

**PEVENSEY PARISH COUNCIL**

The Minutes of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at St. Wilfrid's Hall, Pevensey Bay at 7.00pm

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**Present:** Cllrs Lowton Beaney, Hills, Peasgood, Pursglove, Beck, Burton, Sargent,, MacKinnon, Rabbits and Slater  
District Councillor Clark  
Clerk from neighbouring Parish  
Ian Thomas from Pevensey Coastal Defence Ltd.

**Apologies**

Cllr Brookbank  
Cllr Dear  
Cllr Withey

**Declarations of Interest**

None declared

**Minutes:** The Minutes of the previous Council meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017 were signed as a true and accurate record proposed Cllr Pursglove, seconded Cllr Slater. All agreed.

**Local Police Issues**

There were no issues raised. Unfortunately the proposed visit by Chief Superintendent Leet due at the Annual Parish Meeting will not take place as he has moved on and his replacement will not have settled in to the role in time.

The acting Chairman introduced Ian Thomas of PCDL who wanted to explain to Council what was happening in respect of the movement of sand from Sovereign Harbour. The dredger will be discharging 200/300 metres off the Council's beach and local residents might wonder what is happening! A full report is attached as integral to these Minutes and Ian will produce a slightly less technical press announcement which the Clerk can place on Social Media.

Cllr Sargent expressed some concerns about "muddy" sand being deposited on the beach but Ian was able to assure her that any muddy patches would be very minor.

Cllr Hills asked if the sand and silt is dumped further out to sea would that not just create a new sandbar. Again Ian was able to reassure him that for some reason due to tides, currents etc the material is dissipated.

Cllr Beck asked if this would mean a welcome increase of sand on the beach; in time hopefully this will happen.

In response to a further question about a return to the use of groynes. This is a thorny issue as when PCDL took over the beach protection there were some 150 groynes most of which were in very poor condition. As they cost around £100,000 each it is simply not viable. In any event they would not retain significant amounts of sand.

Cllr Lowton thanked Ian very much for his very useful presentation.

## Open Forum

Cllr Lin Clark advised that the PVP had received a grant from Wealden District Council to facilitate a number of workshops and asked if Councillors had any ideas for content. Cllr Hills asked what kind of workshops were proposed; these are not workshops as in woodworking, craft etc as they would be held in various of our local halls. First Aid was mooted but it is very expensive. Dementia championing is a likely programme and PVP will be asking locals for their ideas.

## County Councillors Report

Cllr Pursglove had circulated a report from ESCC summarizing their achievements during 2016/2017. This report forms an integral part of these minutes.

Cllr Pursglove has been particularly impressed by the increased broadband coverage although a promised 100% coverage had proved somewhat tricky, at least in the short term. Phase 2 and 3 will be self-financed and will continue to cover outlying areas

## District Councillors' Report

Cllr Clark read a very detailed report, the contents of which form an integral part of these minutes.

Cllr Clark has asked that the Local Plan Document, which runs to over 500 pages should be précised as it is unacceptable to ask local residents to read and inwardly digest such a lengthy document. This shortening initiative will hopefully be spread to cover other documents in future.

Cllr Hills asked if Cllr Clark was aware of any scheme to start road traffic counter surveys through Westham and Pevensey. She was not aware but this would be the responsibility of East Sussex County Council. Wealden to have to produce a "Traffic Model" and she is waiting to hear how the content is devised.

Cllr Sargent asked if there were any specific dates for implementation of the Local Plan. Cllr Clark did not have the dates to hand but will let the Clerk have them; it is some time off however.

Cllr Lowton thanked Cllr Clark for her detailed and informative report.

## Matters Arising:

### Sea Road Car Park

Nothing to report – still waiting to hear from Wealden District Council on their proposals for the future.

## Annual Parish Meeting

With the lack of a police presence now and the fact that attendance by members of the public is not normally very good the Clerk felt that the APM, on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017, would follow its usual format which is Reports from County Councillor, District Councillor(s) and the Chairmen of the 4 Pevensey Parish Council Committees followed by Public Forum.

## **Review of comments from Non-Committee members from outside the meeting**

The Clerk read Item 53 from Standing Orders "Any Council member outside of the appropriate committee may request an opportunity to speak on a relevant piece of information or opinion **at the discretion of the chair**. This was agreed on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016 with the proviso that it would be reviewed at this meeting. Cllr Beaney felt that it had gone very well and he proposed that we continue with the ruling. Cllr Sargent agreed and seconded the motion. Cllr Burton confirmed that this seemed to have been useful and had not unduly delayed meetings. Proposal was passed unanimously.

## **Correspondence**

Letter from Kent Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance asking for a grant of £250 to assist with their work. The Clerk explained that he had written to them last year with the appropriate forms to be included in the Grant Process. Cllr Peasgood asked if an exception could be made but it was proposed Cllr Lowton, seconded Cllr Hills that the Clerk should reply referring them to the grants process. This was passed 10/1

## **MUPS (Matters of Urgent Public Safety)**

Cllr Beaney expressed concerns about the bridge from The Recreation Ground into Anderida where the timbers were seriously decaying and he had heard reports of a dog being trapped in the wire covering. Cllr Sargent advised that at this time it is still weight bearing but it is moving to getting unsafe. It was agreed that the Clerk will meet with the Parish Contractor to see if temporary repairs can be effected by him and then seek quotes for a replacement/repair as necessary.

The Clerk had received a letter from a resident of Wallsend Road expressing concerns about parking on the roadway by the entrance to the Recreation Ground, particularly when football matches were in course. Cllr Lowton is going to meet with Jim Saunders of the Sports Club and he will bring this up with him again.

