

## WADHURST PARISH COUNCIL

### THE MINUTES OF WADHURST PARISH COUNCIL FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE PAVILION, SPARROWS GREEN RECREATION GROUND, WADHURST ON THURSDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2021 AT 1900 HOURS.

**Present:** Cllr Gadd (Chair), Cllr Smith, Cllr Murphy (in part), Cllr C Moore, Cllr P Moore, Cllr Crawford, Cllr Bullock & Cllr Morris.

**Also, in attendance:** Claudine Feltham (CF) (RFO/Deputy Clerk), Cllr Standley, Cllr Howell and Mrs Mountford from Uplands. There were no other members of the public present.

The COVID safe council meeting document had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. Members had been advised re taking of lateral flow tests and not to attend if a positive lateral flow result, or if they had displayed any symptoms of COVID 19. Members were requested to sign in or use the QR code, use hand sanitiser and have their temperature taken.

Members sat at socially distanced chairs, and were advised to wear a mask whilst, when possible, although this could be removed when seated.

#### 1. To receive apologies and reasons for absence.

*Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr's Anderson (working), Edwards (working), Niell (unwell), Maggs (keyworker), Tincombe (keyworker) and Griffin (unwell).*

#### 2. To receive declarations of personal, prejudicial and disclosable pecuniary interests on items on the agenda and updates to members' register of interests.

*Cllr Smith declared an interest in respect of agenda item 10.2 as a Governor of Uplands School, and would not take part in this section of the meeting.*

#### 3. Public Forum – time limit 15 minutes.

*Cllr Gadd introduced Mrs Mountford from Uplands School and thanked her for attending the meeting to advise on the consultation for Uplands Community College to convert to academy status within the Beacon Community College Academy Trust (agenda item 10.2)*

*When Mrs Mountford took over as head teacher of Uplands, the school was in a poor financial position with a substantial deficit that had been run up over several years.*

*The location and available transport made it difficult to maintain full student numbers and this was reflected in the funding from government, and subsequently a significant dent on the schools' budget. As a result, the school considered longer term solutions with the favoured approach to become part of the Beacon Community College Academy Trust.*

*Approximately 6 years ago Beacon did not have a good reputation, and poor exam results. They recruited a new inspirational Headteacher who has turned Beacon around, and they are now within top 2% of schools nationally for their results.*

*Uplands would like to work with Beacon, learn from them, and achieve the same results.*

*They would also like to offer 6<sup>th</sup> form students a wider range of A 'Level results by offering them subjects at both Uplands and Beacon (with transport ferrying them between the two sites when required).*

#### 4. County Councillor and District Councillor reports.

*Cllr Standley commented that he appreciated the current challenges faced by Uplands were substantial, and by linking with Beacon it should be considered as a collaboration, and not a take-over.*

*Cllr Gadd enquired about the no parking road signs for St James Square. Cllr Standley advised that East Sussex Highways (ESH) were not keen on painting white markings on the road, however, when considering a 20mph restriction, they could look at extending the area to include St James Square. Cllr Standley agree to keep raising the issue with ESH.*

*Cllr Gadd also mentioned about the ongoing issue of over flowing drains in Jonas Drive. **Action:** Cllr Standley to attend when bad weather to photo this.*

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*Cllr Morris had received a request from residents in Station Road for the introduction of traffic calming measures. Speed watch aware this was a regular problem at this location.*

*Cllr Standley advised of the process whereby the WPC could make a request for this, and one of the first steps would be a feasibility study (cost approx. £500)*

*Cllr Howell advised that she had attended a recent meeting with 4 MPs with regards to the housing numbers being allocated to the area, and were working on trying to get the number reduced.*

*Cllr Standley added that whilst WDC do not currently have a 5-year housing supply, there are 7,500 stamped planning permissions and feels these should be included.*

*Affordability: puts numbers up b 40%, ratio of wages to house prices. To get house prices to fall, we would have to build hundred of thousands of houses. It's a bit of a nonsense. We are putting these arguments forward.*

