

# WADHURST PARISH COUNCIL

## THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF WADHURST PARISH COUNCIL HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM ON THURSDAY 7<sup>th</sup> JANUARY AT 7.00PM

Present: Cllr Gadd (Chair), Cllr C Moore, Cllr P Moore, Cllr Smith, Cllr Griffin, Cllr Edwards, Cllr Murphy (Vice Chair), Cllr Neil, Cllr Anderson, Cllr Bullock, and Cllr Morris, Cllr Tincombe, (in part).

Also, in attendance: WDC Cllr Bob Standley, WDC Cllr Johanna Howell. There were no members of the public at the beginning of the meeting.

1. To receive apologies and reasons for absence.

*Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Maggs.*

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 declared an interest in item 9.7.*

3. Public Forum – time limit 15 minutes.

*No members of the public present.*

4. To receive reports from the County Councillor and District Councillor

The County and District Cllr reports had previously been circulated to all members of the Parish Council. *Cllr Standley commented on the Covid-19 Wealden number is 643 per 100,000. The hospitals are under tremendous pressure to cope with the increasing numbers of Covid-19 patients. Sussex hospital is not transferring patients to other hospitals, but Kent and Medway are to alleviate pressure. Another concern is ambulances are full and waiting times are longer.*

*Cllr Griffin asked for clarification about section 106 for maintenance, the document is misleading. Cllr Standley stated that it is a grey area. One cannot use S106 monies for equipment which you already have and will be happy to revert back to Wealden.*

*A member of the public joined the meeting Mica Cutts joined the meeting at 19.14.*

5. Minutes. To approve the updated minutes of the meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020 as a true record.

*A few typos to be corrected.*

*Cllr Morris raised a point of order relating to private and confidential item is not on the agenda. Cllr Gadd stated that we cannot talk and discuss confidential items via zoom, only in person but this item will be put on February agenda.*

6. To determine matters arising from the meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020 for updating and noting.

- 6.1 Correspondence between WPC and ESH (this was being forwarded by Cllr Griffin to Cllr Standley to consider the next possible steps).

*Cllr Standley stated that he was copied on the reports when it was emailed. The High Street snagging is making progress. Cllr Griffin stated that the yellow lines have been painted around the bus stop and the drains are still an issue.*

- 6.2 St James' Square: cars were parking over the markings and blocking Blacksmiths Lane (Cllr Standley was due to talk to Wealden Police District Commander about this).

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*Cllr Standley stated he is talking to the Police about parking in general; but not specially about the white lines which comes under East Sussex Highways (ESH). However, Cllr Standley will follow this matter up. Cllr Gadd stated that PCSO said it would help them. Cllr P Moore stated that Cllr Standley, Cllr Griffin and himself will continue to raise the item as an ongoing issue with ESH, however, the initial respond from ESH was No.*

6.3 Waters Reach Section 106 funds being used at an alternative location to Sparrows Green Recreation Ground. (Cllr Standley was going to write to the vendors). *This was discussed earlier under item 4.*

6.4 Tenants living in social housing and the inability to downsize if they had more than £6,000 in savings, and therefore unable to free up family sized homes. (Cllr Howell was due to make further enquiries about this).

*Cllr Gadd emailed Cllr Howell today regarding the Social housing with the PC concerns; Cllr Howell stated that she will follow it up.*

6.5 WDC recognition award update on presentation (Cllr Gadd).  
*The award will not be issued at the moment due to Covid-19.*

### 7. Chair's Announcements

*Christmas lights will be dismantled Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January.*

### 8. Finance items for decision and allocation of resources

8.1 To note the bank statements and bank reconciliations to 22 November 2020 (three bank accounts)

8.2 To note the RBS Income and Expenditure, Cash and Investment and Ear Marked Reserves reports for November 2020.

8.3 To agree the payment list (cheques and Direct Debits) for January 2021.

*Cllr Gadd propose to agree 8.1 to 8.3. Seconded by Cllr Edwards. All agreed.*

8.4 To ratify the budget setting for 2021-2022 as per the Finance and Resources Committee (17/12/2020) recommendations.

*Cllr Gadd proposed to ratify budget setting. Seconder, Cllr Neil. Nine councillors agreed, one Cllr abstained.*

8.5 To confirm the precept request for 2021-2022 as per the Finance and Resources Committee (17/12/2020) recommendations and for the Chair to sign the precept request form.

