**Minutes of Wadhurst Parish Council full council meeting held at The Pavilion, Sparrows Green Recreation Ground, Wadhurst on Thursday 7th March 2024.**

Present: Cllrs S. Gadd (Chair), I. Anderson, P. Moore, C. Moore, P. Smith, D Shairp, A. Tincombe, J. Edwards and J. Crawford.

Absent: Cllrs M. Ramsden.

In attendance: Locum Clerk Emma Fulham. Cllr Howell (WDC).

Public present: There were no members of the public at the meeting.

1. To receive apologies and reasons for absence.

Cllrs Ramsden.

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

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

The Chair reminded Cllrs to declare when necessary.

Cllr S. Gadd reported an interest in item 9.5 and 10.5 as a trustee of Hall and Fields.

1. Public Forum – time limit 15 minutes.

There were no public questions.

1. County Councillor and District Councillor reports.  
   Reports had been submitted by Cllr Glynn-Ives (WDC), Cllr Howell (WDC) and Cllr Stanley (ESCC).  
   District Cllr Howell reported on local plan consultation and she urged people to get involved.
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 8th February 2024 as a true record  
   **Proposed as a true record by Cllr C. Moore seconded by Cllr Anderson and unanimously approved.**
4. To determine matters arising from the meeting on 8th February 2024 for updating and noting.

Planters – funding had been approved but locations need to be finalised.

Tennis Court brushing – This matter had been investigated and would be completed once the weather was drier.

Electrical supply contribution to local businesses was agreed to increase to £60.00

**This was proposed by Cllr C. Moore and seconded by Cllr P. Smith and unanimously approved.**

Grants – Cllr S. Gadd confirmed more information needs to go on the website with the new forms.

D-Day – The commemoration hall was booked and a draft plan was there but needed further works to make the event work. The Clerk was asked to book the hall 1-5pm.

Condolence books have been purchased by Cllr Gadd and are in the office.

1. Correspondence List.

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

8.1 To consider response to WDC Local Plan Consultation.  
  
**Cllr S. Gadd proposed this matter was referred to the Planning Committee and this was seconded by Cllr D. Shairp and this was unanimously approved.**

8.2 To consider response to wild verge correspondence. (letter of support requested)

**Cllr C. Moore proposed that the Council support the initiative to keep triangle verges wild but this support was subject to the applicants following the criteria set out to apply to ESCC and for all neighbouring properties to be consulted and the applicants being responsible for the ongoing management of the triangles. Seconded by Cllr J. Crawford and approved by a majority vote with five votes and three abstentions and one against.**

* 1. To consider response to South East Water consultation / presentation.

Cllr C. Moore was unhappy with the recent consultation process. There was a lack of notice and general promotion of the consultation event.

**Cllr C. Moore proposed in future that South East Water should appoint a contact person at South East Water for progress reports and queries and a programme of works with regular in person update meetings (Quarterly). This was seconded by Cllr J. Crawford and this proposal was unanimously approved.**

1. Finance items for decision and allocation of resources
   1. **To approve the updated payment list for February 2024**
   2. **To approve the initial payment list for March 2024**
   3. **To approve the bank reconciliations for February 2024**
   4. **To receive the RBS finance reports for February 2024**
   5. **To receive the grant summary document from the RFO**

The grant under payments were reviewed.   
The WIHF would be asked to return £66 underspent to possibly use the refund against possible hire costs for D-Day.   
Wadhurst mums had a small underspend on the grotto of £54.22 The Council agreed to leave this to them for the forth coming years event.

Wadhurst Warriors Christmas grant needs clarification. The Clerk would ask the RFO for clarification.

**Items 9.1-9.5 were taken as one item for approval Cllr S. Gadd proposed acceptance Cllr J. Crawford and all items were unanimously approved.**

* 1. **To consider Church grant for the maintenance of the burial ground.   
     Cllr C. Moore proposed that the Church was granted up to 50% of costs up to a maximum of £3500.00 whichever was the lesser. Seconded by Cllr S. Gadd and this was unanimously approved.**
  2. **To consider Wadhurst PTA grant request.   
     This item was deferred to the next meeting as the forms had not been received.**
  3. **To consider increase in Christmas light budget for 2024.   
     This had been dealt with under matters arising.**
  4. **To consider request from Tennis Club for reduced fees.   
     The current amount is based on RPI the contribution hurdle amount has not been amended on memberships recently. The Council considered the contract and agreed some further works were needed on the agreement.   
     Cllr D. Shairp and Cllr A. Tinscombe agreed to review the figures and revert the matter back to the next meeting to agree.**

**10.Non-Finance matters**

* 1. To discuss and agree a response to higher authorities to the Uplands Academy Sixth Form Closure consultation.

Cllr S. Gadd confirmed a letter was required to ensure safe travels and entry to Crowborough School and to ensure the long term future of the facilities such as the gym and the playing fields. A letter would be drafted and arranged to be sent out in due course. This would be ratified at the next meeting, this action was unanimously approved.

* 1. To adopt the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 10th and 24th February 2024.  
     **Cllr D. Shairp proposed adoption seconded by Cllr P. Smith and unanimously adopted.** (Cllr S. Gadd abstained).
  2. Jardin d’Aubers lease from ESFR – Update and decision.  
     The Council had received advice from the solicitor.   
     **Cllr S. Gadd proposed that the contamination should be resolved prior to the lease being signed seconded by Cllr J. Crawford and unanimously approved. It was also agreed that the freeholder should be reminded that no works were being completed and the ash die back and other maintenance works were all on hold prior to the lease being signed and remained the responsibility of ESFR until the leasehold is signed and resolved.**
  3. St Georges Hall purchase – Update and Decision.

Cllr S. Gadd reported that there was no further information at the present time.

* 1. Playpark  cleaning report and action.

No further actions were required.

* 1. Pavilion outside toilets quote and decision.  
     **Cllr S. Gadd proposed that the repairs paid for under emergency budget should be ratified up to £1200 plus VAT. Seconded by Cllr J. Crawford and unanimously approved.**
  2. To receive Neighbourhood Plan update.   
     The plan was due to go to the vote on 2nd May. The Committee would revert on how best to publicise it in due course.
  3. Items for noting or inclusion on a future agenda.

Cllr S. Gadd reported that she would like involvement on planters when the weather improved.

Cllr J. Crawford requested that the Council consider recommencing committee meetings.

Co-option.

* 1. Next Meeting Date 7th April 2024

Meeting Closed at 8:50pm

WADHURST PARISH COUNCIL 2024-07-03 FULL COUNCIL MINUTES