

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF

15th October 2018

held at The Amenity Hall, Stone Cross

116 Present

Councillors K Stevens, G Garner, K Saxby, T Bruce, A Lovell, J Blaker, T Comerford, G Walker, N Beaney, G Parsons, R Perrin and F Durling.

District Councillor Dear, A Stevens (Clerk) and twenty seven members of the public were also in attendance.

117 Apologies for Absence

Councillor P Marshall sent apologies for his absence which were duly accepted by the Parish Council.

County Councillor Liddiard, County Councillor Shing and District Councillor Clark sent apologies for their absence.

118 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 17th October 2018 were confirmed as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chairman

119 Clerk's Report on Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

Two replacement bus shelters are expected to be fitted in the Parish on the 18th September, one in Westham and one in Stone Cross.

120 Disclosures of Interests

There were no disclosures of interest nor were there any changes to the Register of Interests.

121 Reports from the County Councillor

County Councillor D Shing sent a written report which said;

'Waste and Recycling

From the start of the month, ESCC waste and recycling sites implemented charges for disposing of soil, hardcore, plasterboard, bonded asbestos and tyres.

There are no charges for residents to dispose of household wastes such as green garden waste, electricals, furniture, crockery, clay flowerpots, recycling and general waste.

Soil

- £4 per bag
- Maximum bag size 55cm x 85cm (ie a standard rubble type sack)
- Part bags will be charged as whole

- For loose loads, an equivalent number of bags will be estimated by site staff
- Accepted at all sites.

Hardcore

- £4 per bag
- Maximum bag size 55cm x 85cm (ie a standard rubble type sack)
- Part bags will be charged as whole
- For loose loads, an equivalent number of bags will be estimated by site staff
- Charged £4 per item for formed concrete and ceramic bathroom ware e.g. toilets and sinks
- Includes (but is not limited to) stonework, sand, gravel, rock, clay, bricks, concrete blocks, paving slabs, tarmac, tiles and ceramic bathroom fittings
- Accepted at all sites.

Plasterboard

- £4 per bag or sheet
- Maximum bag size 55cm x 85cm (ie a standard rubble type sack)
- Part bags or part sheets will be charged as whole
- Accepted at Crowborough, Eastbourne, Hastings and Newhaven sites only.

Bonded Asbestos

- £6 per bag or sheet
- Maximum bag size 55cm x 85cm (ie a standard rubble type sack)
- Part bags or part sheets will be charged as whole
- Only cement bonded asbestos is accepted
- Limited to 6 bags or 4 sheets per calendar month, per household
- Accepted at Eastbourne, Hastings, Heathfield and Newhaven sites only
- Bonded asbestos brought to these sites must be double bagged and sealed, or wrapped in plastic and sealed. Staff will take a record of the resident's name, address and vehicle registration so that the amounts brought to the sites can be monitored to help prevent abuse of the policy and ensure Council Tax payers money is not used to dispose of any trade waste.

Tyres

- £2 per tyre (or part tyre)
- Limited to 4 tyres per calendar month, per household
- Accepted at Eastbourne, Hastings, Lewes, Maresfield and Newhaven sites only.

Application for planning permission to extend the operational hours of Eastbourne Household Waste Recycling Site, St Philip's.

On 10 October 2018, the County Council's planning committee considered the proposal to extend operating hours on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank & Public Holidays at Eastbourne's Household Waste Recycling site.

The report and comments of the Local Member, Clark David Tutt, were taken into account by the planning committee and they unanimously agreed with the conclusions and reasons for recommendation to refuse planning permission as it would be likely to result in a significant adverse effect on the amenity of persons living in close proximity to the site by reason of noise and other disturbance.

Any queries or other matters that I can assist with please don't hesitate to contact me'.

122 Report from the District Councillors

District Councillor Dear;

- Said she sits on the Planning Committee at Wealden and pointed out that if the planning application WD/2018/1909/F is successful it will reduce parking spaces in Westham High Street.
- Asked if Councillors are aware the Local Plan includes an allocation of 57 windfall sites in Stone Cross and 20 in Westham. Westham Parish Council made its comments at the September Meeting in time for the 8th October Representation deadline.

Councillor Lovell said he had attended a recent Planning Committee South Meeting and was disappointed that four members were absent so together with two local members it meant that six members could not vote. District Councillor Dear replied that it was very unfortunate but that was how the system worked.

123 Questions from Members of the Public

Mr Haffner asked the Parish Council to consider putting a children's play park in Butcher's Field rather than looking at Castle Bolton which he said is part of Eastbourne. This will be an agenda item for the November meeting.

District Councillor Dear asked why the firm she recommended to work on the Pond had been asked to work free of charge. The Parish Council did not ask them to work free of charge but did ask them how much they would charge to assess the pond and recommend what needs doing.

The meeting was then re-opened.

124 Reports on Committee Meetings held

There have not been any Committee Meetings since the last Full Council Meeting.

125 Reports from Outside Meetings

Councillors Lovell and Stevens attended the East Sussex Association of Local Councils Annual General Meeting and Conference on the 11th October. They heard updates from Sussex Police, ESCC Transport, Civic Crowdfunding and Recycling and Waste Management.