*Cllr Murphy enquired that when planning permission was granted it would usually state that the development should be started within 3 years, but was concerned this was not happening. Cllr Howell advised that this was something being considered.*

**5. 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 (admissions to meetings) Act 1960.**

*None.*

**6. To approve the minutes of the parish council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 as a true record.**

*Cllr Gadd requested a change to; Cllr Gadd advised that three members has submitted comments on the draft, and once this is addressed, I recommend that we agree Reg 14 by email. (Members agreed).*

*Cllr Murphy disagreed with this; I certainly would not have commented if you had said that. We all needed to see the final draft.*

**Resolved:** *the change requested by Cllr Gadd reached a majority approval.*

*Cllr Bullock requested a change; that the minute be changed to include my comment that at the next Parish Council meeting I needed to see WDC's comments and our consultants comment on the Plan so we could have an authoritative version of the two important commentaries on the plan had responded to the draft.*

**Resolved:** *the change requested by Cllr Bullock reached a majority approval.*

*Cllr Murphy commented that she did not agree with the wording under agenda item 9 (Chair's Announcements) with regards to correspondence being made through the Clerk.*

*Cllr P Moore advised that he did not think this was a substantive change, Cllr Murphy confirmed that she would like it changed. (Comment: Clerk awaiting exact wording from Cllr Murphy and will then update minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021)*

**Resolved:** *the change requested by Cllr Murphy reached a majority approval.*

*Cllr C Moore advised there was an error on agenda item 1.7 (Wadhurst & District Business Association) which should have said deferred to the next meeting. The Clerk agreed with this error.*

**Resolved:** *the change requested by Cllr C Moore reached a majority approval.*

**7. To determine matters arising from the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 for updating and noting.**

- Correspondence with parishioners via the Clerk – Cllr Gadd

*The Clerk advised that the response from ESALC was that this was best practice, but not a legal requirement. Members of the parish council then considered the pros and cons of doing so. Cllr Standley*

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*advised that at County level the Cllr would respond direct to the parishioner. Cllr Howell added that if she had a query, she would usually go to an officer for advice, and copy them into the response sent to the parishioners.*

*It was noted that members should not bring the council into disrepute, so should state if their comments were personal opinion or parish council policy.*

*Overall, it was agreed to copy the Clerk into any correspondence.*

- Update on the Clerk's vacancy – Cllr Gadd

*Cllr Gadd advised that they (Cllr C Moore, Cllr Smith and Cllr Gadd) had prepared for and conducted one interview last week, and another planned for the following week. One applicant is CiLCA qualified. Will hopefully have an update for the next meeting.*

- Papers held at Pavilion – Cllr Gadd

*Cllr Gadd advised that she had taken a long time going through the papers kept at the Pavilion and had finally completed scanning the documents. These would be circulated to members via the Clerk. Some documents would have to be kept as part of the document retention policy, but if members wished for any other documents to be kept then they should advise the Clerk.*

### 8. Chair's Announcements

- The thank you curry night had been postponed due to continued lockdown restrictions, and would be re arranged.
- Training for Cllrs; in September will be considering training options for councillors, and request that you contemplate what training people would like to undertake.
- GDPR. There had been two recent GDPR issues. The first was when a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) email was sent out. The parish council representatives for the NP investigated this and assessed it as a low risk, which meant it did not need reporting to the ICO. Another issue arose when a Cllr accidentally sent an email to two personal email address. This will also be investigated and assessed.

*Cllr Murphy suggested that GDPR would be a good training session for all members to undertake.*

*Cllr Gadd moved agenda item 10.2 to this point on the agenda due to Mrs Mountford from Uplands being present at the meeting.*

#### **Agenda item 10.2 To agree a response from WPC for the proposal for Uplands Community College to convert to academy status within the Beacon Community College Academy Trust.**

*Cllr C Moore; members of the parish council had received the consultation but felt it was imperative for the parish council to respond as a group, as Uplands are an important and significant body in Wadhurst. There have been a few social media comments and concerns raised on the subject and Cllr C Moore attended a Zoom 'meeting' for people who had their concerns.*

