

Icklesham Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at Winchelsea Beach Village Hall on

Monday 12th July 2021 at 7:15pm

Present: Councillors: J. Justice, I. McConnachie, T Moore, Mrs Stanford, H Sutton, S Tollett, P Turner (Chairman), N Warren

In attendance: Mr. A. Beams (RFO), Cllr Norton (Rother) Cllr E Hacking (Rother) Cllr Glazier (ESCC) Members of the public were also present

21/118 Item 1. The Chairman opened the meeting and reminded those present that the meeting was being recorded. He invited comments or questions from members of the public on matters relating to the business of the Council.

Mr. Smedley from Winchelsea said that in the minutes of the last meeting Cllr Stanford said that the Clerk resigned because she was harassed by residents and felt bullied, for the sake of clarity which clerk she was referring to? Cllr Stanford confirmed that there was only one exit interview and that was with Claire the clerk and RFO.

Mrs Hollands of Winchelsea Beach referred to the agenda item regarding traffic calming at Winchelsea she raised the problems at Dogs Hill Road where she lived with parking and traffic, and she did not feel that IPC were addressing it. She felt that they had bigger problems than Winchelsea who have a problem twice a day, she said that they have a problem every day and especially at weekends. She said the contractors strimming the field were parking in places where they could not get in and out of their drives and they are trapped with this. They cannot walk down the field because of the football matches going on most of the time and asked that before the council spend all this money, which they have to pay for, the council should also address the problem at Winchelsea Beach.

Mr. Leonard of Winchelsea referred to Item 9 traffic calming in Winchelsea. He said that they did not feel at all in competition with Winchelsea Beach and were sympathetic to their issue there. He thanked the council for taking the background note and email that was sent about what they had done since then and that they were able to do that thanks to the delivery of papers from Cllr Justice. He said he wanted to make a point regarding the papers that he thought they had made some really good progress even in very brief contact with the consultants who the council went to in January and in particular that the cost of any design work is likely to be very significantly different from the very expensive Jacobs study which East Sussex Highways procured back in 2019. He also mentioned that he felt that it was a very worthwhile scheme which residents have been concerned about for many years leading to the East Sussex work 2018 and subsequently. He said it would be good now to progress it as they think they can. Mr. Leonard said that it was a very different from the kind of schemes where a road passes through a village which was called a reverse by-pass where cars were leaving a main road and passing through the town in order to re-join it which leads to situation which leads to a race with drivers racing against themselves to

make sure they get back on the road quicker than they would have been if they had stayed on it and this is what is causing a lot of speed. He said it was an issue made more testing because of the side roads providing additional options and it was a problem because of the habitual nature of it and from working with road schemes those habits are hard to change. He said that the working group wanted to look at feasible options including the use of roadside equipment if that is effective and they think that any scheme that is effective will need very careful assessment and design work and they are anxious to use the great opportunity the council has created to finish that job, produce some evidence and some assessment which is really worthwhile which will also be worthwhile for other parts of the parish.

Mrs. Merricks of Icklesham referred back to the statement she made in the last Minutes because she thought it was very important that Minutes are corrected. She said that when she asked what mechanism the council had used for overturning the resolution of appointing a locum clerk and RFO the Minute said that Cllr Stanford said that it was just going to be one locum. Mrs Merricks said that that was clearly incorrect because she had amended the resolution at the meeting and that she had brought up the subject of locums and that Cllr Warren had concurred with her that we should appoint a locum RFO, the resolution was amended because she had asked for it to be amended that we appoint a locum RFO and a locum clerk and that was carried and she would like the record put straight. She said that they had not had the opportunity to put it straight because the Minutes of 4th May were not agreeing to the meeting the council had on the 24th May and that she could not find the Agenda on the website for that meeting. She then said that the other points she raised at the meeting was what was happening about the co-option as she had resigned on 5th May and that there had been one notice on the Rother website and nothing on the Icklesham website about all the vacancies we have got and the public ought to be made known about these vacancies and thirdly it is not on the agenda tonight but she very much hoped that the recruitment process is going well.

Mrs. Taylor of Winchelsea said that she had sent an email as she appeared to have a comment attributed to her in the Minutes on page 2 where she was reported as saying that she reminded the Chairman the clock was ticking tick toc. She said that she never made any such statement and she asked for it to be deleted. Cllr Stanford confirmed that it was on the recording and also both she and Cllr Tollett had heard Ms. Taylor say it when they had discussed the email Mrs. Taylor had sent. Cllr Stanford said that Mrs. Taylor's recollection was very different from theirs. Chairman asked that there was no debate on that, and Mrs. Taylor had made her point. Mrs. Taylor insisted that she wanted the comment removed as simple as that and that she objected to a comment attributed to her that sounds quite rude, and she wanted it deleted because it was not her comment.