Councillor Saxby presented a thank you letter from one of the children at Hankham School who designed one of the winning posters for the 'Do not feed the ducks' poster competition. Councillor Saxby also announced he is the new Chair of Governors at the school and was congratulated by those present.

126 Westham Pond

Councillor Stevens ran briefly through the Draft Village Pond Management Plan which had been distributed to Parish Councillors just before the meeting.

The Plan describes the Pond, suggests objectives, details the constraints and makes recommendations as to how the pond can be improved.

Councillors resolved to consider the Plan and bring their suggestions for any changes to the next meeting. The Plan will also be on the Parish Council website so residents can let the Chairman know their thoughts too.

Councillors also discussed whether or not to de-silt the Pond. Initial quotes average £60,000 and are based on removing a maximum 550 tons of silt. An archaeologist will be needed on-site and he/she could restrict the amount of silt removed and reduce the cost.

Tests have proved that the silt is not contaminated but the Contractors say it is not possible to put it on farmland because by doing so it could revoke their licence. Using it to build up the banks is also not an option because the silt could slide back into the pond.

The Parish Council is hoping to be able to use the services of a volunteer archaeologist from the Eastbourne Natural History and Archaeological Society.

Councillors accepted the Environment Agency's view that, with climate change, the severe weather this year could happen again and resolved unanimously to de-silt Westham Pond on a without prejudice basis because it will allow for greater volumes of water to be held within the pond in the future and could assist with other works being carried out associated with the water flow into the pond. Methodology Statements, Risk Assessment Statements and Insurance documents will all be requested. They preferred the approach from one contractor who could work on a pro rata basis because the work could be stopped and they did not want to be committed to a fixed price contract so they resolved that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and one other Councillor could move this forward, as they thought best, after obtaining one further quote.

Councillors also asked for an update on the inlet and outlet pipes. The outlet pipe is not blocked. The Parish Council, with Wealden District Council and its approved contractor, recently excavated one side of the Pond to try and locate the inlet pipe again and found no evidence of one. There were no trenches and no shingle which you would expect to see. They searched where the original plan indicated it might be, where residents thought it was and the area under the willow tree. There was also no evidence to indicate there was a pipe under the verge. The Parish Council is now clarifying ownership of the verge with ESCC and Wealden is trying to find out where the blockage is because it could be anywhere between Pevensey Park Road and the pond.

District Councillor Dear offered her services to help with the pond because she says she has a degree in lake pond and river management and fisheries. She also asked why the bunding was not planted when the work was carried out by Land and Water in 2012. Councillor Garner confirmed it was. District Councillor Dear also recommended that de-silting should take place in the autumn.

127 Play Parks

The swing at Castle Bolton has been removed because the frame was broken making the swing dangerous. The cost to install a metal frame is £2813.27, the cost to replace the swing is £2729.59. The Parish Council has also received a request from a resident in Castle Bolton asking Councillors to update the play park so it can be used by a wider age range of children. Councillors agreed to provide new equipment after consultations with local residents.

Councillors also considered the latest Risk Assessment for Adur Park. Councillor Garner will look at the recommendations made and report back to the next appropriate meeting.

128 Verge Cutting 2019

Councillors resolved to continue cutting the verges ESCC classes as 'urban' and will cut them six times in 2019 on the same basis as last year because the County Council is reducing the number of times it cuts the verges to twice a year otherwise.

129 Blackness Yard

The developer is proposing calling the new road within the development at Blackness Yard 'Mayfair Close' and is asking the Parish Council for its suggestions.

Councillors suggested the new road could be called either Shire Horse Close, Horse Shoe Close or Suffolk Punch Close because they were names which retained some of the history of the yard.

130 Christmas in the Parish

Councillors considered a price to install two 3m high lit Christmas tree displays in the Parish, one would be outside the Memorial Hall in Stone Cross and one would be in Butcher's Field in Westham. The total cost to hire both over the Christmas period would be £9020.50 plus VAT.

Councillors felt that the cost was too high and opted instead to offer grants to Westham Village Hall, Stone Cross Memorial Hall and Hankham Village Society so they can erect Christmas Trees instead. Representatives who were present from each group supported the idea.

131 Questions from Parish Councillors

Councillor Garner pointed out the Clerk and Chairman lost some of their week's holiday this year dealing with the problems at the Pond and asked councillors to consider compensating the Clerk.

Councillor Parsons told everyone the contract has not yet been signed for Pevensy Library so the Volunteers Network is unable to take it over yet. It means that grants cannot be released at this stage.

132 Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered;

WD/2018/1909/F - 14 High Street, Westham, BN24 5LY - Proposed dropped kerb to serve existing off road parking area – Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

WD/2018/1942/DC - Church Bailey Court, Montague Way, Westham, BN24 5NR - To remove the wooden Juliet balconies when replacing the PVCU windows and doors to all the flats (as approved under WD/2017/1215/DC) and to replace with steel posts sleeved in rosewood PVCU to the same design as the existing wooden Juliet balconies - Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

WD/2018/2105/F - 2 Barn Close, Stone Cross BN24 5EN - Screening fence to new housing development (higher than 2 metres) at rear garden boundary - Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

WD/2018/2159/F - 23 Primrose Field, Stone Cross, BN24 5GN - Proposed rear PVCU conservatory - Westham Parish Council has no objections on any planning grounds to this application.

There being no further business, this meeting closed at 8.50pm.