*Particular apprehensions were if decision making was transferred outside of Wadhurst, which would raise concerns about Sticky Fingers and Uplands Gym as they are affiliated to school presently.*

*Parishioners were also very concerned about the current parking situation at Uplands, and how this could increase congestions and traffic movements.*

*Cllr Murphy enquired that if children were moved from one site to the other, would this be for a whole day, or for part of a day. Answer: part of the day.*

*Cllr Murphy asked how did Upland's plan to offset the environmental impact of these additional journeys. Answer: there are a number of ongoing projects, including the planting of 450 trees on site over the next year.*

*Cllr Crawford asked what Beacon would be getting out of this amalgamation. Answer: Beacon would get to collaborate with a similar school, with like minded ethos, and would be less likely be told they would have to collaborate with a school not of their preference.*

*Cllr C Moore asked about the plans for Sticky Fingers and the Gym. Answer: there are plans but this would not be linked to the academisation. Cllr Mountford added that many conversations were ongoing with decisions still to be made.*

*Cllr Morris asked if there had been involvement with the local primary schools. Answer: all primary schools had been invited to comment on the consultation.*

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Mrs Mountford advised that approximately 80% of schools sat within academies, and there were many successful ones.

Cllr P Moore voiced his concern that currently Uplands had a governing board made up of local representatives but was unsure how this would work under a multi-academy trust. Answer: this is something that would need to be agreed. The decision to become an academy or not would need to be decided and then there would be a period of due diligence – and at any point Uplands (or Beacon) could withdraw.

Cllr Murphy asked what was the difference between a partnership and a takeover?

Answer: Uplands have been in driving seat in approaching other schools, it was Beacon that were the favoured choice. Also, it would be likely to that there were two boards (dealing with local issues) plus an overarching board who deal with more strategic decisions. Both schools would like to keep their individuality. Would not share same name, would like two distinct schools,

Cllr Standley invited to speak by Cllr Gadd:

The whole point is to improve the education for children and their opportunities.

Cllr Gadd invited all members to make their comments on the consultation:

Cllr Crawford commented that he had deep seated experience of not liking academies, and that the idea of Beacon keeping the keys to their success a secret was rather bazaar

Cllr Murphy: I do not feel that this is the right way to respond to a consultation so I will not be taking part.

Cllr Bullock: mentioned there were two elements creating this consultation; the failing impact and the financial impact. If becoming an academy, it could mean that they would lose their 6<sup>th</sup> form. Cllr Bullock was unsure if he supported the idea or not, but want to be assured that the 6<sup>th</sup> form stayed at Uplands.

Cllr Morris: did not feel qualified to comment on this consultation.

Cllr P Moore: had concerns that with the same teachers, the same governing body – how would they achieve different results? Would also like to know what the costs would be, as presume there would be a fee paid to the academy trust. Educationally; not an expert but would assume there would be an education benefit. Other concerns would be for the future of Sticky Fingers and Uplands gym, as there would not be considered as core to the educational needs of the school, but are important for the community. Would want assurance that these services would be maintained at Uplands. And concerns over the management structure.

Cllr C Moore: reflected on the concerns about traffic, congestion and parking, especially if there were to be more trips generated between the two sites.

Mrs Mountford commented that within 12-18 months they would hopefully be an off-road solution.

Cllr Gadd: Thought it was a brilliant idea that A 'Level pupils would have the opportunity to choose from a greater range of subjects across the two sites. Appreciate that an increase in pupils would mean an increase in income, but how much would then need to be paid to the academy?

Cllr Smith; as a Governor of Uplands stayed silent throughout the discussions.

**Resolved:** It was agreed to compile a response for the consultation, circulate it to members for agreement, then submit to Uplands on Monday. Cllr's Murphy and Smith abstained from this decision. (Appendix B)

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

Cllr Gadd thanks the RFO for all of her hard work and time spent on preparing for the internal audit, which had been passed. The next step was for documentation to be agreed by the full council, signed off and sent to the external auditor.

