

Minutes: Monday 14th December 2015 Icklesham Memorial Hall at 7:15 pm

Present: Councillors: Ms J Austen, R Davis, J Horsman, Mrs C Merricks, A Moore, C Pope, Mrs J Stanford, S Tollett, S Turner and N Warren.

In attendance: A Evett (Clerk) and J Cannings (Deputy Clerk.)

15/259 Item 1 Welcome to the meeting by the Chairman. The Vice Chairman, Cllr Horsman, welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that he would be chairing the meeting in Cllr P Turner's absence.

15/260 Item 2 Questions from the public. Mr Smedley of Winchelsea read out a statement about the Rye Harbour car park and public conveniences agenda item summarised as follows: the agenda did not go up in Winchelsea until Saturday afternoon so the three days clear notice was not adhered to; the council has reneged on commitments made at the Parish Meeting on 25 April; the deliberations of the working group have been inadequate; there is a sensible alternative; a Parish Poll will be called if a decision is made tonight without consultation; a draft risk management policy is needed (*the whole statement is on the website.*) The Clerk confirmed that the meeting notice had been posted on three parish noticeboards on the Wednesday before the meeting and will find out why the Winchelsea notice was posted late; the meeting is therefore legal. Cllr Tollett confirmed that a public meeting was planned for January 2016 to allow residents to express their views about the transfer of lease and that there was information on the council website. Mr Hopkins of Winchelsea said that there had been a lack of communication and that more needed to be done to consult residents. Cllr Tollett explained that a working group consisting of councillors and residents had been set up and that Mr Smedley was a member. He said that working group members were there to represent residents' views and communicate/consult with them. He re-iterated that information was on the website. He confirmed that revenue streams had been investigated as detailed in his report.

Ms Clarke of Icklesham read out a statement about the Icklesham Pavilion item summarised as follows (*and on the website:*) Villagers would like the project to get going as soon as possible; the recent amendments to the footprint and siting has raised concerns; why can't the building be on the existing site as voted for unanimously in May 2012; can the council visit the site and have the proposed building marked? Cllr Warren explained the process that the working group went through to arrive at the recommendations in the report and that the Icklesham Trusts and other stakeholders have been consulted. Mr Baker of Icklesham echoed Ms Clarke's comments and said that five members of the football club had wanted to be present at the meeting to express their views but were at a cup final game.

Mr Slavin of Rye Harbour expressed his concerns about two twenty tonne trucks overtaking along the Harbour Road. He asked that Rother District Council (RDC) undertake an environmental survey to measure the diesel particulates connected with the planning application for a decorative gravel plant in Rye Harbour.

15/261 Item 3 Reports from County & District Councillors. Cllr Glazier (ESCC) reported that potholes are being repaired but residents should continue to report new ones as they appear. All potholes reported to him tonight will be passed to the highways steward. He reported that the Rye Harbour sign was back up and said that the speeding in Harbour Road was mainly about driver behaviour. He confirmed that there will be a traffic survey of the Rye Harbour – Rye junction at the main road. Cllr Mrs Stanford thanked him for the sign and said that at the bend of Harbour Road parked cars were forcing other cars into the centre of the road and asked if yellow lines were an option. Cllr Glazier will look into this but there are reduced funds and a lack of enforcement. Cllr Warren asked about the Fire Authority Review and Cllr Glazier explained that this was a Fire Authority consultation and not a county one.

Rother Councillors Mrs Hart and Osborne were not present (at a RDC meeting) but Cllr Mrs Hart's report is on the website.

15/262 Item 4 Apologies for absence. Apologies had been received from Cllr Mrs Lyward, Cllrs Sutton and P Turner and RDC councillors Mrs Hart and Cllr Osborne.

15/263 Item 5 Disclosures of Interests. Cllr Warren declared a personal interest in item 7.

15/264 Item 6 It was resolved to approve the signing by the Chairman of the minutes of the Council meeting of 9th November 2015.

Matters Requiring a Decision by the Council

15/265 Item 7 Recommendations from the Open Spaces Working Group including a proposal for the Icklesham Pavilion. *Cllr Warren repeated his personal interest.* The minutes of the meeting of 17th November were noted and that costings for work at Pear Tree Marsh Allotments would be brought back to the council for approval. About the pavilion, Cllr Mrs Merricks explained that following a public meeting in May 2012 it was decided that a new pavilion building would be built. In December 2014 the Trust wrote to the Parish Council about the proposed siting of the new building. The demolition of the existing building was not mentioned. Cllr Warren went through the options detailed in his report and the feedback that had been given on the preferred option. The recent business plan had been circulated to Trust members. However as amendments were needed it was not discussed at the recent Trust Committee's meeting. The chairman asked for views from each councillor in turn. The general consensus was that a new pavilion on the existing site was supported in principle, but with site, size and configuration issues for a larger building that would seem to be too big for the existing site. The Chairman suspended standing orders for members of the public to express their views, summarised as follows: Mr Gilbert of Icklesham said that the planned building would obstruct his view and the value of his home would be diminished, also that funds had been raised by the community for a different proposal; Ms Selleck was opposed to option 6a in the report and said that the existing pavilion site should be used; Mr Baker said that residents had not been consulted on all options; Ms Lee asked that the footprint of the proposed site be spray painted on the ground to show its actual size; Mr Baker said that there was frustration amongst residents and that a way forward was needed. Councillors considered the feedback from residents and concurred that a new pavilion on the existing site, as long as it was a sensible size, would be the best option and would not compete with the Memorial Hall. A vote was taken to agree that the original proposal be amended as follows: **The Council agrees in principle to a new building on the existing site, the outline size to be agreed but increased if possible – resolved.** There followed a round of applause by members of the public who expressed their thanks for the decision. Cllr Pope added that there was no water supply at the Pear Tree Marsh allotments and that this should be treated as a high priority. He was invited to attend the next working group meeting on the 25th January 2016.

