

WADHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the full council meeting held at The Pavilion, Sparrows Green Recreation Ground, South View Road, Wadhurst at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 13th July 2023.

Present: Cllr Gadd (Chair), Cllr C Moore, Cllr P Moore, Cllr Smith, Cllr Anderson, Cllr Ramsden and Cllr Crawford

Also present: WDC Cllr Glynn-Ives, WDC Cllr Howell, ESCC Cllr Standley and Claudine Feltham (Clerk/RFO) and no members of the public

MINUTES

1. To receive apologies and reasons for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Shairp, Cllr Tincombe and Cllr Edwards.

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

None

3. Public Forum – time limit 15 minutes.

N/A

4. County Councillor and District Councillor reports.

The reports had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

ESCC Cllr Standley advised that there would be an additional £15 million in the budget for Highways - mainly to deal with patching, ditches and drainage.

Cllr Standley commented that he was not that impressed with what South East Water had to say at the public meeting, however it was good that they came.

Following on from the enquiry Cllr P Moore, it was confirmed that the Old School House is owned by the County Council.

Action: Clerk to carry out application for ACV for this property.

Cllr Glynn-Ives will now be dealing with planning aspect of the District Cllr role. Planning Committee members commented that they would want any applications for Bewl to go to Planning Committee North.

Cllr P Moore said that Mayfield Lane is a protected area, but was concerned that it was not being protected as it should be.

Weald Hall is subject to a S106 agreement, but this was not known by WPC Planning Committee at the time of their planning application, and not until after WDC gave planning permission.

Action: Cllr P Moore to send information on this to WDC Cllr Howell, WDC Cllr Glynn-Ives and the Clerk.

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 1st June 2023 as a true record.

Resolved: the minutes were approved as proposed by Cllr C Moore, seconded by Cllr Smith and reached majority approval.

7. To determine matters arising from the meeting on 1st June 2023 for updating and noting.

Members noted that the Caretaker for WIHF had been given a voucher to thank her for her hard work during the public toilet's refurbishment.

WADHURST PARISH COUNCIL

8. Chair's Announcements

Following on from a successful bid at auction, the parish council are now proud owners of some land in Tapsells Lane.

Cllr Anderson has kindly carried out a risk assessment and we got a quote for an arborist inspection and report.

The open manhole covers have been temporarily fenced off by the Lengthsman, and they have been reported to Southern Water.

Action: Clerk to chase Southern Water for an update.

Members of the council thanked Cllr C Moore for all of her time and assistance with this project.

Members and residents also thanked the Clerk for her role within the recent water outage.

(Members approved for agenda item 10.1 to be brought forward to this point of the agenda for consideration whilst the county and district Cllrs were present).

10.1

10.1.1 To consider the public meeting held with South East Water (6th July 2023)

10.1.2 To decide if the parish council wish to submit a formal complaint against South East Water regarding the recent water loss in the parish for 7 days – Cllr Gadd

10.1.3 To consider if the parish council should implement a water emergency plan – Cllr Smith

*Cllr Gadd commented that she had tried to contact the Clerk at Rotherfield parish several times but had not yet heard back. **Action:** WDC Cllr Howell offered to speak to them to advise of Wadhurst's support.*

Cllr C Moore remarked that SE Water would be paying compensation to all households, but not everyone was affected.

Suggestions by Cllr C Moore:

- *Wadhurst Parish Council to make a complaint direct to OFWAT*
- *Wadhurst Parish Council to support Rotherfield and WDC's complaints.*
- *Request for an independent report to assess the infrastructure of SE Water.*
- *Until this situation is resolved there should not be anymore housing in the area – as SE Water cannot cope with the current demand.*
- *Request to the Secretary of State to consider the recent water outage incidents and make water supply companies a statutory consultee on new housing applications*
- *Further engagement with SE Water; thank them for attending our public meeting and ask them to commit to a timetable for the Bewl to Best Beech pipeline.*
- *Ask SE Water to create an emergency plan specifically for Wadhurst.*
- *Identify a method for farmers with livestock and nurseries to better engage with SE Water, and to establish if there is a way for farmers with water bowsers to help with emergency support.*
- *Establish a list of long-term water leaks within our parish area*

Cllr Standley commented that if the issue in Newhaven/Peacehaven was the cause, which was fixed after 24 hours, so why did it affect Wadhurst for 7 days?

Also, during their presentation, they said that their emergency trigger is when 38,000 homes are affected – but their emergency trigger should be decided upon other factors too.

Cllr Crawford commented that there was no communication on the matter – he doesn't use Facebook.

Members noted that Carillon Cottage maintain a list of all of the vulnerable residents in the area, which is a massive help.

WADHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr P Moore: SE Water do not enough capacity/head room when something goes slightly wrong, and they seemed to be surprised about their own network.

Could Bewl be used as a supply in times of emergency? Maybe farmers with bowsers could help collect water?

Should existing bill payers pay for more capacity for new development? Maybe a new development needs more than just the connection charge, they need to pay towards the treatment plant as well.

WDC Cllr Howell also mentioned how she felt the communications from SE Water was shocking. SE Water are coming to county meeting on 14.7.23 and then WDC Overview and Scrutiny committee in September.

Resolved: *members approved for a working party to look further into these issues. Working party members: Cllr Smith, Cllr P Moore, Cllr C Moore, Cllr Anderson and Cllr Ramsden.*

9. Finance items for decision and allocation of resources

9.1 To approve the updated June 2023 payment list

Resolved: *the updated payment list for June 2023 was approved, as proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr C Moore and reached unanimous approval*

9.2 To approve the payment list for July 2023

Resolved: *the payment list for July was approved, as proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr C Moore and reached unanimous approval.*

9.3 To consider the grant application from Wadhurst Community Cinema

Resolved: *as proposed by Cllr Gadd, seconded by Cllr C Moore and reached unanimous approval a grant of £2000 will be awarded. Action:* Clerk to advise the application and arrange payment via BACS.

9.4 To consider the grant from Wealden Citizen Advice Bureau

Members considered this application at length, and would really like for Wealden Citizen Advice Bureau to return to Wadhurst to provide an in-person service, on a monthly basis. If this would be possible then we could award them a grant of £2,000.

Action: Clerk to contact Wealden CAB to discuss.

9.5 To approve training costs of approx. £150 for the Clerk (for end of year process within our finance software for income and expenditure accounting).

Resolved: *as proposed by Cllr C Moore, seconded by Cllr Gadd and reached unanimous approval this training was agreed. Action:* Clerk to contact Andy Beams to arrange.

9.6 To approve training for the Caretaker for basic Tree Survey and Inspections.

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

The Clerk mentioned that the Caretaker was also interested in some additional courses for trimmers, ride on mowers and first aid for outdoor workers.

Resolved: *as proposed by Cllr Gadd, seconded by Cllr C Moore and reached unanimous approval the four training courses were agreed.*

Action: Clerk to advise the Caretaker and book him onto the courses.

WADHURST PARISH COUNCIL

9.7 To consider the current levels of Ear Marked Reserves and approve any updates – Cllr C Moore/RFO.

Resolved: members agreed that as some of our projects could use CIL funds, we could reduce the EMR Community Projects to £50,000. This was proposed by Cllr C Moore, seconded by Cllr Gadd and reached unanimous approval. **Action:** Clerk to update RBS.

10. Items for decision and allocation of resources if necessary

10.2 To adopt the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 27th May 2023, 10th June 2023 and 24th June 2023.

Resolved: as proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr C Moore and reached unanimous approval, the minutes of 27th May 2023, 10th June 2023 and 24th June 2023 were adopted.

10.3 *(This item was dealt with at the beginning of the meeting)*

10.3.1 To consider the public meeting held with South East Water (6th July 2023)

10.3.2 To decide if the parish council wish to submit a formal complaint against South East Water regarding the recent water loss in the parish for 7 days – Cllr Gadd

10.3.3 To consider if the parish council should implement a water emergency plan – Cllr Smith

10.4 To consider the quote for the replacement main door to the public toilets at the Commemoration Hall – Cllr Anderson

Resolved: as proposed by Cllr Anderson, seconded by Cllr Smith and reached unanimous approval.

Action: Clerk to advise the Caretaker of WIHF and JBH Refurbishments.

10.5 Request from the Caretaker to purchase a carpet cleaner, that can also be used for the chairs – Clerk/RFO

Resolved: as proposed by Cllr P Moore, seconded by Cllr Gadd and reached unanimous approval, a budget of up to £300 was approved, along with a professional yearly carpet clean (if required).

Action: Clerk to advise Caretaker.

10.6 To consider the quotes from Creative Play for improvements to Sports Wall equipment – Clerk

Resolved: members agreed for Creative Play to supply and fit the additional pads to reduce the noise levels - as proposed by Cllr Gadd, seconded by Cllr Smith and reached unanimous approval.

Action: Clerk to advise Creative Play.

Members also discussed the recent intentional damage to the Jubilee Playground equipment.

Action: Cllr Anderson to take a look to see if it would be better for the wood to be stripped down and re varnished, or if it should be painted red. Members agreed that it would be good for the children involved to take a part of the refurbishment works.

10.7 D-Day Anniversary plans (6th June 2024)

Members discussed this event and agreed it would be good if we could work together with Wadhurst Warriors on this. (The information has already been sent to them).