#### 9.1 To agree the payment list (cheques and Direct Debits) for June 2021.

**Resolved:** The payment list, as circulated to members prior to the meeting was approved, this was proposed by Cllr C Moore, seconded by Cllr Gadd and reached unanimous approval. (Appendix A)

**9.2 To retrospectively agree the payment of £885 + VAT to B & W Electrical Contractors for the emergency (they were not working) replacement of lights, switches, connectors and diffusers (plus labour) at the Pavilion.**

*Resolved: this was proposed by Cllr Gadd, seconded by Cllr C Moore and reached unanimous approval.*

**9.3 To ratify the continued expenditure to Europlants for the watering of flower displays (and maintenance) for the High Street @£56 per week.**

*Members commented that this was a lot of money to spend, but agreed it needed to be done. Alternative arrangements will be considered for next year. Resolved: the expenditure was proposed by Cllr Gadd, seconded by Cllr C Moore and reached unanimous approval.*

**9.4 For all members to acknowledge receipt of the end of year (31.3.2021) financial document as circulated under separate cover by the RFO:**

- a. **Current account bank reconciliation**
- b. **Bonus Saver 1 bank reconciliation**
- c. **Bonus Saver 2 bank reconciliation**
- d. **Cash and Investment reconciliation**
- e. **Ear marked reserves report**
- f. **Summary receipts and payments report**
- g. **Detailed receipts and payment report**
- h. **Trial balance to 31.3.2021**
- i. **Annual return details report**
- j. **Previous internal audit report**
- k. **Unsigned AGAR (Annual Governance and Accountability Return) documents for the year 2020-2021**

*Agenda items 9.4 a to k were considered together. Cllr C Moore advised that we would need to add an advisory note to the AGAR to comment on the fact that we had received notification of an alleged breach of work a Jardin d'Aubers and that a retrospective planning application would need to be submitted.*

*Resolved: members acknowledged receipt of the above documents and approved that the advisory note be added. This was proposed by Cllr Gadd, seconded by Cllr Crawford.*

**9.5 To acknowledge receipt of the internal auditors report for year ending 31.3.2021 and note any recommendations and actions required.**

*Resolved: The internal auditors report and been received and circulated to all members of the council. The actions/advisories would be considered by the Finance and Resources Committee. This was proposed by Cllr Gadd, seconded by Cllr Smith and reached a unanimous approval.*

**9.6 Annual Governance Statement; to consider and acknowledge the effectiveness of the system of internal control and prepare Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2020-2021 of the AGAR and resolve for the Chair and Clerk to sign page 4 of the AGAR.**

*Resolved: all members of Wadhurst Parish Council acknowledged their responsibility for ensuring there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. This was proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr C Moore and reached unanimous approval.*

**9.7 Annual Accounting Statements; to consider and acknowledge the Accounting Statements in Section 2 of the 2020-2021 AGAR and resolve to approve this for the RFO and Chair to sign page 5 of the AGAR.**

*Resolved: all members of Wadhurst Parish Council considered and approved the Accounting Statements of Section 2 of the 2020-2021 AGAR and agreed for the RFO and Chair to sign the documents. This was proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr C Moore and reached unanimous approval.*

**9.8 To note the 'Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Unaudited Annual Governance and Accountability Return' document and dates.**

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**Resolved:** The notice of public rights document and dates were noted by the parish council. The notice would be placed on the website by the RFO on 25<sup>th</sup> June, and on the public noticeboard by (also on 25<sup>th</sup> June). This was proposed by Cllr Gadd, seconded by Cllr C Moore and reached unanimous approval.

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

### 10.1 To adopt the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 6<sup>th</sup> May, 22<sup>nd</sup> May and 5<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

**Resolved:** the minutes of the planning committee meetings held on 6<sup>th</sup> May, 22<sup>nd</sup> May and 5<sup>th</sup> June 2021 were each approved, and they were proposed by Cllr Murphy and seconded by Cllr Smith, and reached unanimous approval.

