

10-Dec-2008

ICKLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th December 2007 at 7.15pm at Winchelsea Beach Community Hall

Present: Councillors C Bronsdon (in the Chair), B Chishick, R Comotto, J Horsman, P Hurrell, Mrs S Lyward, Mrs C Merricks, T Moore, Mrs J Stanford, H Sutton, M Terry, B Thompson.

In attendance: Cllrs. N Ramus (RDC), K Glazier (ESCC), D Rosewell (Clerk), J Cannings (Assistant to the Clerk). Members of the public were also present.

07/159 The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting and, for information, reported that Ken Chegwell had died. He advised that the funeral would be at 2.00p.m. on Tuesday at Winchelsea Church.

07/160 The Chairman invited questions from members of the public. There were no questions from the public.

07/161 To receive reports and to ask questions of Cllr. N Ramus concerning County Council and Rother District Council matters.

Cllr. Ramus reported on two planning matters. One concerned a property of which there had been complaints about hedge height, spikes on the gate and noise from dogs and a garage. He said that action may be taken on the gate spikes but the hedging was not out of keeping with neighbouring hedges. Environmental Health were not taking action regarding noise. The other matter concerned an application to build new stabling in Broad Street. This had been refused by RDC. He thought the applicants would appeal.

Cllr. Glazier reported that the Council were still working through their financial settlement and were aiming for a 3.9% Council Tax rise. The cycle path at Rye Harbour was moving on and would be finished at the end of the financial year. He asked whether representative(s) from Icklesham Parish Council were receiving invitations to Rye Partnership meetings and advised that the AGM was next month. Notification of meetings had not been received.

Before the formal opening of the meeting, the Chairman said he would like the meeting to finish at 9.15p.m. due to the Clerk having to leave at that time on an urgent personal matter. This was agreed. The meeting now formally opened for Council business.

07/162 To receive and record any apologies for absence.
There were none.

07/163 Disclosure of Interests and Code of Conduct.

Cllr. Comotto declared a personal and prejudicial interest in items 9e(i) and (ii). Cllr. Mrs Merricks declared a personal interest in item 17.

07/164 To consider and approve the signing of the Minutes of the Council's meeting of the 12th November 2007 by the Chairman.

With one amendment in the second line of 07/145, that 'skateboarding' be changed to 'skateboarders', it was proposed by Cllr, Thompson, seconded by Cllr. Terry, that the minutes be approved. Agreed.

07/165 Budget 2008/9

The item opened with the following questions:

Balances carried forward,

(2) Cllr. Comotto asked why the contingency was £7500 and Cllr. Chishick asked if this amount was justified. The Chairman said Council were following the recommendation of the auditors. Cllr. Comotto said the current council was 'flush with cash'. Cllr. Chishick proposed, Cllr. Comotto seconded, that the budget for Contingency be £5000.00. Cllr. Horsman said he would like to see the Auditors' comments. No vote was taken. The matter was deferred pending sight of the auditors' report.

(3) PLWB. Cllr. Comotto said that if the loan started in the financial year 2008/9, no repayment would be made until 2009/10. Cllr. Mrs Merricks said she had attended the AGM of the Memorial Trust and they will be starting work in the spring. Cllr. Terry said the Council needed to see the scope, schedule of works and repayments and it was pointed out that information had already been provided, and the loan approved by Council, before he became a councillor. It was suggested that Members of the Trust should come to a council meeting to report on progress. Deferred.

(1) Icklesham Recreation Ground. Cllr. Terry asked why this had not been spent. The Clerk advised that the work could only be done at a particular time of year and was scheduled for spring/early summer.

(4) R.H. Flagpole. Cllr. Chishick asked if a new flagpole couldn't be purchased for less than this amount. He was advised of the importance to Rye Harbour residents of maintaining the current flagpole.

The Clerk then went through budget items in order, explaining their function and the reason for budgeted amounts. The following Items were discussed.

All other budget items, up to 2703, were agreed.

1292 Chairman's Payments. Cllr. Chishick said he saw no justification for a Chairman's allowance. He felt it looked 'corrupt' and said he had no objection to the Chairman's expenses being paid if supported by receipts. Cllr. Mrs Merricks objected to an implication of corruption. The Chairman said that he

was following a policy of supporting any payments with receipts. Cllr. Comotto proposed that the Chairman's Payments be £100, seconded by Cllr. Chishick. Cllr. Terry proposed an amendment that the Chairman's payment should be £200; no seconder was forthcoming. A vote was taken on the original proposal. 3 in favour, 8 against, 1 abstention. Not Agreed.

1227. Election Costs. Cllr. Comotto proposed that this be £1600, seconded by Cllr. Chishick. Cllr. Hurrell proposed an amendment that it be £1800, seconded by Cllr. Horsman. This was put to the vote. Agreed.

1225 Donations/Grants. It was noted that no grants had been made this year so far. Cllr. Horsman suggested advertising that grants were available from the parish council. Agreed.

1231. Legal Costs. Cllr. Terry asked for more definition on this item. It was explained that there would be legal costs involved, for instance, in formalising Council's loan to the Memorial Trust. It was suggested that Council should not be liable for these costs. Proposed by Cllr. Bronsdon, seconded by Cllr. Comotto that this item be deleted from the budget. Agreed deleted.

1301. S137 Grants. The purpose of this item was explained by the Clerk. Agreed.

1401. PLWB. Deferred (see above under Balances Carried Forward).

2101 Winchelsea street lighting. A question was raised as to why the street lighting was not paid by the District Council. Cllr. Glazier advised that lighting that illuminated the highway was the District Council's responsibility but foot lighting was not. However, he said it might be worthwhile for the parish council to write to the District Council requesting they pay for the Winchelsea street lighting. Cllr. Terry suggested a letter be drawn up. Agreed.