21/119 Item 2 Reports from County and District Councillors

Cllr Glazier reported that tomorrow they would be discussing the Report which they call "Save the County" which sets out the expenditure and what we intend to do for the folk of East Sussex and records any changes which they wish to make to their priorities. Post-election they have done a survey and there are two things that our important to residents. The first is the number of houses that are being proposed with councils across the southeast and the other is the state of the roads so we have asked officers to come back in the Autumn with some options for us to spend more money on irradiating these holes

and he will report back when he gets the report. Cllr Glazier said that some of his colleagues wanted him to agree to put £10m a year for the next four years into a pothole fund and he wanted to know what you get for £40m at the end of those 4 years and that is the work that officers are undertaking currently. He said that in their last meeting 2 weeks ago they recorded a £27m underspend on last years budget - £15m of which was Covid expenditure which had come direct from the Government for spending on communities during Covid and that has been rolled over into the coming year the rest of the money was obtained through three major budget headlines. The first was an underspend on adult social care, he said it was sad to report that the number of people who died during the last year reduced the need for them to put in care packages to the tune of £4m so it showed how many people the County Council look after on a daily basis. The other one was Treasury management and that was the fact that because they had not had to borrow more money, they had more money in the kitty so there was this roll over of £27 and he would come back with some solutions to the road problem. Cllr Glazier said that on a local issue he had come to Winchelsea Beach with the Assistant Director 2 days before the road was finished and he explained to me why the top dressing had not be put on second part of the road and the answer was that they had done the road repairs but if they put the top dressing straight on there is movement and they will be back next year doing it again but what they will be doing is coming back next year to finish the top dressing from the corner to past the Co-Op. Cllr Glazier asked for questions, Cllr Justice said that they were supposed to be sorting the drainage out so whatever work they have done to the potholes is a total waste of time because the potholes will be back because the road keeps flooding. He said it did not look like £1m had been spent on that road. Cllr Glazier said that all he was doing was reporting back what the engineers have said. They had told him on the first section they were going to be the drainage and the second they were going to do the major defects and he said he would pass Cllr Justice's comments back. Cllr Justice said that they had only done two bits of drainage on the road they resurfaced but they had not done anything about the drainage on this section by the lay-by and further down. He said that he had had to telephone them because they were digging into the ground opposite his house, and they had no idea that a gas main was in the grass verge, and they stopped working immediately and left the hole there for another three weeks. Cllr Glazier confirmed that he was not an engineer, and he was only relaying what he was told but he said that he will pass on Cllr Justice's comments.

Mrs. Noble of Winchelsea Beach said that where they had resurfaced Sea Road to the corner approximately 100 yards down there is a flooding drain and that every time it rains the water goes across the pavement into the grass verge which gets absolutely saturated. She said that before they resurfaced the road, she had telephoned East Sussex CC and they said they would send somebody out to inspect it, but nothing has been done about it and it was a waste of resources because the work had been done without a proper survey. Cllr Glazier said he would take her comments back.

Chairman moved onto District Councillor reports. Cllr Norton said he would like to defer his report until a future meeting when the council has been reconstituted and when he feels it will be more representative of the whole area. The Chairman asked for an explanation of Cllr Norton's comment. Cllr Norton explained that he was at the meeting as a District Councillor, but also as an observer on behalf of a concerned local citizen. The Chairman

said he thought Cllr Norton was at the meeting to report on District Council activities. Cllr Norton said he will give his report at the next meeting.

Cllr Hacking stood up, turned her back to IPC members and introduced herself to the residents and said that she had replaced Sally-Anne Hart and if residents had any concerns, they were to contact her.

No reports from District Council.

21/220 Item 3. Apologies for absence. Cllr Mier

21/221 Item 4. Disclosure of Interests – Cllr Sutton declared an interest in Item 6 – Winchelsea Village Hall grant application.

21/222 Item 5. Minutes of meeting of *Chairman said that they needed to take a decision on the earlier comment of Ms. Taylor. Cllr Stanford said she stood by the Minute, but she was happy for it to be removed, but that people needed to be careful what they say. It was resolved to approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Extraordinary Council Meeting of 28th June 2021 with the removal of Ms. Taylor's comment.*

Matters Requiring a Decision by the Council

21/223 Item 6 To consider a grant application from Winchelsea Beach Community Association for a donation of £350 towards the refurbishment of the village sign at Winchelsea Beach. Approved.