### 10.2 To agree a response from WPC for the proposal for Uplands Community College to convert to academy status within the Beacon Community College Academy Trust – Cllr C Moore

**Resolved:** members of the parish council agreed for Cllr C Moore to compile a response to the consultation. This would be circulated to members for approval and then submission to Uplands by 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

### 10.3 Consideration to adopt a version of the NALC model Standing Orders (revised 2020) in place of the current Wadhurst Parish Council Standing Orders

**Deferred:** Cllr C Moore requested for additional time to consider this, and for it to be an item on July's meeting. Proposed by Cllr C Moore, seconded by Cllr Murphy and reached unanimous approval. **Action:** Clerk to email the Word document to all Cllrs to re-invite them to comment.

### 10.4 CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) membership – Cllr C Moore

Cllr C Moore explained that some members of the planning committee and the Clerk had attended a (free of charge) planning webinar, hosted by CPRE, and considered whether the parish council should become members in order to access additional training and information.

**Resolved:** Cllr Gadd proposed that we join for the fee of £36 per year, this was seconded by Cllr Morris and reached unanimous approval. **Action:** Clerk to contact CPRE.

### 10.5 To approve the Committees Area of Responsibilities document.

**Resolved:** document approved, this was proposed by Cllr Gadd, seconded by Cllr Crawford and reached unanimous agreement.

### 10.6 To approve for Cllr Griffin to be added as a substitute member of the Planning Committee.

At the last parish council meeting Cllr Gadd invited members to put themselves forward for the planning committee to boost the numbers, especially as there had been a couple of recent incidents where the planning committee was not quorate to consider some applications. Cllr Griffin had kindly put himself forward.

**Resolved:** Cllr Gadd proposed for Cllr Griffin to become a member of the planning committee, this was seconded by Cllr P Moore and reached unanimous approval. **Action:** Clerk to update the committee members' document.

### 10.7 To ratify any private and confidential matters dealt with by email – Cllr Gadd.

None – (note: this agenda item can be removed once COVID restrictions are eased)

## 11. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG)

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Cllr Morris enquired if the process of evidence gathering was ongoing. Cllr C Moore confirmed that AiRS has said evidence could continue to be gathered on areas where they had issues, for example traffic surveys and the Design Code. The regulation 14 consultation is to seek responses from the community.

In addition to this they are working along side experts on the Design Code.

Cllr Murphy asked; in terms of what you have done already, like lack of parking, is this an area where you are trying to gather more evidence?

Cllr P Moore advised that they were talking with Wealden District Council but they had not agreed to share their evidence on this section at the moment. In terms of parking congestion, it has been tricky to get evidence of this during the last 18 months due to the COVID pandemic and lock down.

The consultation process is also part of the evidence gathering. The Neighbourhood Plan is a living breathing document that will be updated accordingly.

Cllr P Moore commented that whilst evidence gathering, the associated costs would also need to be considered.

Cllr Murphy stated that she wanted it included within the minutes that WDC have refused to share evidence about the lack of parking in Wadhurst.

Cllr P Moore commented that he did not think this was a useful comment when the NPSG are working alongside WDC. Cllr Murphy responded that she insisted it was included within the minutes. Cllr P Moore commented that her behaviour was ridiculous at times.

Cllr Smith advised that there was a small working party looking at the Communications strategy for posters, news articles, survey delivery, press and media. The Commemoration Hall had been booked for two presentations to take place on 20<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> July.

(2052 hours Cllr Murphy left the meeting)

Cllr Crawford commented that he was not comfortable with what had just happened, and that the comment from Cllr P Moore was not helpful. Cllr Morris agreed with Cllr Crawford.

Cllr Smith added that when training sessions are considered in September that Code of Conduct should be included. Cllr Gadd confirmed that this was an item being considered for group training sessions.

Cllr Bullock asked that the deadline for comments being end of June should be updated if the presentations were not taken place until 20<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> July. Cllr C Moore noted this.

Cllr Gadd said everyone should be encouraged to attend the presentations and respond to the consultation. The three members of the NPSG (Cllrs C Moore, P Moore and Smith) were thanked by Cllr Gadd for all of the time and hard work committed to the Neighbourhood Plan.

