



## WEST HOATHLY PARISH COUNCIL

representing Highbrook, Selsfield, Sharpthorne, Tyes Cross and West Hoathly

Document Reference 2125

### **Minutes of the Meeting of West Hoathly Parish Council held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 8:00pm in West Hoathly Village Hall**

#### **Members**

Ken Allfree  
Will Buckley  
Martin Robinson  
Neil Greatorex  
Michael Curties

Paul Brown  
Kevin Gould (Vice Chairman)  
Douglas Denham St Pinnock (Chairman)  
Michelle Mullaney  
Amy Marshall\*

\* denotes absence

#### **Also present:**

Leanne Andrews (Clerk)  
Anita Emery (RFO)  
Cllr Lin Stockwell

#### **There were 7 members of the public present**

Two members of the Highbrook Village Hall Committee attended the meeting to make representation of their request for an increase in annual grant payment for 2022-23.

The committee members explained their responsibilities; being custodians of several properties under the Village Hall management. A document had previously been submitted to the parish council detailing the financial situation of the committee and the subsequent challenges. The committee members expanded on the financial situation and their concerns over managing the required resurfacing work in the car park and the maintenance of the buildings, with limited income.

#### **135) To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllr Garry Wall

#### **136) To co-opt three new members to the Parish Council**

Five applications were received for the three vacancies. The applications were reviewed by the Parish Council and the four applicants in attendance outlined their skills and experience.

The Parish Council voted by signed ballot for the three vacancies.

Michelle Mullaney received the majority vote for the first vacancy. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was read out and signed.

Amy Marshall received the majority vote after two rounds for the second vacancy. The Declaration of Office will be signed in the presence of the clerk before the next meeting.

Michael Curties received the majority vote for the third vacancy, the Declaration of Office was read out and signed.

It was agreed that Michelle Mullaney and Michael Curties would now join the meeting as a councillors, but it was explained that they would be unable to vote until the Register of Interests form had been completed.

**137) To approve minutes of the Meeting of West Hoathly Parish Council held on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021 (Document Reference 2121)**

Amendments were proposed and agreed to minute 93 to state

Cllr Brown attended both a Zoom pre-application meeting and a site visit with MSDC officers and Ibstock to answer their questions about developing the brickworks site.

The proposal would conflict with the existing Development Plan. A housing development here would not meet the exceptions permissible under Policy DP15 (new homes in the countryside) or DP6 (settlement hierarchy).

Under the terms of the existing planning consent on the land the site other than the brickmaking factory will be subject to a restoration scheme.

The District Plan review is underway, and the site will be considered as it has been submitted to the recent 'call for sites'. The development of this site should then come forward if it is deemed acceptable through that plan making process

Amendments were proposed and agreed to minute 99 to state

A member of the public submitted an email to the Parish Council requesting an update on the discussions that have taken place with Ibstock.

It was agreed that Cllr Browns District Councillor update would provide some detail, but it was noted that the application was still at the pre application stage and had yet to be determined. Cllr Brown shared an item of correspondence relating to a Definitive Map Modification Order Application

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Order; Cuckfield Rural No.2; Addition of public bridleway and upgrade of public footpath 51ESx to a public bridleway was made by WSCC on 12 November 2019.

The route is from Sharpthorne Old Playground, Top Road, crossing the clay quarry to Grinstead Lane, opposite The Step-by-Step school, and Naylands Cottages.

A planning inspector will decide whether or not to confirm the order by written statements. The Order can't be confirmed because objections to the order have been received by WSCC and not withdrawn.

**138) To receive the clerk's report**

The clerk's report was noted.

**139) To receive Councillor reports**

**a) West Sussex County Councillor Report- Cllr Wall**

Following a meeting with Richard Speller, the gully issues have now been added to the works programme. A further catch up has been arranged for mid-October to follow up on other issues.

**Waste & Recycling-** Changes to opening hours and booking system. Responses so far indicate support for this to be rolled out across the county.

**Gatwick 2<sup>nd</sup> Runway** (Northern Runway/Emergency Runway) – Plans have been widely shared and are available. WSCC is a consultee, and all stakeholders are urged to respond.

**Covid-19-** Numbers remain static, the vaccination programme is keeping hospital admissions under control. Boosters and Flu jabs are being rolled out, as are those for younger people through the school's programme.

**Health Issues-** NHS has shared its winter planning and recovery programme. (Available on the WSCC Website) Challenges remain, particularly around Primary Care Access (GP's) but the plan is comprehensive and flexible. An extra £1.3m has been identified from WSCC to support additional capacity.