## **Chairman's Remarks**

Cllr Lowton advised that the pristine new clock on his table had been presented by former Chairman Maurice Gilbert to assist with keeping meetings to time. The Clerk was asked to write expressing thanks for this gesture.

Cllr Lowton was particularly happy to announce that Council's application for a £10,000 Lottery Grant has been approved. There appears to be no restrictions apart from the fact that the item of equipment must be supplied by the firm approved and the unit must be identical.

This means that the Clerk can now arrange for the dilapidated equipment to be removed as soon as possible.

## Orders for payment

The details are listed and form an integral part of these minutes.

Proposed Cllr Pursglove seconded Cllr Slater that the figures be accepted as presented. All agreed with Cllr Beaney abstaining on grounds of having a financial interest.

## Plans

WD/2016/3053/F	220 Coast Road Pevensey Bay	relocation of a double garage approved under WD/2016/0975/F
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Cllr Lowton made the point that this change of siting of the garage needed to be viewed as a new application and on its own merits. The garage will be placed over Tower Ditch and Cllr MacKinnon explained that the ditch is not in a good state and she expressed concerns. Cllr Burton agreed and was worried about access to the culvert. Cllr MacKinnon advised that the ditch is ½ owned by the frontager and ½ by ESCC and it may be that the new Internal Drainage Board may take responsibility for its management. Cllr Peasgood felt that there were technical matters which he did not feel qualified to address.

It was proposed Cllr Pursglove, seconded Cllr Burton that Objections be raised on the basis of an unresolved Flood Risk Management scheme and the question of access for maintenance.

This was passed 9 for with 2 abstentions

Cllr Beaney, having been asked to report any plans from Westham Parish Council which were likely to affect PPC advised that an application has been submitted for 6 houses at Blackness by the bridge on the bypass. There seemed to be some dubiety about the precise site; Cllrs Peasgood and Beck did not agree with Cllr Beaney that there would be any effect on St. John's Trust.

## Advisory Officers Reports

### Sea Defences

Cllr Peasgood had nothing to report following Ian Thomas's presentation.

### Memorial Hall

Cllr. Beaney report is attached as an integral part of these minutes. He further advised that they had been successful in obtaining a grant from Wealden District Council to assist with further electrical work. Cllr Slater asked about the security chains; they are still being damaged on a regular basis and the Police have been informed without any success so far. Cllr Lowton expressed concerns that the lack of a visible police presence exacerbated these offences.

### **St. Wilfrid's's Hall**

Cllr Sargent reported that a fairly healthy balance of £28,000 is held – as a contingency for roof repairs which are likely to be required in the near future.

The level of bookings continue to be good.

During a recent asbestos check it has been found that the flooring has a low risk asbestos. There is no danger to hall users but the Chairman has been appointed to ensure that no unauthorised work is started on the flooring.

The Clerk advised that the Joy Brown Memorial Clock is due to be installed on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

### **St. John's Trust**

Nothing to report. The annual inspections of the properties will be commenced shortly. In response to a question from Cllr Sargent Cllr Beck advised that the sale of the land had fallen through again.

### **Town Trust**

A four page report had been submitted by Cllr Slater on behalf of a majority of Trustees. This had only just been received today and Cllr MacKinnon felt that she would need much more time to digest the facts. As there were some disagreements about the accuracy of the assertions it was proposed Cllr Hills seconded Cllr Beaney that the report be withdrawn to be re-presented at a future meeting. This was carried 8 for with 3 abstaining. (PL, RS and RP)

### **Sports Club**

Nothing to report. Cllr Lowton is setting up a meeting and an inspection of the Clubhouse.

### **WDALC**

Nothing to Report – next meeting 12<sup>th</sup> April 2017

### **Pevensey Senior Support Group**

In Cllr Brookbank's absence The Clerk reported that the internal ceiling tiles have now been replaced following the flood damage.

### **Pevensey Villages Partnership**

Nothing to Report. Cllr MacKinnon asked if an AGM date has been fixed yet? Cllr Lowton undertook to check.

**Cuckmere Community Bus**

Nothing to Report

**Tree Warden**

Nothing to Report

**Friends of Pevensey Bay Library**

As the group is no longer active it was proposed Cllr Burton, seconded Cllr Hills that the item be removed from future agendas. All Agreed.

**Committee Minutes**Planning

Proposed Cllr Lowton seconded Cllr Beaney that the Minutes of the Meetings held on 7<sup>th</sup> February and 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017 be accepted as a true and accurate record. All agreed.

Proposed Cllr Lowton seconded Cllr Slater that these Minutes be adopted by the Council. All agreed.

Recreation Ground and Beach

Proposed Cllr Sargent seconded Cllr Beaney that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017 be accepted as a true and accurate record. All agreed.

Proposed Cllr. Sargent seconded Cllr Pursglove that these Minutes be adopted by the Council. All agreed.

Highways and Byways

It was proposed Cllr Hills seconded Cllr Sargent that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017 be accepted as a true and accurate record. All agreed

Proposed Cllr Hills seconded Cllr. Benaey that these Minutes be adopted by the Council. All agreed.

Finance and General Purposes

Proposed Cllr Hills seconded Cllr Pursglove that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017 be accepted as a true and accurate record. All agreed.

Proposed Cllr Hills seconded Cllr Sargent that these Minutes be adopted by the Council. All agreed

The Next Meeting will be Committees to be held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at St. Wilfrid's Hall at 7pm.