*Cllr Moore proposed the precept remains the same 'for a Band D property'. The precept requirement will be £152,000. Seconded Cllr Crawford. All agreed.*

8.6 To agree the costs of installation of the memorial bench at Jardin d'Aubers. (Cllr Griffin) *Cllr Griffin stated an estimate has been emailed to the clerk for the cost of the installation, which is £750, which requires a large plinth to support the heavy bench. Seconded by Cllr Gadd. All agreed.*

8.7 To agree a contribution towards electricity costs for the Christmas light (Cllr Gadd)

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*Cllr Gadd propose to contribute a nominal sum of £30 max towards the electric costs to four of the retailers. Seconded by Cllr Neil. All agreed. Cllr Crawford asked if the lights could remain in-situ until mid-February, to help brighten parishioner's mood. Cllr Edwards stated that the lights have already been switched off and will be taken down Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January.*

8.8 To agree expenditure on the telephone kiosks refurbishment, for installation of defibrillators (Cllr C Moore)

*A member of the public missed the public forum; however, Cllr Gadd has invited Ms Cutts to speak about a defibrillator at Couseley Woods. Cllr Morris asked what the cost of the defibrillators is and suggested that the WPC could made a contribution to the Ms Cutts fundraising appeal. Cllr Moore proposed that Ms Cutts come back to the WPC for a small grant to have the same defibrillators and management services in all location including Cousley Woods. Cllr Moore suggested that they stay in contact with Ms Cutts to coordinate both projects. Clerk to liaise. Cllr suggest that signages could be erected to indicate locations of defibrillators. Cllr suggested that the BT Kiosk at Best Beech could be relocated. Cllr Moore proposed refurbishment costs for the two BT Kiosks £3000 for both, installation of two defibrillators £4800 max. Purchase from CHT which includes the manage solution plan. CIL funds will be used for this project. Seconded by Cllr Gadd. All agreed.*

### 9. Items for decision.

9.1 To adopt the minutes of the Highways Lighting and Transport Committee held 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

*Noted*

9.2 To adopt the minutes of the Finance and Resources Committee meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

*Noted*

9.3 To approve the 2021 meeting dates. Cllr Moore suggested to review the dates at the next meeting.

*Noted*

9.4 Sureflow Plumbing & Heating installation of a new boiler at the Pavilion – to approve a delay of approximately 6 weeks for installation.

*Noted*

9.5 Local Government Consultation - Standards Matter – to compile a response for submission. (<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/standards-matter-2-public-consultation-and-public-sector-survey>). Cllr Morris to draft report and coordinate responses from all councillors via email. All agreed.

9.6 Contract between WPC and Wealden District Council (WDC) for the community toilet scheme (due to end on 30<sup>th</sup> December 2020). Cllr Gadd cannot find the hard copy of the contract. Cllr Stanley to make some enquires.

9.7 Playground update and to make a Lawful Development application for the erection of play equipment (fees of £117.00) – Cllr Griffin/Cllr C Moore. Cllr Murphy chaired this item.

*Cllr Griffin stated that for the WPC to build the playground, it is required to own the land and Hall and Field (H&F) were going to lease the land to WPC. The initial proposal was for H&F to engage a solicitor to draw up a lease contract and WPC to review the contract. However, this has now be contradicted by H&F stating that a lease contract is not required. Cllr Griffin stated that WPC should not go ahead with the installation of the playground without a lease contract on the land with is not owned by WPC, which leaves WPC open to litigation. The lease has to cover the life expectancy of the equipment.*

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*Cllr Tincombe joined the meeting at 20.05*

*Cllr C Moore stated that WPC needs to make a Lawful Development application for erection of the play equipment (£117) and planning permission is required. Cllr Neil stated that a lease document is required to start the conversation of 'what is a reasonable rent'. Once this has been received then the next step is the planning application. It is important to receive a statement from H&F stating the terms and conditions. Cllr Griffin stated that the funding for the playground was agreed at a previous meeting and that the Lawful Development WPC needs to own the land. Cllr Nell proposed to put aside £117 for the Lawful Development application. Seconded, Cllr C Moore. All agreed.*

*Chair handed back to Cllr Gadd.*

9.8 To ratify any private and confidential matters.  
*None.*

## 10. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

10.1 *Update Meeting schedule for 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 19.00 via Zoom. All councillors are requested to attend.*

## 11 Items for Noting

11.1 *Asset of Community Value applications (The Greyhound, The White Hart and The Old Vine).  
Noted*

11.2 *Asset of Community Value application (The Household Waste and Recycling Centre)  
Noted.*

11.3 *Update on recruitment arrangements for the new Clerk.  
Cllr Murphy stated that a personal specification has been drafted. Delegation for all matters of recruitment to Cllr Gadd, Cllr Moore, Cllr Murphy and the RFO. Due to work commitments and Covid-19 one to two volunteers are required to assist with the recruitment. Cllr Smith and Cllr Tincombe volunteered to be part of the recruitment panel. All agreed.*

## 12. Correspondence list

13. Urgent issues at the discretion of the Chair for noting or inclusion on future agenda

### 13.1 Items for the Focus Magazine.

*Please contact Cllr Smith. Cllr Murphy stated that the Planning Committee would have a rolling contribution relating to the High Weald Design Guide, for example high fencing.*

### 13.2 Recreation ground.

*Cllr Murphy proposed to remain closed until the next WPC meeting. Seconded by Cllr Neil. For, Cllr Gadd, Cllr Smith, Cllr C Moore, Cllr Tincombe to close the Recreation ground until the next meeting. Against, Cllr Anderson, Cllr P Moore, Cllr Griffin, Cllr Edwards, Cllr Crawford. Abstained Cllr Morris and Cllr Bullock. Cllr C Moore volunteered to draft a public statement and circulate via email.*

Meeting closed at 20.36