15/266 Item 8 It was resolved to accept the recommendation of the Open Spaces Working Group to purchase the new play equipment from HAGS SMP for £18,781.66 and Wicksteed for £8,984 totalling £27,765.66 to be funded from a public works loan board loan (PWLB) and a grant from Rother District Council (50/50/.) In the event that a grant application is unsuccessful the project will be funded in full from a PWLB loan.

15/267 Item 9 Rye Harbour Car Park and Public Conveniences Transfer of Lease from RDC. Cllr Tollett outlined the proposal and the options considered by the working group, explaining that option 3, donations, was unanimously the preferred option of the group. Without donations a typical band D council tax would increase by £16 per household but with donations the increase would be less than £2. He further explained that a Parish Meeting was planned for January (date to be confirmed) but the working group was seeking endorsement of their proposal from the Council before proceeding with this. The Chairman suspended standing orders so that Mr Mears, Mr Smedley and Mr Hopkins all of Winchelsea could express their views. Concerns were raised about the membership of the working group and that a Winchelsea resident joined later than others, consultation hadn't been undertaken and communications were lacking. Cllr Tollett advised that the working group should have been consulting and communicating with residents and information was on the Parish Council website. Cllr Mrs Stanford explained that this project was for the benefit of the whole Parish. Cllr Warren expressed a concern about the profit sharing arrangements with RDC and proposed an amendment to the resolution. A vote was taken to agree an amendment to the resolution as follows: **It be resolved that the full council ratify the proposals that: RDC be advised that Icklesham Parish Council will take on the 99 year lease for Rye Harbour car park and toilets, subject to the council not having to share profits on the first £20,000, that the lease be signed, that the costs of the car park and toilets be met by option 3, voluntary donations from the car park users, the maintenance of the garden areas of the car park and toilets be carried out by volunteers with Sussex Wildlife Trust acting as consultants regarding the type and variety of plants to create wildlife gardens and that public consultation is held by way of a parish meeting before resolving to sign the lease – resolved.**

15/268 Item 10 It was resolved to agree the final expenditure budget of £166,710 with a precept of £103,811 as detailed in the report and to authorise the Clerk and RFO to submit the precept application for £103,811 to Rother District Council.

15/269 Item 11 The future of audit procurement in the Sector Led Body. It was resolved to use the service of the Sector Led Body for procurement of audit services.

15/270 Item 12 It was resolved to accept all recommendations from the Internal Auditor including performing a financial risk assessment, adoption of a code of conduct for employees, and that procedures are put in place for correspondence, consultation and complaints and enquiries as detailed in the report.

15/271 Item 13 It was resolved to adopt the draft Safeguarding Policy.

15/272 Item 14 It was resolved to adopt the Equality Impact Assessment form and to authorise the paid officers to complete the assessment on behalf of the council and to approve the completed form for use with the grant application for the play equipment.

15/273 Item 15 'We are watching you' dog fouling campaign - it was resolved to purchase 10 signs and 10 stickers at a cost of £300 plus VAT to be funded from 2233 signs (overspend noted)

15/274 Item 16 Financial Matters

Resolved:

- a. Receipts and payments report for November 2015.
- b. Items of payment for December 2015. A list of payments was tabled totalling £8,704.54 represented by bank transfers T117 to T130 sequentially totalling £8,378.27, plus 2 direct debits totalling £96.27 and a standing order of £230.00. November 2015 receipts totalled £525.64.

Matters for information or noting.

15/278 Item 17 Programme of works for November. Noted and Cllr Tollett will ask the young resident from Rye Harbour for his proposals for painting the bus shelter. The Clerk was asked to let Cllr S Turner know about hearing loop information when she has it.

15/279 Item 18 Report back from Planning Committee. Minutes of 9th and 23rd November 2015 were noted.

15/280 Item 19 Correspondence letter of thanks from Nr T Sims from the Rye Short Mat Bowls Club was noted.

15/281 Item 20 Reports from Councillors attending events. Cllr Mrs Merricks attended the Rye Harbour Nature Reserve Management Committee meeting, Camber Castle was discussed, also the changes to English Heritage, the new visitor centre at Rye Harbour and progress with the flat beach landscaping.

15/282 Item 21 Future Meetings – none.

15/283 Item 22 Date and venue for next meeting. The date of the next full council meeting is confirmed as Monday 11th January 2016 at the Rye Harbour Village Hall commencing at 7:15pm. This meeting may be preceded by a Parish Meeting about the Rye Harbour car park and toilets.

Meeting closed.