

1/08/9/2020

TICEHURST PARISH COUNCIL

The Village Hall, Lower High Street, Ticehurst, East Sussex, TN5 7BB
Telephone 01580 754090 Email: clerk@ticehurstparishcouncil.co.uk
Clerk: Francesca Nowne

MINUTES

Members of Ticehurst Parish Council were summoned to attend the Annual Meeting of Ticehurst Parish Council on Tuesday 8th September 2020 – Ticehurst Village Hall at 7.00 p.m. via zoom.

Present: Cllrs. Burley, Crawley, Flory, Galpin, Ham, Killeen, Lansdowne, LeBouedec, Lloyd, Luckhurst, and Young.

In attendance D. Cllr. Barnes and C. Cllr. Barnes.

2669.0 Election of Chairman: Cllr. Lloyd proposed that Cllr. Burley be appointed as Chairman of the council, this motion was seconded by Cllr. Crawley and there was a unanimous show of hands. Cllr. Burley then chaired the meeting.

2670.0 Election of Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Luckhurst proposed that Cllr. Lloyd be appointed as Vice-Chair and this motion was seconded by Cllr. Ham with a unanimous show of hands.

2671.0 Clerk had circulated ‘acceptance of **electronic copies**’ of council papers to all councillors. Cllrs. unanimously voted to accept the circulation of council papers by email.

2672.0 To adopt the power of Competence: Criteria for compliance had been met by the council (80% elected members and a qualified clerk) and it was unanimously resolved to adopt the Power of Competence.

2673.0 Adjournment for public questions and comments:

Up to thirty minutes were allowed at the start of the meeting for public questions and comments on relevant matters on the agenda in accordance with Standing Order 1 d. The Chairman reminded the public that they had a right and were welcome to stay and observe the rest of the meeting in accordance with Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s1.

There were two members of the public present.

Matters raised:

- The chairman of the newly organised Ticehurst Business Group addressed councillors about strong concerns raised at their first meeting on the draft proposals to limit parking in the village square and in the upper part of Church Street. They feel that Ticehurst enjoys a large and diverse range of shops and potential customers should be able to park as near as possible to their businesses.
- It was explained that the purpose of the individual shop consultations had been to ensure that all views were taken into account and that this information will be provided to the traffic consultants so that amendments to the current draft plans
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could take their views into account.

- Rother are just beginning to bring in Civil Parking Enforcement and although Ticehurst is not being considered in the first phase it is hoped that by 2021 time will be spent on ascertaining what time limits for parking would be appropriate for the village centre.
- The clerk asked if the PC would be asked to be part of the Ticehurst Business Group as they raise and spend over £140,000.00 in the parish each year.
- Councillors were asked if they were planning on holding a meeting in the village hall soon - it was hoped that restrictions might be lifted for the October meeting date. *However, since the meeting further restrictions have been imposed from Monday 14th September, making this extremely unlikely.*

2674.0 District and County Councillors: Written reports were requested as papers to distribute with agenda to members. Cllrs. Barnes's internet quality was poor and they sent in the following comments by email:

CPE – This will be introduced towards the end of September with a 6 month review period. Cllr. Barnes suggested that Ticehurst should be asking now to be considered for the second wave of roll out.

Cllr. J Barnes reported that he has been nominated as one of the four Rother Members on the Housing Company.

He further reported that ESCC have a Public Health Plan in place. There is likely to be a £7 million budget deficit, met by reserves and it is anticipated that the next financial year will be difficult for both Rother and ESCC.

Consideration will be given to the area becoming a unitary authority.

2675.0 Declarations of Interest: There were no declarations of interest expressed by councillors under the terms of the Council's Code of Conduct and Localism Act 2011 s.31.

2676.0 Apologies for absence: Due to the corona virus pandemic it was agreed that cllrs. apologies for the five month period were acceptable to members. Apologies and reasons for absence were provided by Cllrs. Flory, Rednap and Barrow - clerk to make them aware of the 6 month ruling on meeting attendance in accordance with LGA 1972 s.85.

2677.0 Adoption of the Minutes: of the meeting held on 3rd March 2020 were proposed by Cllr. Burley and seconded by Cllr. Killeen approving and authorising the Chairman to sign as a correct record in accordance with LGA 1972 Sch. 12 para 41 (1).

2678.0 Village Centre : Report from Cllrs. Killeen and Young.

- It was reported that a major South – East Water main had been discovered near Pickforde Lane junction and that this would be repaired in due course - a temporary surface had been laid over the area and full matching surfacing would take place after the mains has been fixed.
- Cllr. Young reported that she had been told that the indented strips would be put down on 9th September and that the village square would be resurfaced from 10th September. The white lines painted on the new red surfacing will be removed.

