**Minutes of Wadhurst Parish Council full council meeting held at The Pavilion, Sparrows Green Recreation Ground, Wadhurst on Thursday 7th December 2023.**

Present: Cllrs S. Gadd (Chair), P. Smith, I. Anderson, J. Edwards, P. Moore, M. Ramsden and J. Crawford.

Absent: Cllrs C. Moore, D. Shairp, J. Edwards and A. Tincombe.

Public: Cllr Glynn-Ives (WDC) and Cllr Stanley (ESCC).

There was no public present.

1. To receive apologies and reasons for absence.

Cllrs C. Moore, D. Shairp and J. Edwards.

District Cllr Howell.

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

10.2 Cllr Gadd – Trustee Hall and Fields.

9.9 Cllr Anderson – Office works

1. Public Forum – time limit 15 minutes.

None.

1. County Councillor and District Councillor reports.  
   County Cllr Stanley had circulated his report prior to the meeting but provided a brief outline of activities.   
   District Cllr Howell had had sent her apologies – No report had been received.  
   District Cllr Glynn-Ives reported the disruptive unpublicised high street works. She is chasing up a response on Waters Reach meadow works with legal team at WDC. There is some funding available for tree planting in early 2024 for community orchards.
2. 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.
3. To approve the minutes of the parish council meeting held on 2nd November 2023 as a true record.

**Proposed by Cllr Gadd seconded by Cllr Smith and majority accepted as a true record. One abstention.**

1. To determine matters arising from the meeting on 2nd November 2023 for updating and noting.  
   Cllr Gadd reported on the successful Christmas fair. This was a good fundraiser for Hall and Fields.

There was a small Parish Council profit of £85.

**Cllr Gadd proposed this was sent to the History Society this was seconded by Cllr Crawford and unanimously approved.**

1. Correspondence List.

This had been circulated prior to the meeting there were no actions.

1. **Finance items for decision and allocation of resources** 
   1. **To approve the updated payment list for November 2023**
   2. **To approve the initial payment list for December 2023**
   3. **To approve the bank reconciliations for November 2023**
   4. **To receive the RBS finance reports for November 2023**
   5. To accept the NALC salary scale update.
   6. To accept the internal mid year audit report and note there were no action points.   
        
      **Items 9.1-9.6 were taken as one item for approval Cllr Gadd proposed acceptance Cllr Smith and all items were unanimously approved. The Clerk was asked to follow up the query on the funds**
   7. To consider Christmas tree light donation for expenses.  
      **Cllr Gadd proposed Cllr Ramsden seconded and this was unanimously approved.**
   8. To consider grant for banner. Funds for the purchase of  2 banners 'Funded/ Supported by Wadhurst Parish Council'  
      **Cllr Gadd proposed Cllr Crawford seconded and this was approved by majority vote with one abstention.**
   9. To consider the options and next steps of the office build and approve additional expenditure.  
      **Cllr Gadd proposed Cllr Smith seconded and unanimously approved.**
   10. To consider tree survey costs (Near Uplands School) £320.76 inc VAT.  
       **Cllr Anderson proposed Cllr Gadd seconded and this was approved by majority vote with one abstention.**

**The amount was increased to £400.00 to cover additional costs proposed by Cllr Moore and seconded by Cllr Gadd and unanimously approved.**

* 1. To consider line painting options and costs at the Pavilion.   
     **Cllr Gadd proposed up to £1500 for costs and the contractor would be finalised by email once the specification unanimously**
  2. To consider training needs and costs 2024.   
     This item is included in the 2024/25 budget and as such it was agreed it does not need further discussion.
  3. To consider purchase of defibrillator £2380 from Community Heartbeat Trust.   
     **Cllr Moore proposed this was agreed Cllr Crawford seconded and this was unanimously approved.**
  4. For members to consider and approve the budget proposals for 2024-2025  
     **Cllr Moore proposed this was amended to a 7% increase the detailed budget would need to be brought back to the next meeting Cllr Gadd seconded and this was unanimously approved.**
  5. For members to consider the finance report from the RFO and the options for precept for 2024-2025.  
     **Cllr Moore proposed this was amended to a 7% overall increase to £178,636.   
     Cllr Gadd seconded and this was unanimously approved.**
  6. For members to decide upon the precept amount for 2024-2025 (as per the options on the finance report (above agenda item).  
     **Cllr Moore proposed this was amended to a 7% increase Cllr Gadd seconded and this was unanimously approved.**
  7. For members to approve for the Chair and Clerk/RFO to sign the precept forms once received from WDC.  
     **Cllr Crawford proposed Cllr Smith seconded this was approved and this was unanimously approved.**

1. **Non-Finance matters**
   1. To adopt Lone Worker Policy.   
      **Cllr Gadd proposed Cllr Smith seconded and it was unanimously agreed that this policy was deferred to the next meeting as some Cllrs had not read the policy.**
   2. To consider possible CCTV installation and security measures at Commemoration Hall toilet facilities and funding for additional fittings to improve resilient against vandalism.   
      **Cllr Anderson outlined the changes needed to make the facilities more robust Cllr Moore proposed expenditure of up to £1000 plus VAT Cllr Crawford seconded and this was unanimously approved.**
   3. To adopt the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 31st October 2023 and 11th November 2023 and 25th November 2023.   
      **Cllr Smith proposed Cllr Moore seconded and this was approved by majority vote.**
   4. Jardin d’Aubers lease from ESFR – Update.  
      **Cllr Gadd proposed this was deferred Cllr Crawford seconded and this was unanimously approved.**
   5. St Georges Hall purchase – Update and Decision.   
      Cllr Gadd provided an update to the Council.  
      **Cllr Anderson proposed more information was required to progress Cllr Ramsden seconded and this was unanimously approved. Cllr Gadd would revert to the solicitor to confirm.**
   6. To consider Dark Skies Report  
      Cllr Smith reported on recent activities and other Councils who had expressed interest in joining.   
      **No further actions required at the current time.**
   7. Church Footpaths – Land Registry Search.   
      Cllr Anderson reported on a possible incursion onto the church footpath  
      The situation has improved since lengthmen works ha

The Clerk confirmed the Rights of Way team at ESCC should be able to take action if there has been a change to the boundary.   
**Cllr Gadd proposed the clerk report this to Rights of Way at ESCC Cllr Smith seconded and this was unanimously approved.**   
**Cllr Gadd also proposed the unregistered land triangle near the Lodge was unregistered and should be registered if the Church are not interested for composting seconded by Cllr Crawford and unanimously approved.**

* 1. Greyhound car park – WDC discussions regarding current needs.   
     **Cllr Gadd proposed that the discussion with WDC was progressed again to proposed that the car park should be restricted to 3 hours to improve the parking arrangements in the village centre. Seconded by Cllr Moore and unanimously approved.**
  2. Items for noting or inclusion on a future agenda.   
     Oak shelter and table tennis.
  3. Next Meeting Date 1st February 2024 had been scheduled.   
     **It was agreed that the amended date should be changed to 8th February 2024.**

Meeting Closed at 8:50 pm

WADHURST PARISH COUNCIL 2023-07-12 FULL COUNCIL MINUTES