2201. Harbour Field (fencing & tree works). Cllr. Mrs Lyward said there was great concern over the poor fencing around the area of the recreation ground next to the main road. It was agreed that this item be deferred pending further investigation.

2205 Contingency. Deferred (see above under Balances Carried Forward).

2209. Grass cutting. Cllr. Comotto suggested a better deal might be had from joining forces with another parish in hiring a contractor. Although a good idea in theory, it was generally thought it would not work in practice. Agreed.

2210. Icklesham Recreation Ground. (See above under Balances Carried Forward). Agreed.

2215. Notice Board. Cllr. Comotto had proposed £165 for a board for the Strand Bus Shelter. He was asked why this was necessary and said the residents of the Strand felt 'left out' and were not always able to access the Winchelsea notice board. Agreed.

2220. Play Equipment Maintenance. Cllr. Comotto asked if anything needed replacing. The Clerk said no. The latest risk assessment had indicated the advisability of some maintenance but nothing of an urgent nature. Cllr. Comotto suggested Council adopted a schedule of maintenance work, working from the risk assessment. Cllr. Terry suggested drawing up a 3 year budget. Agreed.

2237. Tree Survey. Cllr. Comotto suggested a parish tree survey should only be done every 5 years and this item should be deleted from the 20088/9 budget. Agreed deleted.

2244. Youth Projects. Cllr. Bronsdon explained the need for a gathering point for young people in Rye Harbour. Agreed.

2246. Small Works Maintenance. Cllr. Comotto was asked about re-paving in front of the notice board, lowering the notice board and re-siting the lamp post. He said that for safety reasons the lamp post should shine over the crossing, not onto the highway. It was agreed that the Clerk write to the Highways Dept and the County Council. Agreed that the budget amount be changed to £2000 (see below).

2248. Rubbish Clearance. The Clerk explained that, for the most part this year, costs of Saunters Waste monthly rubbish clearance had been posted to Small Works Maintenance. A new heading in the accounts system had now been created specifically for rubbish clearance. It was therefore appropriate to change the budget figures by deducting £1000 from Small Works Maintenance (leaving £2000) and re-allocating it to Rubbish Clearance, plus a net increase of £500 (giving a new total of £2000). Agreed.

2301. Allotments. The Clerk outlined the new fencing work required at the Rye Harbour allotment site. The owner of the adjacent land has offered to clear the current hedging and fence if the council pay for the new fencing. It was agreed to increase the budget figure to £3500.

2402. RH Pound Field & Village Hall. It was agreed to redistribute £600 for 2 seats to 2230 and £500 for Rye Harbour Village Hall to 2601.

2403. Signs Winchelsea. Cllr. Comotto said 2 signs would be located on the Church wall. Mrs Merricks said the Council should write to the PCC seeking permission. Cllr. Comotto read out a letter of agreement he had received. Cllr. Mrs Merricks said the letter was to him personally and, if the work was to be done by the parish council, approval should be sought by the council. It was agreed the Clerk should write to the PCC.

Neighbourhood Watch Cards. Cllr. Comotto said there was no funding for the cards. Cllr. Mrs Stanford asked whether the cards had been approved by Neighbourhood Watch. Cllr. Comotto said the local police had approved the signs but not Neighbourhood Watch. Cllr. Comotto proposed, Cllr. Chishick seconded, that this item be approved. Cllr. Horsman said it was unfair to vote on these 7 items (which had been put forward by Cllr. Comotto). He

suggested they be included in the budget (except for the car park at Pear Tree Marsh) and decided at a later date whether they are to be used. The Chairman withdrew the vote. Agreed. Cllr. Mrs Merricks asked to see the Rother Flood Warning Cards. Cllr. Comotto suggested the 'No Cold Calling' cards also be circulated.

Decisions on the budget proposals stopped at item 2703. All 2008/9 budget proposals prior to 2703, not identified in this minute, were accepted as per draft budget sheet.

07/166 Financial Matters

a) Receipts & Payments report for the year to 30th November 2007. Proposed by Cllr. Comotto, seconded by Cllr. Thompson that they be approved. Agreed.

b) To approve items for payment for December 2007. The Clerk tabled items of expenditure totalling £2,696.24 for December which concerned cheques numbered 1846 to 1855 sequentially, plus £730.00 Standing Orders. Agreed.

c) Rye Harbour Play Park. Cllr. Bronsdon seeks approval to vire £389 from 2221 Play Equipment New. Proposed by Cllr. Bronsdon, seconded by Cllr. Comotto. Agreed.

d) Speed Surveys at R.H. and Winchelsea. Cllr. Bronsdon seeks approval for these to be carried out at a total cost of £500. This expenditure will be funded from money vired from Section S137 Grants. Proposed by Cllr. Bronsdon, seconded by Cllr. Terry. Agreed.

e) Grant Applications

i) Winchelsea Archaeological Society. Deferred.

ii) Winchelsea Town Plan Steering Group. Deferred.

07/167 Correspondence. Deferred.

07/168 Quality Council - update. Deferred.

07/169 Parish Office - review. Deferred.

07/170 Reports from Council Representatives. Deferred.

07/171 Meeting dates and venues for full council meetings in 2008. Deferred.

07/172 Icklesham Recreation Ground.

Permission sought by group associated with Hastings Town Youth Football to use the ground for a 'fun day' on 18th May 2008. Cllr. Mrs Merricks said that it was not permissible to charge for the use of the ground. Also, it was possible that a cricket match was scheduled for that day. She was currently working on the fixtures list. Deferred.

07/173 Date and venue for the next meeting.

The next meeting was confirmed as Monday 14th January at Winchelsea New Hall, commencing at 7.15pm.

The meeting closed at 9.10p.m.

Unapproved