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- There had been significant drainage improvements in the Wallcrouch area.
- Cllrs. and the clerk were asked to consider where a stock of the red chips could be stored.
- The parish are still awaiting a license to install metal poles in the verges for the installation of the speed activated devices.
- I transport are working to convince ESCC that an informal crossing in the village centre would be safe and legal. Next meeting will be early October 2020.

Use of St Mary's Lane during road works. Cars had been attempting to go the wrong way up St Mary's Lane during the current road works. Jo Goodsell was thanked for her constant assistance as a local resident.

Fast food provision - electricity usage. It was resolved that the clerk should contact BT and have the electricity supply transferred to Ticehurst Parish Council so that consideration could be given to renting out use of the power to local visitors/traders.

Bus route diversion of 254. Clerk reported that she had received complaints about the diversion route, but this has since been resolved satisfactorily.

2679.0 Corner Farm: The hall and shop should be handed over within the next few weeks. It was resolved that the shop extension plans should not be submitted until land ownership was with the Flimwell Hall Trust.

2680.0 Playground Inspections: To receive Playground reports from Cllrs. – written reports to be distributed prior to the meeting – report on meeting with Play Safety.

Flimwell - Cllr. Ham had circulated a report – no problems at the Flimwell recreation ground.

Farthing Hill - Cllr. Young reported that the latch on the gate didn't work which was allowing dogs to enter the area and that she had wrapped tape around a fraying wire

Ticehurst – Cllr. Lloyd reported that the children's cycle route had been re-painted, twenty tonnes of bark had been spread in the play areas. He had had several work parties on site during lock-down, spraying weeds and freeing up the drainage system around the multi-court.

Stonegate – Cllr. Luckhurst reported that the gate latch did not work and that the hedge and exterior bramble needed to be cleared.

Stonegate Recreation Ground: Cllr. Lloyd reported that following meetings with the Forestry Commission, he had organised for six failing Ash trees to be dismantled within the next fortnight.

It was resolved that the clerk should order 5 tonnes of bark chippings for each of the Flimwell and Stonegate playgrounds.

Lund Fund – application for works at Ticehurst Pond was partially successful. Clerk has accepted on behalf of the council and the money would be spent on laying the hedge when appropriate.

2681.0 Neighbourhood Plan Action Template: It was reported that several matters raised by the public during the consultation process were in hand:

- The identification of sites for solar installation are to be listed and assessed towards achieving a local energy plan.
- Village Centre plans are undergoing phase I – the resurfacing of the road.
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- Traffic consultants are working to convince ESCC that an informal crossing in the centre of the village was legal and acceptable.
- It is hoped that the Banky Field 106 monies will provide an informal, across country route to Tinkers Lane improving connectivity.
- Prospective purchasers of Dalesdown, opposite Dale Hill Golf Course are being asked to consider providing a strip of land to make pedestrian passage towards the village safer.

2682.0 Finance Report: Internal Audit took place on 15th June 2020 – notice to electors posted on 16th June 2020. Cllrs. resolved to authorise the clerk to send the accounts to the external auditor. It was resolved that the 2021 budget should be worked on during October and that the advice of the internal auditor, to budget for three years should be followed. Clarification on the ownership of the shop at Flimwell should be sought.

List of cheques for sanctioning were approved and would be signed by two councillors over the next few days (clerk to deliver cheque book to signatories).

Report of expenditure against budget report circulated and accepted by councillors

Bank reconciliation circulated 8.9.20 and accepted by councillors.

Insurance Claim on Loos at Recreation Ground: Awaiting works date for repairs.

It was resolved that the pledged sum of money towards the roof repairs at Stonegate Hall should be sent to them. Clerk to action.

Cheque	Amount	To whom	For:
000622	1410.00	Bournes	Chippings
000623	229.20	Travis Perkins	Paint for cycle route
000624	900.00	Safe Play	Inspections – annual
000625	69.37	Amberol	Hanging basket
000626	221.76	Europlants	Watering and maintenance
000627	1400.00	S Colvin	Hedging contract
000628	859.46	Countrymans	Mowing Contract
000629		Castle Water	Water allotments and loos

2683.0 Council Policies: To consider the policies and ensure that they are relevant to council business – policies circulated in advance of the meeting - additional risk assessment policy for consideration.

Standing Orders,	Freedom of Information,	Financial Regulations
Register of interests	Code of Conduct	Complaints Procedure
Disciplinary Policy	Equal Opportunities statement	Grant awarding policy
Risk Management	Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults	
Statement of intent as to community engagement		Training Policy.

