



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held Monday 6th March 2023

7pm, Renshaw Room, Wivelsfield Village Hall

Agenda Item		Description	Resolved
Present:		Parish Councillors I Dawson (Chair), H Martin (Vice-Chair), I Haffenden, S Morris, R Morris, C Broad and D Cumberland. Liz Gander (Clerk), two members of the public and District Councillor Bikson.	
Open Forum:		Queries were raised about progress with the temporary SID (work ongoing) and West Wood (where the owner is looking to open up some additional paths).	
1	a	Apologies for Absence <u>To note any apologies for absence from this meeting</u> – County Councillor Milligan had sent his apologies, but confirmed that he will be at the Annual Community Meeting on Wednesday.	
2	a	Declarations of Members' Interests <u>To receive declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda</u> – Councillor S Morris declared a personal interest in agenda item 5b as she is a committee member of Wivelsfield Films. Councillor Cumberland similarly declared a personal interest in item 5b as his wife is involved with organisation of the Tea Club.	Personal interests declared re item 5b.
	b	To receive (and grant if appropriate) written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests	
3	a	To Approve the Minutes of: The Parish Council Meeting held 6 th February 2023	Approved & signed.
4	a	Planning Matters New applications considered at the meeting <u>LW/22/0858 - 1 Croft Cottages, North Common Road</u> - Single storey first floor pitched roof extension.	To support the application.
	b	<u>DM/22/2272 - Land At Hurst Farm, Hurstwood Lane</u> - Amended land use, building heights parameters and access plans, and additional information regarding drainage, agricultural land classification, highways matters and burial ground and water quality, in respect of the outline application with all matters reserved except for access for the erection of up-to 375 new homes, a two-form entry primary school, burial ground, allotments, open space with associated infrastructure, landscaping and parking areas. Whilst the Council voted 4:3 in favour of a neutral response to the latest plans, significant concerns remain about the traffic impact of this development, including:	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The risks of additional traffic coming out onto the B2112, Fox Hill, creating an accident blackspot • The cumulative effect of this development, plus the development of 96 homes off the B2112, Ditchling Road, Wivelsfield, recently approved at appeal, causing additional pressure on the local road network • The additional traffic volumes that are likely to be pushed down Slugwash Lane, as a result of Hurstwood Lane being shut as a through route. <p>Approval of Planning Appeal (for information only)</p> <p><u>LW/21/0729 - Land east of Ditchling Road</u> - demolition of a redundant barn and associated structures, the erection of up to 96 No. residential dwellings, including 40% affordable housing, allotments, provision of pedestrian and vehicular access, open space, associated infrastructure and, with all matters reserved except access.</p> <p>Maria Caulfield MP has confirmed that she will be writing to the Secretary of State to see if anything can be done about this disappointing result.</p>	
	c		
	d	<p>Other Planning Matters</p> <p><u>Updating of the Lewes Rural Settlement Study and invitation to review the supplied appraisal of services in the settlements document</u> – the Council had reviewed the appraisal of services document supplied and felt that it was extremely poor and inaccurate. The Clerk to relay these comments and supply an annotated copy of the document highlighting the inaccuracies, for Lewes District Council's (LDC's) information.</p>	Inaccuracies to be reported to LDC.
	e	<p><u>Invitation to give input into the method for conducting community consultation re the 45 homes development on South Road</u> – the Council was disappointed that the planners were proposing to run a consultation during the first week of the school Easter holidays. The Clerk to request that the date is moved to outside the Easter holiday period and that, if possible, the consultation takes place at Wivelsfield Primary School, starting around end of school time, to facilitate greater footfall/feedback. The Council to seek a meeting with the planners before the consultation.</p>	To request a change to the proposed consultation date and venue, along with a meeting with the Council.
5		<p>Financial Matters</p> <p><u>General Finance</u></p>	
	a	To approve items of expenditure – the Council approved payment of nineteen items totalling £20,013.43 (please see Appendix A for details).	All payments approved.
	b	<p>To consider grant applications received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Wivelsfield Football Club for new goal posts</u> – a grant of £560 agreed. • <u>Wivelsfield Cricket Club for pitch maintenance</u> – further information to be sought about where the revenue for pitch hire goes and what the costs of pitch maintenance are. To be reviewed again at next meeting. • <u>Wivelsfield Community Tea Club towards costs of refreshments & entertainment</u> – grant of £400 agreed. (Cllr Cumberland abstained from the vote as his wife is involved in the Tea Club). • <u>Wivelsfield Films</u> – grant of £500 agreed to help maintain this facility whilst they try to rebuild visitor numbers that were hit by covid and have not yet recovered. (Cllr S Morris abstained from the vote as she is involved with the organisation of Wivelsfield Films). • <u>Wivelsfield Church towards churchyard maintenance</u> - £2500 grant agreed. 	<p>Some grants agreed as detailed.</p> <p>Discussion of others to be deferred to next meeting, pending further information.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Wivelsfield School PTA for a notice board</u> – the PTA had suggested that the PC may be able to use some space in the notice board. The Clerk to ascertain how much space it could have and whether, if being provided with an additional place to advertise meetings etc, it would be appropriate for the Council to purchase the notice board and gift it, as a grant in-kind, to the school. Discussion to take place at next meeting once further information has been obtained. • <u>Wivelsfield Primary School re Nursery</u> – the Council wished to know more about how the Wrens Nursery will be financed and whether places will be available for free or charged at commercial rates. It was also keen to find out where the balance of funds needed to equip the Nursery would come from. Discussion to be deferred to next meeting, pending further information. 	
6	<p>a <u>Actions list</u> – the Clerk to have a focus on projects next week.</p> <p>b <u>Annual Parish Meeting preparation</u> – all arrangements are in hand for Wednesday's meeting, with a number of clubs, Wivelsfield's PCSO and Parish, District and County Councillors planning to attend.</p> <p>c <u>Allotments</u> – the Council had approached St George's regarding the possibility of renting or buying some land by Dumbrell's Cottages for allotments, but this had been turned down. The application for 96 homes off Ditchling Road recently approved does however include space for allotments.</p> <p>d <u>West Wood</u> – the owner of West Wood has advised that he will be opening up some additional paths in the coming weeks.</p> <p>e <u>Street lighting update</u> – the East Sussex County Council Lighting Supervisor had advised that whilst they hope to replace the Downsview Drive lighting column previously approved by Council this month, the work to the one on Ditchling Road will need to wait until the new Highways contract comes into effect in May. He also wished to make the Council aware of new 'smart cities' technology for street lights, which will not only allow lights to be monitored and lighting schedules to be altered remotely, but will allow for the installation of sensors and monitors that can be used to collect other useful data. For future-proofing purposes, the lighting units that Highways will specify going forwards will have the capacity to accommodate these features.</p> <p>f <u>IT matters</u> – the Clerk updated the Council with recommendations from a discussion held with the Council's IT contractors.</p>		
7	<p>a <u>Reports from Councillors</u></p> <p>a <u>Feedback from the Village Hall Management Committee</u> – the Chair advised of some changes in the Management Committee composition/staffing of the Hall.</p> <p>b <u>Update from the Lewes District Association of Local Councils (LDALC) meeting</u> – it had been suggested that the town and parish councils are not making the most of membership of the LDALC. Consequently, councils are recommended to put a standing item on their agendas, to consider items to put forward for discussion at LDALC.</p> <p>c <u>Feedback from meeting with the Police Commissioner</u> – the next meeting will be held in May, so the Council should let Councillor Martin know of any items to be raised.</p> <p>d <u>Wivelsfield News content</u> – owing to some concerns about how politicised some of Maria Caulfield's content for the Wivelsfield News has been recently,</p>	<p>Standing item to be included on future agendas.</p> <p>Council to advise of any items for discussion.</p>	