21/224 Item 7 To consider a grant application from Pett Level Rescue Boat for £500 to help them complete fundraising for CCTV security. Cllr Warren highlighted that the application gave a choice of amounts from between £500-£2000, and he thought the council should support their work with a £1,000 donation. Approved.

21/225 Item 8 Sewage issues at Winchelsea Beach.

Cllr Justice reported that in the last 18 months nothing had been done and the work that was promised would fix the problem had not. Southern Water had spent money at the pumping station but that had not solved the problem. He suggested having another meeting with all the agencies as Southern Water and the Environment Agency has done nothing about the raw sewerage in people's gardens. He said that Sally Anne Hart MP had sent an email regarding Ms. Brigitte Evill and Ms Stella Wilson who have agreed to co-ordinate action in Winchelsea Beach, but she had known Cllr Justice's long involvement and he felt she was dividing the community by doing this. He said that she was also wanted Southern Water to involve the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, and he could not see how that works as one was about draining in the area and the other was about flooding the area and if that was the case one might just say goodbye to this Winchelsea Beach community. Cllr Mrs Stanford said that the council needed to pick up where we left off and that Amber Rudd had done such a good job holding the agencies to account and the council needed to keep the pressure up. Cllr Justice reported that Sally-Ann Hart's secretary had said that all Amber's papers had been destroyed due to data protection. Chairman confirmed that Ofwat have confirmed that they are not stopping Southern Water acting on this matter and they had never been asked to approve any major works. Chairman said we should argue for some provision for this area when Southern Water do their budget for wastewater. It was agreed to call a future flooding meeting and get item into Programme of Works.

21/226 Item 9 To consider interim Traffic Calming measures in the Parish

a) **Chairman reported that RALC** have black cats automatic data collection device that has been in use for some months at Catsfield. A second machine is being used in Peasmarsch and the

County Council are setting up a countywide database generated by these machines. He said there was money in the budget for black cats and SIDS. Cllr Warren said it was important to know that black cats do not replace SIDS as they do not flash up drivers' speeds.

b) **Following Cllr Stanford's email to clerk some months ago** proposing applying for reduction of speed limit to 20 mph and the installation of SIDs and school signs at Winchelsea as a test site for the other wards, to consider the proposal. Cllr Justice was concerned that it should be split between all four villages. Cllr Warren had similar concerns about the use of the words "test site" and that all wards should come on stream and move it around so that it was not at one place all the time. Cllr Stanford explained that any design could take a long time, so this was an interim measure to get the speed limited reduced. Cllr Stanford asked whether the council could ask for the speed reduction instead of waiting for the whole scheme to be completed. Standing Orders were suspended for Cllr Glazier to respond: he said speed limit reduction had to follow a legal process which began with the evidence of cars exceeding the limit, he said having the reduction does not change people's way of driving. They had just debated at County a blanket 20 mph which they thought would prove to be less effective than having individual ones. He said if we wanted to do this and applied the County Council would put it on a list and they will come back with the same old thing – how many crashes have there been. Opposed.

c) **To consider the draft Terms of Reference for the Traffic Calming Group.** Chairman said it makes a provision for three parish councillors to be on the group. Cllr Warren voiced his concern his group in Icklesham had had contact with the Winchelsea group, but they were not getting invites to their meetings and he believed the group should be wider and it concerns a great many people in Icklesham. Cllr Justice said that so long as we got full reports back in relation to costs before any action is taken but he felt it should cover the whole parish. Cllr Justice proposed that it should include people from the other parishes because they were all paying for this on their rates. Mrs. Taylor interrupted to ask what it had to do with Winchelsea. The Chairman said it was part of the Parish. Mrs Taylor reminded the meeting that the Parish Council agreed that Winchelsea should have a traffic calming study for Winchelsea as it is about rat running and speeding and is not comparable to the speeding problems across the Parish and they are very happy to share information, but it is not about speeding in Icklesham it is about rat running and a modest amount of speeding in Winchelsea and what Icklesham will contribute to assessing bids for calming traffic and avoiding a rat run in two streets in Winchelsea seems to her a rather odd idea. Cllr Warren said that that emphasised the problem because it is not a traffic calming group, it is a Winchelsea traffic calming group and all we were asking for is perhaps one representative to attend and we are not being invited and I thought we agreed it would be all villages and it does not seem to be happening. He said he could not support it if there was no representative from Icklesham. Chairman said that when this was first discussed the Council was not aware of a traffic calming group in Icklesham. He said he was happy to accept it but that extend it to the other Wards using the same personnel to achieve it. Cllr Warren suggested an amendment to allow for one co-option to represent each traffic calming group. Chairman pointed out co-option was for three IPC representatives, not especially councillors. Cllr Stanford asked what happened to John Hornig's application sent to the clerk. Chairman proposed accepting the Terms of Reference with the amendment that it should be extended to the other Wards. Cllr Tollett asked for clarification that it was a Parish Council working group. Chairman confirmed it was. Approved

