

PEVENSEY PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on 4th September 2018 at St. Wilfrid's Hall, Pevensey Bay at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllrs Lowton, Beaney, Slater, MacKinnon, Pursglove, Howard, Scott, Rabbits, Belcher, Peasgood and Beck

District Councillor Lin Clerk
County Councillor Tom Liddiard

Helen Burton (Prospective Candidate for the 1 Co-optive Councillor vacancy)

Apologies: Cllrs. Withey,

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Beaney – Accounts for payment

Minutes

The Minutes of the previous Council meetings held on the 3rd July 2018 were signed as a true and accurate record proposed Cllr MacKinnon seconded Cllr Beck. All agreed.

Election of Co-optive Councillor

Helen Burton was the only candidate present as the second candidate had to withdraw due to a serious injury. Helen gave a short presentation on her background and reasons for wishing to become a Councillor.

As Helen was the only candidate she was co-opted to Council. She signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was given copies of previous Committee and Council Minutes, Code of Conduct, Standing Orders and Policies to be adopted. The Chairman welcomed Helen to Council.

Local Police Issues

No reports have been received by the Clerk, but Cllr Rabbits reported that there had been fly tipping in Slucie Lane during the weekend. It was cleared away by the end of the weekend and The Clerk has been asked to monitor this.

It was also reported that a boat on a trailer was holding up traffic from Richmond Road all the way down to the North Harbour, which took 30 minutes for this to be resolved. This was mainly due to cars parked on yellow lines around Pevensey Bay and the boat was not able to get through. It has been agreed for the Clerk to write to the police Inspector to advise the above incident and that the police pay attention to the parking issues in Pevensey Bay.

There have been a number of complaints of a van parked on double yellow

lines in Pevensey Bay which is causing confusion and obstruction and this will also be reported.

Open Forum

There was only one member of the public present and he wished to discuss the planning application for the Royal Oak and Castle. The Chairman agreed to discuss this matter under the agenda item 15.

Cllr Clerk advised that the Scarecrow festival was very enjoyable by the residents of Pevensey. She was disappointed that some of the local business in Pevensey did not take part in the festival. Cllr Lowton thanked PVP for all their work with the festival.

County Councillors Report

Cllr Liddiard advised it has been a busy couple of months. He reported the following updates and works which are taken place in Pevensey

- Surfaces dressing work is taking place on the A27 and A22 which will cause delays and traffic through the Parish.
- 64 potholes have now been filled in the Parish
- Sign cleaning will be scheduled this month
- The lining works will be completed in Sovereign Harbour shortly and the next stage will be Pevensey.
- Cllr Liddiard is aware of the issues with the yellow lining in Pevensey and the parking. He advised that we need to continue to report this to the Police.
- The surface dressing work in Beachlands will take place at the end of next summer and he will report back about the condition of the road in Coast Road.
- The slabs at Pevensey train station have been repaired due to reports of people tripping and falling.
- Grass cutting has been resolved.
- He reported that the children services have received an outstanding from Ofsted.
- The criteria for having a pedestrian crossing in Pevensey Village and Pevensey Bay has been sent to the Clerk and a meeting will be arranged with the Chairman, Cllr Liddiard and The Clerk.
- Cllr Liddiard was pleased to advise he has been able to resolve a number of various issues with residents over the last couple of months.

Cllr Lowton thanked Cllr Liddiard for his attendance and update for Council and asked if Councillors had any issues to report back.

Cllr Rabbitts raised the ongoing trouble with the 17 street lights that are not working on Bexhill Roundabout and the issues with which lights belong to whom. Cllr Liddiard will raise this with East Sussex.

Cllr Belcher requested if yellow lines can be put in on the corner of the Castle. It was advised this is a conservation area and this may not be possible, but there was yellow lining being done further down the village. She also reported

that the grass has been cut on Sluice Lane before litter was collected making the area very untidy.

There are ongoing concerns of speeding in Pevensey Village and a parked van on the corner of the High Street. Cllr Liddiard advised that Eastbourne Police started a campaign for a community speed watch which Council may wish to consider. It was agreed for this to be referred back to Highways and Byways for further action.