It was unanimously resolved to adopt all policies and that the Risk Management Policy would be improved upon by Cllrs. Killeen and Young, together with the clerk.

Representation of the PC at Bewl is carried out by the clerk and Cllr. Lloyd.

The Battle Bus bookings are still taken by P Langdown.

The Ticehurst Bell Field Co Ltd - parish representation is Cllr. Burley and due to the death of Manon Goodall (former parish Council chairman) another director is needed. Clerk to arrange for a meeting of the directors of the Ticehurst Bell Field Co Ltd.

2684.0 Planning Report: To receive report on applications of concern - Planning Committee have met throughout lock-down with delegated powers to comment to Local Authority on planning applications since the last meeting in March – minutes had been circulated to all councillors.

Cherry Tree Nursery - application RR/2020/174/P was refused 30th June 2020.

Bantham Farm – There was some discussion about whether the 10 years of repeated applications on this site could be considered to be vexatious, however, Cllr. Galpin and the clerk advised that individuals were free to make applications.

Three Leg Cross –Cllr. Lloyd reported that the Forestry Commission had put stop notice on tree surgeons felling Oaks, but they had failed to comply and a prosecution is being considered.

Bewl Water – caravan park – Cllr. Lloyd reported that there are caravans on the site.

Vineyard – Pashley Road - Cllr. Lloyd reported that the mobile caravan has been occupied again – Rother have issued the owner with a notice to leave.

Land on Flimwell Road – potential breach of TPO – land at Seacockers has been cleared and it appears that the grubbing out of the tree roots contravenes the permission given.

Singehurst – email circulated about economic viability of the application for ten dwellings with no affordable provision - It was resolved that as the developer had waited for the Neighbourhood Plan process to be finalised and followed the design guidance suggested by the parish council and the HWU , reducing the number of properties to ten, that there was no expectation of on-site affordable housing. However it was felt that a commutable sum or contribution, (retained within Ticehurst) should be provided with the application. *The clerk subsequently informed the developers that a contribution to sports facilities or towards an informal crossing were high on the Neighbourhood Plan Action List.*

Cllr. Lloyd reported that a group of councillors, together with the core team of the Neighbourhood Planning group had met to consider the Local Plan information that RDC had circulated and drafted a response – Cllr. Burley proposed and Cllr. Killeen seconded the motion for the letter to be sent – resolved unanimously.

2685.0 Risk Assessment Risk to council – all PC information is on a private computer. It was resolved that the recently re-built computer, that was partly paid for by the parish council should become their property. Clerk to arrange appropriate insurance.

2686.0 Salvation Army Clothes Bin – It was resolved to look at areas in the recreation ground for the re-siting of the bin. Removal of the bin from Pickforde Lane Car Park should provide another three parking spaces.

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2687.0 Meeting with Fernham Homes at Goudhurst: Cllr. Lloyd reported that the potential developers had co-operated with the parish, the HWU providing samples of materials, reinstating the pond within the plans. Cllr. Mary Barnes added that she felt Mark Cathcart, the planning officer had worked hard to ensure that this would be a quality development. The clerk reported on the Japanese Knotweed issue on the site.

2688.0 Banky Field Update – ditch and 106 land. Cllr. Galpin had provided plans to independent engineer, who will book an appointment to visit the site to ensure building regulation and land level compliance.

2689.0 Lighting: Column in St Mary’s Lane due for refurbishment. UKPN to book in.

2690.0 Trees at Marlpit Gardens: RW Green have offered to replace the new plantings It was resolved to replace with Crab Apples.

2691.0 Bollards on the High Street:

Wadhurst Parish Council had informed ESCC that they wanted the same bollards that have been installed in Ticehurst High Street. ESCC subsequently contacted Ticehurst PC about the installation of bollards without the necessary licensing. It was agreed that the Council supported the private installation and would like to see them retained.

It was resolved that consideration should be given to installing bollards on the western edge of the village square island to prevent more damage to the Hornbeam trees, in particular by fast food outlets with heated chimneys and generators.

2692.0 Schedule of Works: Any matters relating to schedule circulated during lock-down - nil

2693.0 Items for the October Agenda: Committee membership

The chairman thanked all those who had joined Ticehurst Community Friends to assist during lock-down. Their extraordinary efforts, together with the shop owners, had assisted many vulnerable people and families. The Church and News & Views financial assistance had greatly assisted with this work.

2694.0 Date of the next meeting: The meeting closed at 9.15 pm 6th October 2020

Cllrs. Galpin, Lansdowne and the clerk stayed on line to draft a face book response to inaccurate information posted about the High Street road works and considered the need for a parish face book page.

Signed.....Chairman

Dated.....