d) **To consider any proposals from the traffic calming group.** Standing Orders suspended to allow Mr. Leonard to speak: he confirmed that the group had been set up in 2018 where East Sussex had done three pieces work, one of them very substantial and detailed solely on Winchelsea. It was not the residents who called for that, that is what we got. So, the appointment of consultants that Council approved in January was a continuation of that specific work and that is why the group have focused on that. It is not an attempt to keep out other groups in the (Borough) Council so the proposal by Icklesham is welcome in general it is just that we need to start with that background work that has been done by Icklesham but the road through there is under the control of Highways England and not the County Council but on the group in Winchelsea

we are fortunate to have people like themselves who have done quite considerable work in this area before and speaking personally I would be very happy to consider working with any other groups in the Parish and if the group can be adapted without reducing the focus at the moment on Winchelsea I am very happy with that too. As per current proposals we have only had two weeks since the last EGM and only brief words with the two consultants who put their proposals in nearly 6 months ago, so our focus was to ensure they were still there and still interested and that was all so far. One thing that has come up is that the last measurement of traffic flow through Winchelsea was 2018 and there were queries about that and as we progress it is worthwhile doing another piece of work just to assess how much traffic is going through and this can be done by hiring a box with the wire across the road which is £350 + VAT for 24 hours and that is the only proposal. The group has not met since the EGM so it doesn't have a full proposal so those proposals will come from the whole group, and it will come to Council for a decision.

21/227 Item 10 Icklesham Recreation Ground To consider provisions required to enable football matches to recommence. Cllr Warren reported that Icklesham Casuals want to return and he and Cllrs Turner and McConnachie had inspected the pitch and going forward Cllr McConnachie had offered to inspect on a weekly basis. Chairman proposed withdrawing the closure of the ground, appoint Cllr McConnachie to inspect in liaison with the Clerk to commence on Saturday morning. **Approved.**

21/228 Item 11 Financial Matters

Items paid (to note) majority of items paid by DD and items for payment to date in June 202. Approved.

21/229 Item 12. To consider a request from Hastings Runners to use the Recreation Ground Car Park on Tuesday evenings. Recommended that consent be granted subject to the usual conditions. **Approved.**

21/230 Item 13. To consider a request from Rye Bay Football Club for an update on the provision of the defibrillator. **Approved**

21/231 Item 14. Rye Harbour Allotments. To consider the letter from Mr Peter Gould and decide on how to respond to Mr. Gould who because of changes by a tenant has offered us a gift of right of way if we fence off the land. Cllr Warren raised the cost of the fencing. Cllr Tollett said it was debatable who owned the land and there would be problems installing fencing in a SSSI. Cllr Stanford suggested that the tenant be asked to remove the gate he had installed without permission because there would be an ongoing cost of maintaining any fence. It was agreed that Cllrs Tollett and Stanford would inspect on Wednesday and report back to Council.

Matters for Information or Noting

21/232 Item 15. Programme of Works. Cllr Stanford reported that she had updated the list where she could, and she would send another copy to Councillors to consider and update where necessary. Chairman mentioned the removal of the disabled swings. Cllr Stanford said she had emailed the contractor regarding the swings in Winchelsea and Winchelsea Beach.

21/233 Item 16 Correspondence. Any late received correspondence will be tabled.

- (a) Email from Pett Parish offering posters regarding parking and litter amended for IPC. Cllr Stanford enquired about cost and Chairman said they were free. Discussion followed regarding laminating/long term signage, but agreement that Council accept Pett's kind offer. **Approved.**
- (b) Email from Brian Leonard. **Noted**
- (c) Emailed from Rother regarding vacancies. Cllr Stanford said she had sent the Notice to the Chairman a few days ago to approve.

21/234 Item 17 Reports from councillors on meetings they have attended. Cllr Stanford said she had attended the Rye Harbour Village Hall Committee meeting on Zoom. Also Harbour of Rye Advisory Committee meeting via Zoom she reported that all was going well and that the Environment Agency was involved in the Southern Water court case. Good report from Harbour Master and the EA are competing their projects at Strand Quay for visitors i.e., new ladders etc. Also, they had completed work to the slipway at Rye Harbour where the RNLI boathouse is. Cllr Turner reported he met with members of the Corporation at Winchelsea regarding the Lookout maintenance work.

21/235 Item 18. Date and venue for next meeting. Monday 13th September at Rye Harbour Village Hall

Meeting closed at 8.45pm