

ICKLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th January 2007 at 7.15pm at The New Hall, Winchelsea.

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

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

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.15pm, welcoming Councillors, Cllr. Ramus (RDC) and members of the public. She suggested that item 7b be taken before 7a in order that the representative from Icklesham School need not be detained at the meeting any longer than necessary. This was agreed. Similarly, it was agreed that item 11, salary review for the Assistant to the Clerk, be moved to the end so that it could be discussed after the public had departed, for confidentiality reasons. There was an apology from CPSO Dione Powell who was unable to be present due other commitments but had sent a report and this was distributed to councillors.

07/01 The Chairman invited questions from members of the public relating to the day's business before the formal opening of the meeting.

Mr Bourne asked about item 8c(i) Rye Harbour Action Group grant application for £500 which he felt sounded rather high. Cllr. Bronsdon responded that £500 was only part of the project and the Council is being asked to contribute up a maximum of that figure.

Mr Haddock raised the issue of the Lydd Action Group which is concerned about traffic levels in this area. It was agreed that this would be put on the agenda for next month's meeting.

Mr Jasper said, in connection with item 10b, there should be a more comprehensive road sign to Winchelsea.

07/02 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 first reported on the issue of the cycle way at Rye Harbour. He said that the project is on schedule, thus far. He hopes to be able to accelerate stages 2 and 3. There are land ownership and contaminated land issues being addressed currently. He reported that an Icklesham resident had contacted him about rubbish deposits and planning concerns and also reported that, in the context of budget setting, the Council was looking to make £8M worth of savings because of under-funding for next year

Cllr. Ramus apologised for current problems with email and telephone communications. He then moved on to say that the budget scrutiny activity in Rother District Council was due to start next week. There was, at this stage, no real way of knowing what the outcome of that scrutiny would be. He referred back to Lydd Airport, pointing out that, as Lydd is in the Shepway area, Rother District Council would only be involved at Shepway's request. Finally, he referred to the SSI amalgamation (see IPC minutes *passim*) and said that discussions would continue.

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

07/03 To receive and record any apologies for absence.

The Clerk reported apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Mrs K Carter and H Sutton.

07/04 Disclosure of Interests and Code of Conduct

The Clerk reported that a declaration of personal interest had been made by Cllr. Turner in respect of agenda item 10a. A personal interest was declared by Cllr. Thompson in respect of agenda item 7b and Cllr. Moore declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 8c(i). Cllr. Horsman declared a personal interest in agenda item 7b and Cllr. Mrs C Merricks declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 7b.

07/05 To consider and approve the signing of the Minutes of the Council's meeting of the 11th December 2006 by the Chairman.

Cllr. Comotto proposed a number of amendments to the Minutes which were not agreed. The Clerk advised a factual error in the Minutes. In 06/151, the answer to Mr Jasper's first question, should read ".....one Clerk and one Assistant to the Clerk." With this correction Cllr. Thompson proposed that the Minutes be signed as a correct record of the meeting. Seconded by Cllr. Bronsdon. **Agreed.** The Minutes were signed and dated by the Chairman.

07/06 Matters arising from the previous minutes.

a) Icklesham C/E Primary School Grant Application. Mrs Pauline Higgs was in attendance and explained the background to the proposal. All schools would need to be offering a wider range of services over the next few years, and the grant the school was asking the council to consider was a contribution towards the provision of a community room that would, potentially, be able to provide a wide range of facilities to the community as a whole. Cllr. Comotto asked for a set of accounts and that Mrs Hicks attend the next council meeting for further discussion and a potential decision. **This was agreed.**

b) Fact Sheet. The Chairman said that the DVD, just issued by NALC, could be shown at the February council meeting so that any interested member of the public could see it and ask any questions they wished. After some discussion **this was agreed** but, due to the fact that the DVD is half an hour long, the meeting time was agreed at 6.45 with the planning committee meeting appropriately earlier.

07/07 Financial Matters

a. Receipts and payments report for the year to 31st December 2006.

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

b. Items of payment for January 2007.

The proposed expenditure for the month of January was tabled to the meeting and concerned cheque nos.1705 to 1722 inclusive, plus standing orders, for a total of £4097.55. Proposed by Cllr. Bronsdon seconded by Cllr. Horsman that the items of payment be approved. **Approved.**

c. To consider grant applications.

i) Rye Harbour Youth Action Group. After some discussions, it was agreed, in principal, to support the project but that Angela Sharman should be invited to the next meeting, that there should be a formal quote obtained and such other financial information giving context to the grant supplied. The Clerk will arrange.

07/08 Correspondence

a) Request for Bus Shelter at Winchelsea Beach. Cllr. Mrs Chetwood introduced the proposal on the basis that there is no bus shelter at Victoria Way, Winchelsea Beach, and a number of correspondents had written to her (copies had been enclosed with tonight's agenda papers) expressing a request that such a shelter be provided. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact East Sussex County Council about any requirement for a licence to erect a bus shelter and initial enquiries made concerning potential costs. The Clerk pointed out that indicative costs were potentially quite high for such a project and no provision had been put into the next budget for this.

b) Letter from ESCC re Rights of Way/UWT. Councillors were invited to suggest possibilities of potential works under this scheme to the Clerk.

c) RALC briefing paper in respect of the Local Government White Paper. **It was agreed** that the Clerk should circulate the briefing paper by email to councillors and put this on the agenda for the February meeting.

d) A Mr Hickmott from ESCC had emailed the Clerk in respect of the wildlife weekend in May 2007 asking permission to use the Dogs Hill Road/Smeatons Lane open space for a tethered balloon on Saturday 6th May between 8.00 and 10.00 in the morning and 5.00 and 7.00 in the afternoon. The Council was **in agreement** with this.

e) The Clerk had received a letter from Action in rural Sussex in the context of housing development asking whether any councillors were interested in the issue of affordable housing in the parish. The Clerk suggested that any interested councillors contact him if they wished to discuss this issue with the correspondent.

- f) The Town Plan Public Consultation publicity was brought before council for information.

07/09 Cllr. Turner proposed the following resolutions:

- a) "That this Parish Council support the proposal that Winchelsea Town, in conjunction with the Marshlink Community Rail Partnership, adopt Winchelsea Station. This proposal is being pursued by a group of Winchelsea residents and an example constitution is attached detailing the aims of the group. It is not proposed that there will be an approach to the Parish Council for funding, just that we add support for this initiative as a community lead project to preserve the only station in the Parish." Proposed by Cllr. Turner, seconded by Cllr. Rumsey. **Agreed.**
- b) "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 Turner withdrew this resolution.**

07/10 Proposed council meeting dates for 2007 – to be confirmed.

These were confirmed as stated with the exception that the venue for the Tuesday April 10th meeting has had to be moved to Rye Harbour due to the unavailability of the Winchelsea hall.

07/11 Date and venue for next meeting.

The next meeting was confirmed as Monday February 12th at Rye Harbour Village Hall, commencing at 6.45pm.

The public then left the meeting and Council took the next item under confidential business:

07/12 Salary review – Assistant to the Clerk

Council discussed the salary review, as put forward in the accompanying document, which **was agreed.**

The meeting closed at 9.15pm