## 12. Items for noting

### 12.1 Update on Household Waste site

Cllr C Moore advised that ESCC published papers on this but unfortunately, they included incorrect information, so the papers were pulled and the agenda item was deferred to their meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021. A few members of the public had also come forward to express their interest in being involved in the CIC, with one being interested in taking on the position of Chair.

Cllr Morris commented that it was great to have the volunteers but asked if there would be any due diligence checks would be carried out.

**Resolved:** Cllr C Moore proposed that the parish council agree for £300 be budgeted for meeting costs so that members of the public could become involved in the project, this was seconded by Cllr Morris, and reached unanimous approval.

### 12.2 Tree Wardens report on Jardin d'Aubers

Cllr Morris asked if anyone had responded to the Tree Warden in writing. The Clerk explained that Cllr Griffin had asked the Tree Warden, approximately three times, to meet on site to discuss the report. Cllr Griffin had not heard back from the Tree Warden so the Clerk had contacted the Tree Warden and requested the same meeting. A response was received from the Tree Warden stating that he would not meet anyone from the Amenities Committee on site whilst there was an ongoing investigation into the works carried out. **Deferred:** Members agreed that further discussions should take place when Cllr Griffin was present and so this item would be added to July's agenda.

### 12.3 Notification from WDC of an alleged breach at Jardin d'Aubers

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Cllr Gadd advised that there were conflicting views since receiving the schedule of works from the contractors as to whether planning is actually required. The Clerk added that she had been in touch with Joanna Denton at WDC. A retrospective planning application should be considered. The Clerk had requested some of the required information from the Tree Contractor. **Deferred:** this will be an ongoing item on the agenda. **Action:** Clerk to continue gathering information for the application form. **Action:** Clerk to add the paper from Cllr Morris to the supporting papers for July 2021.

### 12.4 Notification of search for a site for a Health Care Centre in Wadhurst by Assura.

Noted. Cllr C Moore suggests that a representative from the Neighbourhood Plan should also speak with Assura.

### 12.5 Change of July parish council meeting date from 8<sup>th</sup> July to 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

**Resolved:** all members were in favour of the changed date and the meeting will start at 7.30 p.m.

## 12. Correspondence list.

Noted.

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

None.

**Meeting closed at 2118 hours**

### Appendix A: Payment list for June 2021

CHEQUE NUMBER/ REFERENCE	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET AMOUNT	VAT	VAT NUMBER	TOTAL
100531	R PENNY	EXPENSES. CISTERN LEVER, MIRROR, MILEAGE	127.22			127.22
100532	QUALITY SUSSEX PLANTS	PLANTS FOR HIGH ST	476.75			476.75
100533	MULBERRY & CO	AUDIT AND 2 X COURSES	250	50	899727928	300
100534	SECOM PLC	SERVICE	137.09			137.09
100535	ELEMENT HOSTING	SET UP OF CLLR EMAILS AND OFFICE 365	988.2			998.2
100536	ELEMENT HOSTING	SET UP OF CLLR EMAILS AND OFFICE 365, 2ND INVOICE	323.76			323.76
100537	TUNBRIDGE WELLS FIRE PROTECTION	SERVICE EXTINGUISHERS	169.97	33.99	183615259	203.96
100538	AVICA UK LTD	TISSUE AND SACKS FOR WIHF TOILETS	29.46	5.89		35.35
100539	R PENNY	PETROL & DIESEL	35.51			35.51
100540	EUROPLANT LTD	SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF SUMMER DISPLAYS	325.53	65.11	702683545	390.64
100541	CLAUDINE FELTHAM	EXPENSES: POST, MILES, STATIONERY	119.14			119.14
100542	CREATE STREETS LTD	1ST HALF OF DESIGN CODE	4000	800	188423283	4800
100543	B & W ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS	ELECTRICAL/LIGHTS WORKS AT PAVILION. EMERGENCY.	885.31	177.06	790945684	1062.37

