



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held Monday 15th January 2024

7pm, Renshaw Room, Wivelsfield Village Hall

Agenda Item	Description	Resolved
Present:	Parish Councillors H Martin (Chair), I Haffenden, R Morris, S Morris and N Turner. Liz Gander (Clerk) and nine members of the public.	
1	<p>Apologies for Absence Apologies had been received from Parish Councillors Broad and Cumberland who were away, and from District Councillor Zoe Nicholson.</p>	
2	<p>Declarations of Members' Interests To receive declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda To receive (and grant if appropriate) written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests</p>	<p>CLlrs R & S Morris later declared an interest in item 5e.</p>
3	<p>Public Forum The majority of residents present at the meeting had attended in relation to item 5fii and their concerns about a potential development site off Theobalds Road which had been identified by Lewes District Council in its 'Development Capacity Study'.</p> <p>This desk-based study had bizarrely identified a supposed potential site for 44 dwellings, but on the land of ten existing homes. Concern and anger was expressed at the proposal, which residents found to be both unsettling and preposterous. No residents had been consulted about the suggestion, and no account had been taken of the fact that Theobalds Road as a private road and bridleway, which a former resident had recently proven was not to be used for vehicular access other than for existing properties, not to mention the covenants on the land (intended to protect the character of the area), existence of the Grade 2* Theobalds Farm and a medieval rabbit warren. The Council encouraged residents to write in to Lewes District Council to give feedback to this and other elements of the current Local Plan consultation (and to copy these to the Parish Council).</p> <p>The organiser of Wivelsfield Films and Community Speed Watch raised a couple of matters. In relation to Wivelsfield Films, he questioned whether it would be appropriate to submit a grant application this year and noted that, with a limited budget, it may be that the Council would have more pressing calls upon the grant money available. The Council encouraged the submission of an application, which could be reviewed alongside others.</p>	

		<p>He also wished to draw the Council's attention to the fact that, whilst the temporary Speed Indicator Device which has been in use on Green Road is proving very effective in slowing traffic, the batteries are very heavy and cumbersome to lift and transport, but need charging around every ten days (and take five hours each to charge). He still felt that batteries would perhaps be a more reliable option than a solar panel, but wondered whether having a second charger would be helpful.</p> <p>The final comment within the public forum was about the demolition and rebuilding of 'Lakedene' on Theobalds Road and residents' immense dismay that this had been allowed and that drainage requirements were said to be being ignored.</p>	
4	a b	<p>To Approve the Minutes of:</p> <p>The Parish Council meeting held 11th December 2023</p> <p>The Extra-Ordinary meeting held 2nd January 2024</p>	Both sets were approved, and signed by the Chair.
5	a b c d e f i. ii.	<p>Planning Matters</p> <p>New applications considered at the meeting:</p> <p><u>LW/23/0792 - Clearview (The Barn), Nursery Lane</u> - re-submission of LW/23/0648 - Erection of detached two bay, hipped-roof carport, removal of existing external timber staircase to side elevation with window replacing first floor entrance. Whilst the roofline of the proposed car port had been altered compared with the original application, the proposed footprint remains the same and is considered too big and overbearing for the site.</p> <p>Notices of Planning Approval Received (To note for information only)</p> <p><u>LW/23/0538 - Summerdale, North Common Road</u> - Drop kerb and driveway extension.</p> <p><u>LW/23/0241 - Kiplings, Nursery Lane</u> - Single storey rear extension, single storey first floor extension above existing attached garage.</p> <p>Notices of Application Refused (for information only)</p> <p><u>LW/23/0648 - Clearview, Nursery Lane</u> - Erection of detached two bay carport, removal of existing external timber staircase to side elevation with window replacing first floor entrance.</p> <p>Other Planning Matters</p> <p><u>LW/23/0532 - Site North of Slugwash Gardens, Slugwash Lane</u> - to agree a statement to be read at planning committee on 17th January. A statement to be read at Planning Committee by Councillor Martin was approved by Councillors Martin, Haffenden and Turner (Councillors R and S Morris abstained from the vote, owing to their interest in this item).</p> <p><u>Consultation on Lewes Local Plan - 'Towards a Lewes Local Plan: Spatial Strategy and Policy Directions':</u></p> <p>i. To review the consultation responses discussed on 2nd January, as drafted so far.</p> <p>ii. To consider and comment on Lewes District Council's assessments of the potential development sites put forward in Wivelsfield under the Land Availability Assessment.</p> <p>NB The consultation runs until 9am on 8th February and residents are encouraged to respond.</p>	<p>To object to this application for the reasons detailed.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Statement for Committee agreed.</p> <p>Members to review.</p> <p>Cllrs asked to review those sites with which they have some familiarity &</p>