District Councillors' Report

Report for Pevensey Parish Council (4th September 2018)

Wealden District Councillor Lin Clark

As you are currently working on a 3 year plan, I thought it would be appropriate to report on Wealden's Handling of a problem subject that I am sure you will want to look at. The main 3, always "hot" issues are planning, dustbins and the problem of dog poo. I have chosen the latter as there are actions you could take to improve on this situation.

Wealden has recently made a new order which covers dog fouling within the District. The order is made by Wealden District Council in pursuance to its powers under Section 59 of the Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. Any place that the public have access to and Wealden District Council either own, occupy or maintain, are subject to the order. These include highways, footways, twittens and any verges or ornamental areas which are maintained at the public expense. The beach, car parks, recreation and sports grounds are indeed covered by the act, as is the churchyard. There are some exempted lands which include woods and marshland.

Dr Jeremy Leach has done much work, including picking up dog poo on a section of the Cuckoo Trail over a period of several months. His own initiative which is called "Paws On Watch", has been very successful with many public enrolling to be part of the campaign. Details can be found on the Wealden website. The link is :

http://www.wealden.gov.uk/Wealden/Residents/Community_and_Safety/Crime_and_Disorder/PHCS_Paws_On_Watch.aspx

There are over 20,000 dogs in Wealden, and the initiative, aims to educate dog owners to be responsible about cleaning up after their dog, as well as keeping it under control. Once enrolled you may be asked to be the eyes and ears in your local community, challenge those not cleaning up after their dog (only if you feel comfortable) and to report back to the Council. Participants are given a badge and also a tag for their dogs collar.

Wealden has Officers working within the Street Scene team, who undertake patrols in hot spot areas, speaking to member of the public about their roles and the public's responsibilities. They also attend Safety in Action days, which reach hundreds of children. Good dog ownership is just one of many safety issues addressed on these days.

About the beach. Wealden lease the beach between average high and low tide water lines from The Crown Estate, and manages the beach on their behalf. Land above the high water line is in private ownership. Wealden own this upper beach in front of Sea Road car park. Parish Council of course own a section between Rossetti Road and the Sandcastle. There are over 400 individual, private owners involved.

Pevensy Bay, as always, is unique in its make up, and because of this private ownership, the control of dog poo on the beach is a matter for the private land owners. I am sure Council will be looking at the issue of banning dogs from the beach. The only part of the beach above the high tide water line that Parish Council would be able to ban dogs from, is the beach they actually own. Parish Council has no influence whatsoever over the beach owned by the Crown Estate and leased to Wealden.

The section below the high tide water line is covered by Wealden Council's dog fouling orders and controls. Since the area is subject to twice daily inundation, reporting of dog fouling is very low. Banning dogs on this part of the beach would require Wealden to have a Bye-Law. This is not practical due to the fact that it would be impossible to enforce this. Introducing such a Bye-Law would serve to raise expectations and complaints, without any practical means of meeting or solving these. It would be a waste of time and public money.

You are probably all aware that new legislation allows for ordinary waste bins to take dog poo. Together with the dog poo bins this makes for many more opportunities for the little black bags to be placed safely in a bin. Many dog poo bins are in dog walking areas where there are no other litter bins. To remove these dog poo bins would only give a very bad signal to the public who use these bins on a daily basis. Where there are litter bins, it would only serve to fill up already over full litter bins with dog poo bags. Until we can educate people to take dog poo home with them, bins are essential.

I spoke earlier about Dr Jeremy Leach's campaign, and I would like to enlarge on this. Jeremy first cleared a stretch of the Cuckoo Trail from all dog poo (over 120). He then returned each day, picking up and counting any new poos. The idea was to try and stop one encouraging another as being ok. It worked! The sign with the happy looking dog was displayed. As the first couple of weeks passed there were fewer poos for Jeremy to pick up each day. Next Jeremy displayed the second sign which demonstrates a "nudge nudge" technique, being specific by personalising it with words. Two weeks later the number of poos that Jeremy had to clear every day had reduced dramatically. The signs were tested in other areas too, and where the "nudge nudge" wording was used, the fouling was reduced by 66%. Proving that together "nudge nudge" and education do in fact have the desired effect.