Action: Clerk to speak to Cllr Edwards to see if could reserve the date for proclamation.

Resolved: a working party to be set up to include Cllr P Moore, Cllr C Moore, Cllr Ramsden, Cllr Gadd, Cllr Anderson and Cllr Smith to consider options and make some plans for 6th June 2024.

Action: Cllr Gadd to speak with Cllr Tincombe with regards to the thank you event at a local restaurant.

WADHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Action: all Cllrs to come back to the September full council meeting with their ideas **Action:** Clerk to add to September agenda.

- 10.8 Request from Wadhurst Planning Committee to increase their budget to £10,000 – Cllr C Moore.

Resolved: members agreed for the budget to be increased, as proposed by Cllr Gadd, seconded by Cllr Smith and reached unanimous approval.

- 10.9 To approve the contractor and budget for the required tree assessment works, and to delegate decisions on any immediate work that is required (identified from the assessments) to Cllr C Moore and Cllr Anderson (as the full council will not be meeting again until September).
– Cllr C Moore.

Resolved: Members agreed for Aborweald to carry out the survey and report, as proposed by Cllr C Moore, seconded by Cllr Crawford and reached unanimous approval, with a budget of up to £2,000. **Action:** Clerk to advise Aborweald.

Resolved: If any urgent works are identified from the survey, and need actioning before the September parish council meeting, then a budget of up to £10,000 was approved – as proposed by Cllr C Moore, seconded by Cllr Crawford and reached unanimous approval. (Note: consider nesting season)

- 10.10 Jardin d'Aubers lease from ESFR – (if any further correspondence is received in time for this meeting)

The lease and report from the solicitor had only been received on the afternoon of the meeting. Members noted the points summarised by our solicitor, and felt that these issues need to be addressed by East Sussex, as the parish council would not be able to accept/sign the lease with these current terms.

Action: Clerk to request our Solicitor go back to East Sussex about the terms we requested, and cc in Duncan Savage of East Sussex Fire & Rescue as well as Cllr Gadd – Chair of the parish council.

- 10.11 Bus shelter outside of The Greyhound – to consider the revised design and quote – Cllr P Moore.

Members discussed the revised plan, and considered whether this should be oak, or white weather board as it is within the conservation area. **Action:** Clerk to send the design to the WDC Conservation Officer and ask her if it could be oak or white weatherboard (if she is happy with oak then members agreed to go ahead with the quote).

Cllr C Moore commented that when the work goes ahead, to make the contractor aware of the wild flower verge next to the bus stop

Resolved: as above – proposed by Cllr C Moore, seconded by Cllr Ramsden and reached majority approval.

- 10.12 Telephone kiosk – to re approve the budget and contractor for the refurbishment – Cllr P Moore.

Members noted that the original contractor was now not proceeding with the work. Broomby Painters are starting the contract for street furniture painting on 17th July 2023 and so will provide a quote for this too. The budget has already been approved, and we have the required H & S documentation from Broomby. If their quote is acceptable (within our budget) then we can give them the go ahead. **Action:** Cllr Gadd to speak to the owners to see if they would accept post and

WADHURST PARISH COUNCIL

*rail fencing as a replacement. **Resolved:** as proposed by Cllr P Moore, seconded by Cllr Crawford and reached unanimous approval.*

- 10.13 Flag flying – to agree the process and any necessary budget for storage – Cllr C Moore
*After further consideration the idea of onsite storage for the flags wouldn't really work. We had not had much interest from parishioners about helping with the project. **Action:** Cllr C Moore/Smith to do a further article for Focus. **Action:** members to consider what other flags we may like to purchase. **Resolved:** Cllr P Moore agreed to carry out the flag work until September.*

11. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Cllr C Moore gave a short update. The Reg 16 consultation finishes next week and an examiner has been requested.

12. Items for noting

12.1 Carillon Cottage Asset of Community Value (ACV) application has been approved by WDC.
Noted

13. Correspondence list.

The correspondence list was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

Cllr C Moore commented that Lund Fund is open for applications and this may be an avenue to consider once we know the results of the survey report.

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

Cllr P Moore asked who would be removing the planters in advance of the street furniture painting (The Lengthsman would be requested to look at this).

Section 106 legal agreement between Wadhurst Parish Council and Wealden District Council.

*As previously approved by full council (on 2nd February 2023) members resolved for two Cllrs and the Clerk to sign the legal agreement for the release of £3900 from the Waters Reach S106 funds to be used for the refurbishment of the tennis courts surface at Sparrows Green. This was proposed by Cllr C Moore, seconded by Cllr Anderson and reached unanimous approval. **Action:** Clerk to notify Solicitor at WDC.*

At 2140 hours the meeting closed.