailed report on the water usage.
- The RFO will report on the total yearly costs for the allotments at the next meeting.

**Herstmonceux/Varangeville Twinning Association**

Members of the association will visit Varangeville for the French twentieth anniversary celebrations in September.

**10.68 AGENDA**

Standing Orders

Appointment of Internal Auditor

Chairman.....

Date.....2010.