## **b) Mid Sussex District Councillor Report- Cllr Stockwell**

### **Local Government Boundary Commission Review**

The first suggestions have been produced to propose High Weald as two-member ward that will include Lindfield Rural.

### **Parliamentary Constituency review**

The initial proposal has High Weald move into East Sussex. The consultation is open for comments.

### **MSDC Business Support/ Grants**

Information is available via the Business Bulletin.

[Business Bulletin - Autumn 2021 \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

## **Mid Sussex District Councillor Report- Cllr Brown**

The Scrutiny Committee for housing, Planning and Economic growth are being cancelled, Member briefings have been held on both digital infrastructure and Burgess Hill- Homes England – Northern Arc, but these are not the same as good scrutiny.

Cllr Brown is now a member of the Planning Committee which is meeting monthly in person in the refurbished council chamber.

A licencing application relating to The Fox will be determined by a 3-member panel of the licencing committee at a virtual meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October. The agenda papers should be available to the public on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September.

The owner of the land on Top Road between Bulldogs Bank and the Fox has advised Cllr Brown that they have engaged with a contractor to kill the Japanese Knotweed infestation on their property.

The Local Government Boundary Commission Review has designated High Weald as two-member ward with a new Walstead polling district which will include the new developments in Lindfield Rural Parish. The Ward will have a +7% of baseline electors.

**140) To consider any comments on the WSCC Draft Transport Plan consultation**

Feedback was shared from the West Sussex transport Plan consultation briefing on the 8<sup>th</sup> September.

It was noted that it was a disappointing presentation and that the consultation fails to address the issues on the C319.

Paul Brown agreed to draft a response on behalf of the parish council, which would then be shared with councillors before being submitted.

**141) To consider and approve the request for the Annual Parish Bonfire to be held on North Lane Recreation Ground on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

It was agreed to approve the request for the Annual Parish Bonfire to be held on North Lane rec on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November.

**142) To consider a request from Highbrook Village Hall for an increase in annual grant payment**

The parish council were sympathetic to the issues outlined by the Highbrook Village Hall committee members at the start of the meeting.

It was agreed for the increase in grant request to be considered at the Finance Committee meeting in December when next year's budget will be drafted. Any additional payment will need to be agreed by the parish council in December when the budget is finalised and agreed.

**143) To note the conclusion of the audit for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021**

The successful conclusion of the Audit was noted

**144) To confirm the appointment of the Internal Auditor for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

Peter Frost was appointed as the Internal Auditor for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

**145) To agree to add Anita Emery (RFO) onto the Unity Trust Bank Account**

It was agreed to add Anita Emery (RFO) onto the Unity Trust Bank Account and to remove Andy beams (Interim RFO) from the account.

**146) To review the Financial Statements to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021**

- a) Parish Council Bank Reconciliation
- b) Parish Council Summary Receipts and Payments

The Parish Council financial statements were noted

- c) Trustees of West Hoathly Village Hall Bank Reconciliation
- d) Trustees of West Hoathly Village Hall Summary Receipts and Payments

The Trustees of West Hoathly Village Hall financial statements were noted.

**147) To ratify and approve the payments for August and September 2021**

a) Parish Council Payments

The Parish Council payments of £3,864.75 for August and £3,042.67 for September were proposed. All agreed and the payments were approved.

b) Trustees of West Hoathly Village Hall Payments

The Trustees of West Hoathly Village Hall payments of £184.20 for August and £1049.24 for September were proposed. All agreed and the payments were approved.

**148) To receive Committee Reports**

a) To note Minutes of Meetings taken place

i) Planning Committee 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021 (document reference 2122)

ii) Asset & Highways Committee 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021 (document reference 2123)

The Minutes were noted

**149) To receive updates from Parish Council working groups**

An update was received.

**150) To receive reports from external meetings attended by councillors**

a) West Sussex Transport Plan consultation 8<sup>th</sup> September (Douglas Denham St Pinnock, Paul Brown)

b) Mid Sussex site allocation DPD 11<sup>th</sup> August (Kevin Gould, Ken Allfree)

The reports were received.

**151) To receive correspondence**

A member of the public has asked if the Parish Council would be willing to chair an open meeting to discuss the parish plans to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee in 2022. Douglas Denham St Pinnock agreed to chair a meeting that will be organised in due course.

**152) Items to report in The Chronicle magazine and on Facebook**

- Public Works Loan approval
- New members

a) To agree a member to manage the parish council Facebook account

Michelle Mullaney agreed to assist in the running of the parish council Facebook page.

**153) To note items of interest or items for inclusion at next meeting of the Parish Council**

Date of next meeting 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21:49

Chairman-----