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100544	SUPPLIES FOR SCHOOLS	5L SOAP, 5L HAND SANITISER, SURFACE WIPES, SOAP DISPENSER AND HAND SANITISER DISPENSER (WIHF)	194.06	38.81	939384281	232.87
100545	V RAMM	LITTER PICKING X 8.20 HOURS	100			100
100546	ENVIRO SAFE 28 UK LTD	COVID CLEANING SPRAY AT REC PLAY AREA	325	65		390
100547	WADHURST FOOTBALL CLUB	GRANT	2000			2000
100548	CLAUDINE FELTHAM	SALARY	1533.37			1533.37
100549	R PENNY	SALARY	638.35			638.35
100550	HMRC	PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	2968.95			2968.95
100551	S GADD	EXPENSES 9FLOWERS AND NO COPY DRAFT)	80.48			80.48
100552	WIHF	TOILETS PAYMENT FOR APRIL AND MAY 2021	1250			1250
100553	CLLR C MOORE	LAND REGISTRY DOCUMENTS X 4	28			28
DD NEST	NEST	PENSION	213.01			213.01
DD WDC	WDC	DOG BIN EMPTYING	650	130	210898561	780
DD BGAS	BRITISH GAS	GAS AT PAVILION	157.97	7.89	684966762	165.86
DD BGAS	BRITISH GAS	ELECTRICITY AT PAVILION (MAY 2021)	75.17	3.75	684966762	78.92
DD BGAS	BRITISH GAS	ELECTRICITY AT PAVILION (JUNE 2021)	75.5	3.77	684966762	79.27
DD BT	BRITISH TELECOM	BT AT PAVILION (MAY 2021)	38.4	7.68	245719348	46.08
DD BT	BRITISH TELECOM	BT AT PAVILION (JUNE 2021)	38.4	7.68	245719348	46.08
DD BIFFA	BIFFA	WASTE COLLECTION FROM PAVILION	51.92	10.38	537911627	62.3
		<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>18286.52</b>	<b>1407.01</b>		<b>19703.53</b>

### **Appendix B: Response to Uplands Consultation**

Thank you for allowing the Wadhurst Parish Council (WPC) an additional two working days to respond to the consultation.

The WPC does not feel it is qualified to comment on the educational merits of the proposal and trusts that these are valid. However, members are surprised that the Beacon will not share the secrets of their success with Uplands unless they form a formal partnership under their Academy Trust (or that other successful schools in the local education authority with Uplands are not already sharing best practice.)

Costs; the WPC understand that a key driver for the plan is the forecast additional income from increasing pupil numbers at Uplands but they would like to understand how this compares with the additional costs of joining the Academy.

Although it has been explained that the consultation has been extended from four to six weeks and the WPC has been allowed an additional two working days to respond, Councillors are concerned at the short time frame of the consultation; with some members declining to comment due to the lack of time (note that receipt of the consultation notice was after the last monthly parish council meeting). The WPC are concerned that the residents of Wadhurst have not been made aware of the consultation and the consultation period should have been longer to allow for the additional difficulty of engaging people during COVID lockdown.

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The Wadhurst Parish Council is concerned about and would like to seek assurances on the following key areas on behalf of Wadhurst parishioners and businesses.

- Uplands Sixth Form
  - that Uplands will continue to have a sixth form under the proposals
- Sticky Fingers and Uplands Gym
  - The WPC are concerned that these might not be core to the educational aims of the Academy but they are very important to parishioners and the WPC would like confirmation that their future is secured under the plans. Of particular concern is how these would be funded, should they need additional investment.
- Organisational structure
  - As Uplands would appear to be the junior partner in the proposed partnership, the WPC would like to understand how the voices of Wadhurst parents and residents would be heard going forward. The concern being that a leadership structure based in Crowborough might not understand or hold in high priority the concerns of Wadhurst residents.
- Traffic, congestion and parking
  - The expected increase in pupil numbers and journeys (between the Wadhurst and Crowborough sites) will increase the problems of traffic, congestion, and parking. These issues are of very great concern to Wadhurst residents and High Street businesses.
  - As previously discussed with the school, the parking allocation at Uplands falls below the ESCC guidelines. We would like to discuss this and, as we also understand that an off-road parking solution is anticipated within 12-18 months, we would like more information about this and assurances that a solution to the current and anticipated issues will form part of the proposed plans.