



## WEST HOATHLY PARISH COUNCIL

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

Document Reference 2203

### **Minutes of the Meeting of West Hoathly Parish Council held on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022 at 8:00pm in West Hoathly Village Hall**

#### **Members**

Ken Allfree  
Will Buckley  
Martin Robinson  
Neil Greatorex  
Michael Curties\*  
Bob Darvill

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

\* denotes absence

#### **Also present:**

Anita Emery (RFO)  
Cllr Garry Wall  
Cllr Lin Stockwell

**There were no members of the public present**

#### **272) To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Clerk, Michelle Mullaney and Michael Curties

In the clerk's absence RFO Anita Emery would take the minutes as also a Clerk for Plumpton PC. This was duly noted.

#### **273) To receive declarations of interest from Parish Councillors in respect of any matter on the agenda.**

Ken Allfree declared an interest as due a payment from TWHVH.

#### **274) To approve minutes of the Meeting of West Hoathly Parish Council held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021 (Document Reference 2131)**

The minutes were approved, and the chairman will sign them as a true record at a later date.

#### **275) To receive the clerk's report**

The clerk's report was noted.

#### **276) To receive Councillor reports**

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

- WSCC meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb to discuss budget – will be a balanced budget of around £600m+ . Significant extra funding towards Highways. Starting to

work through road network challenge in village and WHPC road is top on traffic flow. Richard Speller agreed to correspond with Cllr NG.

DDP commented on WSCC precept rise of 2.99%. 1.99% on tax band D. 1% invested in adult social care and complex needs of elderly – care costs last re-evaluated in 2019. Primary care access still an issue, with large vacancies in social care. Dentistry – some focus on having access to NHS dentists. DDP commented on improvement of childcare and fire services coming out of special measures which is good news – joint campaign with ESCC. DDP thanks Cllr Wall and Cllr NG on their continuing help on C319 and to copy clerk in to all correspondence.

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

- Supplementary District Plan with inspectors – results due imminently. 5-year land supply published 2 weeks ago. MSDC to pause on white paper district plan and to write to Minister regarding the numbers do not work to district plan – district original plan expires in 2023.
- Grants available for omicron for hospitality submissions by 28/2. Discretionary grants for businesses that do not qualify under the main headings. [www.midsussex.gov.uk/revsandbens/business-rates/grants-for-businesses](http://www.midsussex.gov.uk/revsandbens/business-rates/grants-for-businesses). Make available on WHPC social media. **Clerk to action.**
- MSDC Jubilee Committee grants fund of £25k available to non-profit community/voluntary organisations to help with costs. PC's cannot apply but can in conjunction with organisations. Deadline 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 2022.
- Rewilding in Britain campaign. Any ideas where to re-wild – let MSDC know – closes end of Jan but sites still welcomed after date.

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

- Verge in parish could be used for rewilding
- Draft District plan is paused – being reformatted with policy statements. Sites in WH and Sharphorne list on SHEELA, brickworks dismissed as brown field site, Hoathly Hill passed on district plan. Agreed to put onto agenda 'how to consider these sites during consultation period' Clerk to action

DDP grateful to Paul – any questions direct to PB.

**277) To receive an update on the parishes plans to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee**

As previously agreed, at the start of January three trees were planted in Finche Field in connection with The Queens Green Canopy.

a) To agree to light the beacon at Finche Field on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June  
Unanimously agreed

b) To agree the request to use NLR for events on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> June  
Unanimously agreed- check with football club and confirm licencing arrangements

c) To agree the council's involvement in the celebrations  
Lighting of beacon/piper/finance for licences etc – unanimously agreed, piper agreed in principle subject to cost.

WHPC do not propose use of fireworks at 9.45pm in height of summer

**278) To confirm committee membership following the co-option of Bob Darvill**  
Unanimously agreed –Bob Darvill to sit on Village Hall Management Committee, Assets and Highways and Pavilion working group.

**279) To approve the budget for 2022-23**

DDP presented the budget recommendations and thanked Kevin and Neil for work done on budget prep. The ambition was to keep the precept request below 3% and to put as much money into Bluebell Wood.

DDP made the following recommendation on the earmarked reserves.

Reallocated £2394.32 Highways to Steps increasing Steps EMR to £4800 as the steps need repairing under 2022/23 budget year. The money WHPC have waiting under Section 106 can be used for highways. WHPC have tried to use 106 money for steps and footpaths but have failed to obtain approval. A discussion took place regarding the recommendation, followed by a vote. 5 for, 2 against and 2 abstained on allocating £8278.14 to Bluebell Woods Management Motion carried to reallocate the Highways earmarked reserve to steps ear marked reserves. DDP asked if any further questions about the budget recommendation – none.