I would like to end my report with my own thoughts:

In my lifetime we have seen people taking pride in the place they live, thinking nothing of cleaning a sign, picking up litter or cutting a patch of grass. Then, as more money became available, we saw more and more of the things we used to do being done for us. Now, when money is no longer available, people can often be heard complaining "I pay my Council Tax for this". Sadly,

from now on, this will only be enough to cover the mandatory services, anything beyond that will no longer be a “given”.

I have recently sat through several meetings and training sessions about budgets, and how we have to tighten our purse strings to make savings as the Government grants stop. This is real, very real. There is nothing you or I can do to stop what is happening. I would urge you to consider this in your 3 year plan, and to firstly encourage people to understand that self-help is going to be the big key from now on, and secondly that education can cost little while producing fantastic results. The latter is a message that Wealden is giving out more and more.

Cllr Howard asked if there were any workshops, educational materials that Council could offer to help with the above campaign. Cllr Clerk advised she would get some information back for Council. Cllr Mackinnon asked about Bylaws on the beach regarding loose dogs. Cllr Clerk advised that the process for getting a Bylaw for the beach would be expensive and unenforceable. Cllr Beaney reported the ongoing issues with dog fouling and professional dog walkers in Wallsend. Cllr Clerk advised to take the details and pass it the Street Scene Team who is able to speak with the dog walkers regarding the issues. Cllr Belcher asked about the Bylaws in regards to homelessness. Cllr Clerk advised they will not be able to set up on the parts of beach Wealden own due to tides and the other parts are either privately owned or Council owned. There have been no reports of homelessness. Cllr Lowton advised that the Government are providing East Sussex with funds to help with homelessness in Eastbourne.

Cllr Lowton thanked Cllr Clerk for her report and attendance.

Matters Arising:

- **New Website**

Cllr Howard advised the first two drop down boxes are nearly complete but she is still waiting for biographies from Councillors. She is currently working through the emergency plan, 3 year plan, policies and GDPR statement drop box with help from the Clerk. The freedom act has gone for upload and she is waiting for the grant information. The website is currently at a state of readiness and can go live anytime.

Cllr Lowton thanked Cllr Howard for her hard work and asked if the Councillors emails address can be set up for Council use.

- **3 Year Plan**

Cllr. Lowton advised there has been good progress with the 3 year plan and lot of work has been done. He advised it will be tight to get all the work done for precept but feels confident it can be done. He advised the committee have gone through the Councils assets and that was nearly complete. The committee is currently going through the budget pressures which include inflation, the reduction of the Support Grant, Parish Maintenance, Recreation ie. grass cutting, Street lights whether to enroll LED lighting, HR and Health and Safety employment support and training.

The 3 year plan Sub Committee is also trying to find out the cuts from Wealden and/or East Sussex to local services in the Parish to give the Council the heads up whether the service can continue and how it will be funded. Cllr Lowton advised that given the significant budget pressures facing council in the year ahead that unfortunately precept will have to increase. The aim was to endeavour to keep any increase to a minimum.

- **Publication of the Wealden Local Plan**

Cllr Lowton asked for 3 or 4 Councillors to volunteer to write Councils response to Wealden's recently published draft Local Plan and report back by the next meeting. Cllrs Mackinnon, Slater, Scott and Belcher offered. Cllr Clerk offered her hard copy of the document for Council to go through. It was agreed that a Council meeting would take place before the Committee meeting on the 2nd October to consider the sub committee findings.

Grass Cutting Update

Cllr Howard advised that the invitation to tender: Grass Cutting Contract 2019 -2021 as been written up and sent East Sussex for advice and assistance with the documentation. We are waiting for a response and confirmation of the meterage. once these have been received the Chair and Vice Chair of Highway and Byways Committee will be able to submit a full brief prior to precept.