	e	<p>the Council resolved to review her articles as to whether it is felt appropriate to include them in the magazine.</p> <p><u>Ownership of Village Hall and Recreation Ground</u> – upon reviewing the Hall's Constitution, Councillor Martin advised that it is clear that the Wivelsfield Village Hall & Recreation Ground charity owns the Village Hall and Recreation Ground and that the Council's role of Custodian Trustee is limited to holding the title deeds.</p>	Articles to be reviewed before inclusion.
8	a b c d e	<p>Correspondence – to review the items below plus any others arriving between the publication of the agenda and the meeting</p> <p>Letter from Hadlow Down PC regarding the state of East Sussex Highways and requesting support for collective action – the Council was supportive of this letter.</p> <p>Intervention made at meeting of ESALC on behalf of Chiddingly PC and Working Group on Over-Development – the Council was supportive of this stance.</p> <p>ESALC intervention on the Standard Method – noted.</p> <p>Funding opportunity – Asda Foundation – noted.</p> <p>Request for a skip to be temporarily located in the Church Lane car park – agreed as long as tucked in the corner out of the way.</p>	
9	a b c d	<p>Items for Noting or Inclusion on Next Agenda</p> <p>Village Hall trustees</p> <p>Feedback from Annual Community Meeting</p> <p>Grant applications for discussion</p> <p>Reports from District and County Councillors and PCSO</p>	
10	a	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Monday 3rd April 2023 – Parish Council Meeting</p>	

Appendix A

Accounts for Payment for the Meeting of 6th March 2023

Payments Approved at the Meeting

Payee	Expenditure	Value	Total	Payment Type	Voucher Ref
		£	£		
General Expenditure					
Salaries	March 23		2305.11	Online	722
East Sussex Pension Fund	Pension contributions March 23		865.73	Online	723
HMRC	PAYE & NI Quarter 4		3112.07	Online	724
Lewes District Council	Outdoor Gym & Play Area Inspection March 23		36.00	Online	725
Lewes District Council	Charters Gate Way Dog Bin Emptying March 23		93.60	Online	726
Lewes District Council	Litter bin emptying pavilion and car park – February 22		33.60	Online	727
Transparity Solutions Ltd	Feb 2023 Office 365 Subscription		49.08	Online	728
Sage UK Ltd	March 23 Sage 50 Accounts subscription		86.40	DD	729
Trident Computers UK Ltd	IT contract April 23		60.60	Online	730
PWLB Lending Facility	2 nd annual loan repayment 2022-23, for Village Hall Improvement Project		7,546.46	DD	731
Village Day	Grant agreed at February meeting		4,500.00	Online	732
E Pascoe	Leaf grabber		29.98	Online	733
Main Event Ltd	Supply of 12 bases for display boards		403.20	Online	734
EAC Software Ltd	Annual website hosting		156.00	Online	735
SLCC	Arnold Baker Council Administration 13 th Edition		141.80	Online	736
E Gander	Office stationery		50.90	Online	737
I Dawson	Chairs & Member's Allowance 1 Oct 22 – 31 March 23		293.40	Online	738
I Haffenden	Member's Allowance 1 Oct 22 – 31 March 23		195.50	Online	739
Wivelsfield Village Hall	Booking of Main Hall for Annual Community Meeting		54.00	Online	740
Total Expenditure			20,013.43		