It was therefore unanimously agreed to approve the budget for 2022-23

**280) To approve the precept for 2022-23**

DDP advised the precept would rise 2.68% against tax band D. Monetary rise year on year of 3.22%. It was unanimously approved to agree a 2.68% tax band D rise for the 2022-2023 precept. RFO to submit application to MSDC.

**281) To confirm the date and agenda for the Parish Assembly**

Unanimously agreed to hold parish assembly in person (subject to CV rates) on 7<sup>th</sup> March at 8pm in West Hoathly Village Hall. Topic to be housing with Flo Churchill being speaker.

**282) To agree changes to the Parish Office opening hours**

After a short discussion a change to the Parish Office Opening hours were agreed.

The Parish Office will now be open Tuesdays and Thursdays 09:00-12:00.

**283) To review the Financial Statements to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021**

a) Parish Council Bank Reconciliation

Unanimously reviewed and approved with no comments it was noted the financial statements were to 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

b) Parish Council Summary Receipts and Payments

Unanimously reviewed and approved with no comments.

c) Trustees of West Hoathly Village Hall Bank Reconciliation

Unanimously reviewed and approved with no comments.

d) Trustees of West Hoathly Village Hall Summary Receipts and Payments

Unanimously reviewed and approved with no comments.

**284) To ratify and approve the payments for December 2021 & January 2022**

a) Parish Council Payments

Unanimously ratified and approved – it was noted there was an additional payment of £19.19 to H Schofield to cover website hosting.

b) Trustees of West Hoathly Village Hall Payments

Unanimously ratified and approved.

**285) To receive Committee Reports**

a) To note Minutes of Meetings taken place

i) Planning 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021 (document reference 2030).

Nothing to report as all applications were submitted with no objections apart from some tree applications.

ii) Finance 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021 (document reference 2033)

The minutes were noted.

iii) Planning 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021 (document reference 2134\_

The minutes were noted.

iv) Asset & Highways 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022 (document reference 2201)

Cllr NG report mainly dominated by Highways issues – with SE water problems on C319 and thanked Euan for following up with SE Water. North Lane – Chapel Row issue with utility drain cover – work in progress

Collapsed pavement Broadfield & Selsfield which SE Water contractor messed up will be fixed while other SE Water works being done.

New mains water connection being done for new property.

Cllr NG has been assured signage for Selsfield Rd will be better, traffic management company to blame. Cllr NG proposed a letter of complaint be written to WS

Highways asking about the licensing of jobs. They have gone from extensive signage to inadequate signage and to highlight all issues. To discuss with Clerk.

Unanimously agreed to send a letter.

SE Water collapse of sewer

Loss of 84 bus all week with no signage.

Success for rumble strips being redone – no date set.

30mph VAS replaced by Hollow

Car removal has now been removed which was preventing gully clearances.

Rights of way informed re footpath at Bluebell re drainage – leak from Gravetye.

Met outgoing PROW Ranger – full support – recommended being part of the annual surfacing programme. Will pass onto new Ranger.

Closure of bridleway 43 for 6 months which now means footpath 1 unpassable due to flooding and bridleway 43 closed.

Bluebell lane footpath – unregistered.

(Chapel Rd verge) – resident apologies for mess. WSCC land. If to use a rewilding a license will need to be obtained from WSCC. It was advised that an agricultural roller would be required to flatten.

Cllr NG to pass new Rangers details to Cllr WB.

A response had been received from R Speller re SID – Cllr PB to meet with Speller and Cllr NG.

Cllr DDP wished it noted his thanks to Cllr NG for all the work he does on the parish highways.

**286) To receive correspondence**

The correspondence was noted.

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

- a) WSALC Clerks Forum- 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022 (Clerk, Douglas Denham St Pinnock)
- b) WSALC Chairs Forum- 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022 (Douglas Denham St Pinnock)

Cllr DDP reported WSALC retained Mulberry as appointed auditor and secretary support for all 4 districts.

£22k in WSALC surplus – now in a secure place financially.

129 parishes involved in remote training with 54/25 clerks attending.

DDP recommended planning training for WHPC – Clerk to arrange.

DDP attended the Arun District Association. Arun District Association is now up and running, Arun District housing is in special measures.

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

There were none.

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

Cllr PB report neighbourhood plan

Rufus Clark interested to speak next month

Queens Jubilee

Cllr NG – report on Assets and Highways

DDP advised deadline 13.2.2022 and to send to him in good time.

**290) To resolve in the light of the possible confidential nature of the business to be transacted, that in the public interest, the press and public be temporarily excluded and instructed to withdraw.**

No public or press in attendance.

**291) To receive feedback on the review at the end of the RFO's probationary 3-month period.**

Cllr DDP reported review took place with Cllr KG, himself, and Clerk on RFO probation. All happy and RFO now confirmed in post. Duly noted.

Date of next meeting 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21:56

Chairman-----