Adoption for the following policies - Disciplinary, Grievance, Lone Worker, Overtime & Time off in Lieu, Performance Management, Equal Opportunities, Training & Development, Staff Expenses, Sickness absence, Remote & home working, Maternity, Health & Safety, Email & Internet usage, Bullying & Harassment.

Having circulated paper copies of the above policies to all Council and having received no comments or suggested amendments to the above policies were proposed for adoption by Cllr Slater Seconded Cllr Howard. Carried 11 to 1. Cllr Burton abstained as she has not read the policies.

Cllr Lowton thanked Cllr MacKinnon for her hard work and advised that the policies would be reviewed annually.

Cllr Lowton advised that going forward it was not appropriate for council to reply on an individual Councillor(s) to draft important employment policies and/or health and safety documents as well as ensuring that such documents were kept up to date with current legislation.

Cllr Mackinnon had therefore been exploring what employment/health and safety support options were available to Council. To that end Cllr MacKinnon had arranged a meeting with one such company on Friday 7th September which Cllr Lowton would attend. He explained that he wants to ensure Council to be in the best position in regards to employment, Health and Safety policies and practice.

Correspondence

The Clerk advised that planning applications for signs to go up in Market Square and Sea Road Car Park have been submitted and waiting for an update.

The Clerk read out an email from a local resident regarding issues of youths in Coast Road Recreation ground in the evenings playing loud music. The Clerk advised that she has asked the resident to report this to the Police, but said she was also happy to report this matter to the Police as well. The Clerk is currently waiting for the information from the resident and also asked the resident to keep a diary. Cllr Beaney advised that there is sign stating that the Recreation ground is shut from 6.00pm and it is locked. Cllr Belcher asked if Council can put a gate up. Other Councillors advised that this was practicable and wouldn't stop the youths due to the low height of the fencing etc.

Matters of Urgent Public Safety (MUPS)

Nothing Reported.

Chairman's Remarks

Cllr. Lowton welcomed Cllr Burton back to Council and thanked Councillors for ongoing hard work.

Orders for payment

The listing appears at the end of these minutes as an integral part, Proposed Cllr. Slater seconded Cllr. Howard that these be accepted as presented. All agreed except Cllr. Beaney, who declared a pecuniary interest and abstained and Cllr Burton as new Councillor.

Plans

WD/2018/1327/F – Royal Oak and Castle Inn, High Street. Pevensey – Formation of children's play area to rear of public house for customers of the venue.

Cllr Lowton welcomed the resident who had attended Council to speak with regards to this application. The resident advised that the application implied that there weren't any neighbours and only referrers to Church Lane. He pointed out that this wasn't the case as there local neighbours who would be affected by the play equipment. He also stated that he felt that the height of the play equipment is excessive and would overlook neighbouring gardens and the Church Yard. In addition noise disturbances and stress would be a result if the application were approved. He felt that the plans presented are misleading.

Cllr Lowton thanked him for his comments.

Several Councillors expressed concerns including that the height of the equipment was excessive, intrusive regarding neighbouring properties and the plans are misleading. It was suggested if the equipment could be reduced in size and put into another part of the pub gardens so that it is less intrusive.

OBJECT - Cllr. Pursglove proposed that we object on the grounds of the height of the play equipment, it's intrusive to neighbours and the noise disturbance. Seconded Cllr. Scott. Carried 12 to 1. Cllr Lowton abstained.

WD/2018/1596/F – 1 Wallsend road, Pevensey – Proposed conversion of dance studio to 6 No flats with two storey rear extensions and additional floor.

OBJECTED – Cllr Scott proposed that we object on the grounds of the loss of an iconic building, parking issues, not in keeping with the rest of the village and over shadowing. Seconded Cllr Burton. Carried 12 to 1

WD/2018/1634/F – 18 Maresfield Drive, Pevensey Bay – Proposed single storey extension to the rear and associated alterations.

