

WADHURST PARISH COUNCIL
THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF WADHURST PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT
THE PAVILION, SPARROWS GREEN RECREATION GROUND
ON THURSDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2020 AT 7.30PM

Present: Cllrs Anderson (in part), Bullock, Crawford, Edwards (in part), Gadd (Chair), Griffin, Maggs, C Moore, P Moore, Morris, Murphy (Vice Chair), Niell (in part), Peaford, Smith and Tincombe
Also in attendance: Amanda Barlow (clerk), Fiona Hensher (rfo) (in part), WDC Cllr Bob Standley (in part), and 2 members of the public (in part)

1. To receive apologies and reasons for absence.
Apologies received and reasons accepted, from Cllr Griffin and WDC Cllr Johanna Howell.
2. To receive declarations of personal, prejudicial and disclosable pecuniary interests on items on the agenda and updates to members' register of interests.
Cllr Gadd and Cllr Tincombe declared an interest in Agenda Item 10.3.
3. Public Forum – time limit 15 minutes.
Sue Bishop - Chair of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) stated that a letter had been previously circulated to Members. The overriding advice from AIRS following the failure of the Local Plan is that the Neighbourhood Plan should be submitted as soon as possible and the Parish stands to receive funds from the Plan through CIL funding and NPSG is asking the Parish Council to allow the Group to submit the paper. Mrs Bishop discussed an individual, who was a very useful Member of the Group, who was asked to stand down by the Parish Council from the NPSG. He was not required to step down from the Focus Group but he chose to do so. He has been invited by the NPSG to re-join the Focus Group.

Cllr Edwards and Cllr Anderson arrived at the meeting.

Cllr Niell arrived at the meeting.

4. To consider, and approve if appropriate, which agenda items are sufficiently confidential as to warrant exclusion of members of the press and public under the provisions of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960
Members resolved to discuss Agenda Items 9.4 in confidence. Cllr Morris did not vote.
Members resolved to discuss Agenda Item 10.1a in confidence. Cllr Peaford voted against and Cllr Morris and Cllr C Moore abstained.
5. To receive the reports from the County and District Councillors
Cllr Standley discussed the options regarding the resurfacing of the High Street and advised that the resurfacing it most likely to take place during the summer holidays in 2020. Cllr Standley responded to questions that it is most likely emergency pot holes will be done within the next 4 to 6 weeks. Cllr Niell asked about suitable diversions and Cllr Standley discussed the options. Cllr Gadd asked about how the failure of the Wealden District Council Local Plan will affect the Neighbourhood Plans that are to be submitted in the next year. Cllr Standley advised the aim is to have a new Local Plan that will deliverable in 2 or 3 years and it is most likely that any Neighbourhood Plan would carry some weight on the new Local Plan but the Neighbourhood Plan may have to be amended to reflect the Local Plan.
6. To approve the minutes of the meeting 9 January 2020 as a true record.
*The date of the VE celebrations is on 8 May 2020. **It was agreed to add a section on the parking at Uplands. (Action: Clerk)***
Members resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting 9 January 2020 as being a true record subject to the above addition.
7. To determine matters arising from the previous minutes for updating and noting.
The Clerk had circulated information regarding the Wadhurst High Street resurfacing.
8. Chair's Announcements
Cllr Gadd thanked Fiona Hensher, the RFO, for her work at the Parish Council, presented her with a gift from a Council and wished her well for the future.
9. Finance items for decision and allocation of resources
 - 9.1 To approve/note items payable and paid.
Members resolved to approve/note the items payable and paid as at Appendix A.

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9.2 To note spend, to date, against budget for 2019-20.
Noted.

9.3 To agree the external audit

Members resolved to agree the external audit for 2018/19.

Cllr Gadd asked the members of the public to leave for item 9.4 and 10.1a.

9.4 To discuss and agree, if appropriate, the appointment of a locum to cover the RFO role
Members resolved to engage a locum at rate of £25 per hour to cover the RFO role until a new RFO was appointed. Members asked the Clerk to check if she should be appointed as the Responsible Financial Officer If the Clerk should be appointed as RFO it was agreed that Cllr Gadd should do this immediately. (Action: Clerk)

10. Items for decision and allocation of resources, if necessary.

10.1 To discuss and agree, if appropriate, the next actions with regard to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

10.1a Members agreed that no further action should be taken on this issue.

Cllr Gadd invited members of the public to return to the meeting.

10.1b Members noted that the Wealden Local Plan had failed.

