

ICKLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th February 2007 at 6.45pm at Rye Harbour Village Hall.

Present: Councillors M Alford, C Bronsdon (In the Chair), Mrs K Carter, Mrs S Chetwood, R. Comotto, J Horsman, P Hurrell, T Moore, Mrs A Rumsey, H Sutton, B Thompson.

In attendance: Cllr. K Glazier (ESCC), Cllr. N Ramus (RDC), D Rosewell (Clerk). Members of the public were also present.

The meeting began informally with the showing of a SALC DVD entitled "Become a Councillor: make a difference!" This was a film about the work of parish and town councillors and designed to inform the public about this issue, given that 2007 is an election year.

The formal meeting was opened by the Vice Chairman, Cllr. Bronsdon, at 7.02pm. He welcomed Councillors, Cllrs. Glazier and Ramus and members of the public. PCSO Dan Bevan had sent his apologies. Cllr. Bronsdon passed on some information from him in respect of issues of criminal damage in the Rye Harbour area, and also about extra patrols to combat anti-social behaviour.

07/13 The Chairman invited questions from members of the public relating to the day's business before the formal opening of the meeting. There were no questions.

07/14 Reports by Cllr. K Glazier on behalf of East Sussex County Council (ESCC) and Cllr. N Ramus on behalf of Rother District Council (RDC).

Cllr. Glazier, on behalf of ESCC, said that he was still trying to get issues of building rubbish removal resolved and that discussions continue on the cycle path provision at Rye Harbour (Cllr. Bronsdon pointed out that the white line along part of this route to delineate the cycle path is deceptive and could be confused by motorists at night to be a border line for the road itself). Cllr. Glazier is still hopeful that the project will be completed this calendar year. He reported that the precept for the County is set to increase by 4.3% although this has not yet been formally agreed and a phased reduction, over the coming years, would be required.

Cllr. Ramus, on behalf of RDC, reported on the following.

Shepway District Council has approached Rother District Council for their comments on the planning applications for major changes at Lydd Airport. The matter will be considered at the RDC March Planning Committee Meeting. The main Rother concern is that of increased air traffic passing over the area. There are concerns over the potential closure of Post Offices across the district. There will be a rally in London on the 20th February in connection with this. Dog Control Orders are subject to new discussion and consultation. Finally, RDC has yet to fix its local rate.

The Chairman thanked Councillors for their reports and moved to next business.

07/15 To receive and record any apologies for absence.

The Clerk reported apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs. Mrs C Merricks and S Turner.

07/16 Disclosure of Interests and Code of Conduct

These had been reported by Cllrs. Horsman and Thompson in respect of Item 07/06a.

07/17 To consider and approve the signing of the Minutes of the Council's meeting of the 15th January 2007 by the Chairman.

Cllr. Comotto pointed out that in 07/06(a) of the Minutes, he had asked, in addition to a set of accounts, for a summary of the public consultation and had not asked that Mrs Hicks attend the next Council meeting. He also pointed out that in 07/07(c) he had asked again for a summary of the consultation. Under 07/09(a) where it refers to a project to preserve 'the only station in the Parish' it was suggested this should read 'the only station serving the Parish', as Winchelsea Station is actually just outside the area covered by IPC. These amendments were proposed by Cllr. Hurrell, seconded by Cllr. Mrs S Chetwood. **Agreed.**

07/18 Matters arising from the previous minutes.

07/06a Icklesham C/E Primary School Grant Application. This has been deferred until March. The Clerk will obtain the summary of public consultation data.

07/07c(i) Rye Harbour Youth Action Group. This grant application has now been withdrawn.

07/08c RALC briefing paper and questionnaire. Cllr. Comotto introduced the document as a summary of the recent White Paper for local government. Although this document had previously been circulated by email to councillors, a number of councillors had not been able to gain access to it. Accordingly, this will be sent out in hard copy form to those who have not yet seen it and the matter will be discussed again in March.

07/19 Financial Matters

a. Receipts and payments report to 31st January 2007.

This had been circulated for councillor's information. No questions. **Agreed.**

b. To approve items for payment for February 2007.

The Clerk/RFO tabled items of expenditure totalling £1,939.07 for February which concerned cheques numbered 1723 to 1731 sequentially, plus £730.00 Standing Orders. Proposed by Cllr. Mrs A Rumsey and seconded by Cllr. Mrs K Carter that the items of payment be approved. **Approved.**

07/20 Correspondence

Council were made aware of the correspondence under agenda items 9a and 9b. There were no questions.

c) Letter from Showtime Amusements requesting permission to hold a funfair at Icklesham. After some discussion, **it was agreed** that due to restraints on the use of the land, it would not be possible to permit this events. The Clerk will write to Showtime Events accordingly.

07/21 Security at Pear Tree Marsh Allotments.

Cllr. Comotto spoke on this matter and pointed out that the gate to the allotments was frequently left open and inappropriate car parking was occurring. After some discussion, Council agreed that a new lock and keys should be obtained and issued to current allotment holders with instructions that they were not to be passed on. A suggestion was made that these should be of the non-duplicating type. The Clerk will make enquiries, and a decision, as to the most cost-effective solution to the situation. Proposed by Cllr. Comotto, seconded by Cllr. Thompson. **Agreed.**

07/22 Lydd Action Group.

No requests or proposals had been received from anyone representing this organisation. Plans have been sent by Rother District Council to IPC for comment as referred to earlier, under item 07/14. The IPC Planning Committee will consider them at its next meeting.

07/23 Website

The Clerk reported that Rother District Council had written inviting the Council to be represented at a meeting on the subject of provision of website facilities under the infrastructure of the Council. Unfortunately, this meeting will be on the 12th March, meaning the Clerk will be unable to attend, but the Clerk has indicated to Rother that IPC are interested in becoming part of this project. The Chairman encouraged councillors and the public to have input to the website via the Clerk, as appropriate.

07/24 Cllr. Mrs A Rumsey proposed the following resolution:

“That this Parish Council write to Rother District Council asking them to join with a request to the Highways Agency to reinstate the signage from the A259 to the Public Conveniences in Winchelsea to ensure that the availability of this facility, maintained by the District Council, is advertised to the public on the entry signs to the town. At this time it might be appropriate to invite a representative of the Highways Agency to meet with the Council to discuss traffic issues within the whole of the Parish including signing asking for the reinstatement of the removed “Cinque Port” sign from Winchelsea.”

After some discussion, Cllr. Comotto proposed an amendment that this resolution be deferred until the results of the town plan for traffic and transport consultation are known. Seconded by Cllr. Thompson. **Agreed.**

For information, the Clerk advised Council that a discussion document had been issued in respect of the new Code of Conduct. All interested councillors were invited to contact the Clerk to be given access to all the information on this which is only via a website at the moment. The Clerk also informed the Council that there will be an internal audit of the Council's affairs on the 27th February 2007.

07/25 Date and venue for next meeting.

The next meeting was confirmed as Monday March 12th at the Community Hall, Winchelsea Beach, commencing at 7.15pm.

The meeting closed at 8.21pm