NO OBJECTIONS – Proposed Cllr. Pursglove. Seconded Cllr. Slater. All Agreed.

WD/2018/1426/MAO - Fairfield Farm Planning Application

Whilst not within the Parish, Council considered the application due to its close proximity to the Parish.

OBJECTED – Cllr Pursglove proposed that we object on the grounds of the amount of traffic it will create through Pevensey, congestion and danger at the nearby level crossing, issues with the drainage, loss of a tourist amenity and the loss of rural land. Seconded Cllr Scott. All Agreed. Cllr Belcher abstained.

Advisory Officers Reports

- **Sea Defences and Water Management** – Nothing to Report – Cllr Pursglove advised that he attended a meeting with Sovereign Harbour and advised that Ian Thomas is happy to attend a Council meeting to answer any questions Councillors have on the Sea Defence Contract. It was agreed another Councillor to become an advisory officer.
- **St. Wilfrid's Hall** – Cllr MacKinnon advised that grants are being applied for so that work can be done to upgrade the Hall and there has been a new boiler and radiator fitted.
- **Ethel Wood Community Centre** – Nothing to Report
- **St. John's Trust** – Cllr Beck advised that the purchase of a new bungalow in Weaverly Gardens has been completed and there is an advert out for residents of Pevensey, Stone Cross, Hankham and Westham to apply.
- **Town Trust** – Cllr Scott advised the trust welcomed Cllr Mackinnon. The planning application as been submitted and they are waiting for

some issues to be dealt with drainage. There was a risk assessment completed of the Car Park, Court house and it will be presented at the next meeting.

- **Sports Club** – Cllr Lowton advised there were reports of fly tipping around the building and it had taken time for the Clerk to get a response but it has been dealt with. Cllr Beck advised that the two cricket teams have become champions of their leagues and have been raised up. Cllr Lowton suggested that Council should we write to cricket section congratulating them. Agreed
- **WDALC** – Cllr MacKinnon advised that the next meeting is the 11th October and has requested that budget pressures for Wealden to be put on the agenda.
- **Memorial Hall** – Cllr Beaney advised that the Children play group has started up.
- **Tree Warden** – Cllr Beaney advised that the work on the trees in Anderida Park has been completed.

Committee Minutes

- **Planning**

Cllr Rabbitts asked that the minutes be amended and that the last line from page 6 plan **WD/2018/1226/F** be deleted. The Chairman asked the Clerk if she was happy for this to removed and the Clerk agreed to make the amendments.

Proposed Cllr. Slater seconded Cllr. Scott that the amended Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th August 2018 be accepted as a true and accurate record. All agreed. Proposed Cllr. Beck seconded Cllr Scott that these Minutes be adopted by the Council. All Agreed. Cllrs Burton, Belcher and Pursglove abstained.

Proposed Cllr. Slater seconded Cllr. Beaney that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd August 2018 be accepted as a true and accurate record. All agreed. Proposed Cllr. Beaney seconded Cllr Scott that these Minutes be adopted by the Council. All Agreed. Cllr Burton abstained

- **Recreation Ground and Beach**

Proposed Cllr. MacKinnon seconded Cllr. Beck that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th August 2018 be accepted as a true and accurate record. All Agreed. Proposed Cllr. MacKinnon seconded Cllr Slater that these Minutes be adopted by the Council.

- **Highways and Byways**

Proposed Cllr. Beaney seconded Cllr. Howard that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th August 2018 be accepted as a true and accurate record. All Agreed. Proposed Cllr. Beaney seconded Cllr. Howard that these Minutes be adopted by the Council. All agreed.

- **Finance and General Purposes**

Proposed Cllr. Pursglove seconded Cllr. MacKinnon that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th August 2018 be accepted as a true and accurate record. All Agreed. Proposed Cllr. Pursglove seconded Cllr. Beck that these Minutes be adopted by the Council. All agreed.

Date of next Meeting

The Next Meeting will be Committees to be held on Tuesday 2nd October 2018 at St. Wilfrid's Hall at 7pm.