Members discussed, at length, the issues surrounding the Neighbourhood Plan. There was no definitive answer from Wealden District Council (WDC) as to the weight any Neighbourhood Plan would have on the new Local Plan. Members were also concerned about the policies being produced as to how they would align with any new WDC Local Plan. Members resolved that the Parish Council should continue with preparation and submission of the Neighbourhood Plan. Members agreed to continue with the current recruitment process prior to producing any policies or taking any further actions.

10.1c Cllr Morris proposed the following statement that “this Council follows its own Standing Order point 9 in order to avoid the risk of bringing the Council in dispute”.

Members voted unanimously in agreement of this statement.

Members agreed that the Terms of Reference should be reviewed and, if agreed, any amendments should be made at the next meeting. Members agreed that the other items raised should be discussed at the next Council meeting. (Action: Clerk)

10.2 To discuss and agree, if appropriate, awarding a grant to the Wadhurst Twinning Association
Members agreed that whilst they are keen to support the project they wanted to ask that the Twinning Association attend the next Parish Council to give more information and hear about the festivities. (Action: Clerk)

10.3 To discuss and agree, if appropriate, the next actions with regard to a village centre playground

Cllr Morris raised a point of Order that this paper was from a third party and not a Member of the Council and the item should not be discussed. The motion was seconded by Cllr Peaford. Cllr Morris and Cllr Peaford voted for the proposition. Cllrs Edwards, Niell, Maggs, Gadd, Anderson and Crawford voted against and Cllrs Bullock, P Moore, C Moore, Smith and Murphy abstained.

Members agreed in principle to the matter but felt further detail should be sought and the matter should be discussed at the Finance & Resources Committee and Recreation Ground Management Committee. (Action: Clerk and RFO). Cllr Morris advised that there might be other forms of funding for the project and asked that Cllr Crawford could consider opening up the RGM Committee to include members of the public.

10.4 To discuss and agree, if appropriate, the next actions with regard to the Uplands community bus

Members agreed that Uplands should complete a grant application form but advised that they were keen to support the application. (Action: Clerk)

10.5 To discuss and agree, if appropriate, the next actions with regard to the Wadhurst Youth Club
Cllr Gadd advised that there is further information to come on this item and it was agreed to take this item at the next meeting.

10.6 To discuss and agree, if appropriate, a new fingerpost for Snape Lane

Members resolved that a new fingerpost should be ordered from Jakks Country Furniture at cost of £1,035.40. (Action: Clerk)

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- 10.7 To adopt the Code of Conduct
Members agreed to discuss this item at the next Council meeting. (Action: Clerk)
- 10.8 To adopt the following policies:
- 10.8.1 Recruitment Policy
Members resolved to adopt the Recruitment Policy.
 - 10.8.2 Training and Development
Members agreed that the Training and Development Policy should be discussed at the Finance & Resources Committee meeting.
 - 10.8.3 Freedom of Information/ Data Protection Policy
Members asked the Clerk to ensure that these policies met current legislation requirements.
- 10.9 To adopt minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 11 January and 25 January (not yet approved) 2020
Members resolved to adopt the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 11 January and 25 January (not yet approved) 2020.
11. Items for report/discussions
- 11.1 Reports from committees/working parties/representatives etc.
 - 11.2 Items for discussion
 - 11.2.1. Uplands parking and 3G Pitch
No update.
 - 11.2.2. Use of Parish council email address
Members advised that they still have issues with their Parish Council emails. It was agreed the Clerk would circulate the contact information for Netwise.
 - 11.2.3 Handling of complaints
The Clerk advised that no complaints have been received.
 - 11.2.4 Great British Spring Clean
Members agreed to set at a date by email.
 - 11.2.5 Operation London Bridge
Noted.
12. Items for Noting
- 12.1 To note the Minutes from EHT Committee held on 30 January 2020
Noted.
 - 12.2 Correspondence
 - 12.3.1 General Correspondence
Noted.
 - 12.3 Meeting dates to May 2020
Noted.
13. Items for Focus and Communication
Volunteers for the Neighbourhood Plan Focus Group, Great British Spring Clean, Litter picking up bag from Carillon Cottage, date of Annual Parish meeting.
14. Urgent issues at the discretion of the Chair for noting or inclusion on future agenda

Meeting closed at 10.24.