			circulate comments.
6	<p>Financial Matters</p> <p>a <u>To approve this month's payments</u> – the Council approved fourteen payments totalling £10,442.45 (please see Appendix A for details).</p> <p>b <u>To consider the draft report of the Lewes District Independent Remuneration Committee on members' allowances and discuss, in principle (subject to the report being approved at cabinet next month), the allowance level the Council would wish to set for 2024-25</u> – after some debate, the Council agreed to award allowances of up to £750 per elected member, with an additional Chair's allowance of up to £750, assuming that the recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel are agreed by LDC's cabinet. Since allowances can only be paid to elected, not co-opted members, the Clerk was asked to investigate whether there is another way to remunerate co-opted members, since they perform the same role as those who were elected.</p> <p>c <u>To discuss and agree matters in relation to the opening of a public toilet at the Hall, to serve users of the recreation ground, and to consider associated cleaning quotes received</u> – the Council agreed with the Management Committee's proposal to have the accessible toilet at the Renshaw Room end of the building as the publicly available toilet. It felt that the toilet should be available during daylight hours all year round (subject to review as appropriate). It was considered sensible to have whoever is cleaning the rest of the Hall to also undertake additional cleans of the accessible toilet, with a proposal to start with one additional cleans per week between the end of October and mid-March, with two or three additional weekly cleans from mid-March to the end of October, possibly rising to daily during the school holidays if required (and to be reviewed after three months). It was proposed that the Council contribute £3k towards the cleaning costs, with the Hall providing toilet rolls and soap.</p> <p>d <u>To agree the budget for 2024-25</u> – the 2024-25 budget was agreed.</p> <p>e <u>To agree the precept to be requested for 2024-25</u> – a precept of £125,022 was agreed for the forthcoming financial year.</p>	<p>Payments approved.</p> <p>Allowance of up to £750 per elected councillor agreed, pending confirmation from LDC.</p> <p>To contribute £3k towards costs of cleaning the accessible toilet. Frequency of cleaning to vary depending on time of year and to be reviewed after three months.</p> <p>Budget agreed.</p> <p>Precept agreed at £125,022.</p>	
7	<p>Clerk's Report</p> <p>a <u>To discuss and agree meeting dates for the 2024-25 council year</u> - discussion took place as to whether to move meetings to a different night of the week, owing to the noise of the Salsa class next door, but it was agreed to continue with Mondays. Dates from May 2024-April 2025 were agreed. The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Wednesday 1st May.</p> <p>b GDPR training – to agree a date – it was proposed to request the training for 6th February.</p> <p>c <u>To approve the works brief for street lighting</u> – agreed.</p> <p>d <u>Action list</u> – to be updated.</p>	<p>Meeting dates agreed.</p> <p>Date proposed for training.</p> <p>Works brief approved.</p>	
8	<p>Reports from Parish Councillors</p> <p>a <u>Meeting between the Chair of the Parish Council and Hall's Management Committee</u> – a positive meeting had taken place and it was agreed that a draft memorandum of understanding will be produced by the PC's Chair, to be reviewed, refined and updated as appropriate, prior to being presented to both bodies for agreement.</p>	<p>Chair to draft memorandum of understanding.</p>	

9		<p>Reports from District & County Councillors, MP & PCSO An email had been received from District Councillor Zoe Nicholson and would be circulated to members.</p>	
10		<p>Items to be taken to the Next Lewes District Association of Local Councils (LDALC) Meeting A date of 12th February has been arranged for the next LDALC meeting, but the Chair is unable to attend & will send apologies.</p>	
11	<p>a b c</p>	<p>Correspondence – to review the items below plus any others arriving between the publication of the agenda and the meeting 80th anniversary of D-Day Further correspondence re the Wivelsfield School bus Request for purchase of additional 'leaf grabber'. It was agreed to allow the leaf grabber to be kept in the vicinity of the bridleway at which it is most used, rather than purchasing a second at this stage.</p>	<p>Noted. Noted.</p>
13	a	<p>Items for Noting or Inclusion on Next Agenda To explore the possibility of co-opted councillors being able to claim something akin to the allowances made available to elected members.</p>	
14	a	<p>Date of Next Meeting Monday 5th February 2024</p>	

Accounts Approved for Payment at the Meeting of 15th January 2024**New Items for Payment Approval**

Payee	Expenditure	Value	Total	Payment Type	Voucher Ref
		£	£		
General Expenditure					
Salaries	January 24		2484.44	Online	887
East Sussex Pension Fund	Pension contributions January 24		890.80	Online	888
HMRC	Quarter 3 PAYE & NIC		3493.81	Online	889
Lewes District Council	Car park & pavilion bin emptying December 23		38.40	Online	890
Lewes District Council	Charters Gate Way dog bin emptying January 24		93.60	Online	891
Lewes District Council	Outdoor Gym & Play Area Inspection January 24		36.00	Online	892
Lewes District Council	Litter bin emptying 1 Jan – 31 March 24		93.60	Online	893
Lewes District Council	Dog bin emptying 1 Jan – 31 March 24		655.20	Online	894
Sage UK Ltd	January 24 Sage 50 Accounts subscription		92.40	DD	895
Tetrabyte	IT support & Office 365 Licences		146.27	DD	896
GeoXsphere Ltd	Parish Online Mapping Service		90.00	Online	897
BT	Quarterly phone & broadband		179.92	DD	898
Wivelsfield Village Hall	Hire of Renshaw Room for 2 nd Jan Extra-Ordinary Meeting		36.00	Online	899
Barcombe Landscapes	Maintenance of recreation ground, war memorial and grass verges		2112.01	Online	900
Total General Expenditure			10,442.45		