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Appendix A

Cheque No.	To who	Description	Amount	VAT	NET	Agreed Bank Transfer Signature one	Agreed Bank Transfer Signature two
BP100111	Mark Cross Community Centre	Room Hire 21/Nov	£27.00	£0.00	£27.00	Emailed authorised SG	Emailed authorisation JMC
BP100111	Wadhurst Parent & Toddler Group	Grant	£1,150.00	£0.00	£1,150.00	19.12.05. ag lt 10.3	19.12.05 ag lt 10.3
BP100111	Mr K McDougall	Hall Hire Refund	£50.40	£0.00	£50.40	SG	JC
BP100111	BT	Wifi	£40.68	£6.78	£33.90	SG	JC
BP100111	Carillion Cottage	Room Hire	£180.00	£0.00	£180.00	SG	JC
BP100111	TMS	Pot hole flyers	£50.00	£0.00	£50.00	SG	JC
BP100111	Nest Pension	Pension Contribution	£238.89	£0.00	£238.89	SG	JC
BP100111	Mrs A Barlow	Clerks Expenses	£124.56	£0.00	£124.56	SG	JC
BP100111	Mrs F Hensher	RFO Expenses	£49.79	£0.00	£49.79	SG	JC
BP100111	Europlants	Hanging inv 21056	£61.25	£10.21	£51.04	SG	JC
BP100111	Biffa	Pavilion Waste	£50.98	£8.50	£42.48	SG	JC
BP100111	Mrs A Barlow	Clerks Salary	£1,417.74	£0.00	£1,417.44	SG	JC
BP100111	Mrs F Hensher	RFO Salary	£554.21	£0.00	£554.21	SG	JC
BP100111	Mr R Penny	Caretaker Salary	£616.41	£0.00	£616.41	SG	JC
BP100111	Hucksters	Advertsing invocie	£90.00	£0.00	£90.00	SG	JC
BP100111	Thorpe Building Ltd	Playground fencing repairs	£360.00	£60.00	£300.00	SG	JC
BP100111	S.R.Services	Invoice 1720	£617.67	£0.00	£617.67	SG	JC
BP100111	Mrs V Ramm	invoice 20	£96.00	£0.00	£96.00	SG	JC
		Total	£5,775.58	£85.49	£5,689.79		

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Appendix B

January 8 to February 4 2020

1. SSALC - RE: ****Sussex ALC Bulletin****
2. ESCC PRS Foundation Announces 2020 Deadlines
3. WDC - The January Wealden Parish Bulletin – sent to all Cllrs
4. WDC - Newly published decision: Ninfield Parish Council: Application for designation as a Neighbourhood Area for the purposes of preparation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan.
5. WDC - Minutes for Planning Committee South, Wednesday, 15th January, 2020, 10.30 a.m.
6. WDC - Newly published decision: Review of Learning and Development Policy
7. ESH - Upcoming Works - Tidebrook Road, Wadhurst – sent to all Cllrs
8. WDC - New Healthy Wealden Facebook Page!
9. Southeastern Railway - New enhancements to passenger information
10. WDC - Minutes for Planning Committee North, Thursday, 16th January, 2020, 10.30 a.m.
11. South East Water Open Day at Bewl Water - Saturday 18 April 2020 (J3275)
12. ****Sussex ALC Bulletin****
13. Southeastern passenger satisfaction hits 6-year high
14. WDC - Newly published decision: Participation in the PATROL Adjudication Joint Committee
15. WDC - New issue: Wealden Community Grants Programme 2020/21 - Grants up to £25,000
16. WDC - Newly published decision: Consultation for Wealden District Council (Off Street Parking Places) Order 2015 - Amendment 2
17. WDC - Newly published decision: Approval of the NNDR1 Form 2020/21
18. News from Nus Ghani MP 31.01.20
19. WDC - Newly published decision: Estimate of the Collection Fund Surplus for Distribution
20. ****Sussex ALC Bulletin****

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Appendix C

Full Council - Sparrows Green Pavilion at 19.30

June 13

July 11

September 12

October 3

November 7

December 5

January 9

February 6

March 5

April 2

May 14

Finance & Resources – Sparrows Green Pavilion at 19.30

July 4

November 14

February 13

Environment, Highways & Transport – Sparrows Green Pavillion at 19:30

June 6

October 17

January 30

March 26

Community - Sparrows Green Pavilion at 19.:30

June 27

December 5 (18:00 to 19:15)

February 27

April 23

Recreation Ground Management – Sparrows Green Pavilion at 18:30 to 19:15

July 11

November 7

March 5

Communications – Sparrows Green Pavilion at 18.00 to 19.15

June 13

October 10

February 6

Planning – Carillon Cottage – Saturdays at 09.30

June 1, 15, 29

July 13, 27

August 10, 24

September 7 21

October 5, 19

November 2, 16, 30

December 14, 28

January 11, 25

February 8, 22

March 7, 21

April 4, 18

May 2, 16, 30

**Monday 11 May 2020 at 19:00 - Annual Parish (Village) meeting -
Commemoration Hall**