

ICKLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th November 2007 at 7.15pm at Rye Harbour Village Hall

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

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

07/139 The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting at 7.15 p.m.

07/140 The Chairman invited questions from members of the public. There were no questions from the public.

07/141 To receive reports and to ask questions of Cllr. N Ramus concerning County Council and Rother District Council matters.

Cllr. Ramus gave apologies from Cllrs. Glazier and Osborne who were engaged in a meeting at Rye, and said he was happy to take any questions on their behalf which he would pass on.

He said it was a relatively quiet period at Rother District Council. He reported on planning concerns at Icklesham, that the Independent Standards Committee were seeking a lay member, that the RDC planning seminar was due to take place on the 14th November at Brede Village Hall, that the Military Road will be closed for the next two weeks and that the A268 at Rye Foreign will be closed from 10.00am on 14th November - duration not known.

The meeting now formally opened for Council business.

07/142 To receive and record any apologies for absence.

The Clerk reported apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs. Sutton, Mrs S Lyward and P Hurrell.

On a Point of Order, Cllr. Chishick said that, since some items of business had not been included in the agenda, the budget discussion should be deferred until the next meeting. This was proposed by Cllr. Terry, seconded by Cllr. Chishick, that the budget discussion be deferred until the December meeting where it should be the first item. Approved.

07/143 Disclosure of Interests and Code of Conduct.

There were none.

07/144 To consider and approve the signing of the Minutes of the Council's meeting of the 8th October 2007 by the Chairman.

One amendment was proposed. 07/126 para 2, lines 1 and 8 - that PC Henson be spelt PC Hanson.

07/145 Report by PCSOs.

O Dan Bevan gave apologies for absence from the previous meeting due to illness. He reported on issues with a problem family at Rye Harbour, skateboarding at Winchelsea and vandalism at the public conveniences at Rye Harbour. He emphasised that the PCSO service was there to help, and encouraged councillors to contact their ward PCSO with any relevant concerns.

07/146 Casual Vacancy.

The Clerk reported that since the preparation of the agenda, Rother District Council had notified him that an election had been called, thus this item was no longer relevant. For information, the election proceedings are as follows: The notice must be issued by the 15th November, candidates must apply by the 23rd November. The poll, should one be necessary, will take place on the 20th December.

07/147 Financial Matters.

a) Receipts and payments report for year to 31st October 2007. Proposed by Cllr. Comotto, seconded by Cllr. Chishick, that this be approved. Agreed.

b) To approve items of expenditure for November 2007. The Clerk tabled items of expenditure totalling £5,167.10 for November which concerned cheques numbered 1826 to 1845 sequentially, plus £730.00 Standing Orders. Proposed by Cllr. Horsman, seconded by Cllr. Mrs Merricks, that these be approved. Agreed.

c) Cllr. Bronsdon seeks approval for the expenditure of £250 for a speed survey at Rye Harbour. After some discussion, Cllr. Comotto moved that an amendment be made to the proposal to the effect that Winchelsea should also be granted £250 for a speed survey. This was initially agreed, but see below.

d) Cllr. Bronsdon seeks approval for expenditure of £3,889.00 on the play park at Rye Harbour. Cllr. Bronsdon said that this was initially raised at the September meeting where he had agreed to return to council with further quotes. These had now been obtained and were summarised in the attached document. Cllr. Comotto said that the budgeted figure for Council's contribution for this work was £3,500 and that it would be necessary to return to council with a tabled resolution to vire the remaining £389.00.

It was pointed out that the position in para d) also applied to para c), thus resolutions would need to be brought to the next meeting in respect of both the speed surveys and the play park.

07/148 The Clerk seeks formal approval of policy in respect of correspondence.

(See minutes of October meeting) Proposed by Cllr. Comotto, seconded by Cllr. Mrs Merricks. Approved.

07/149 Correspondence.

Letter from ESCC in respect of work on verges at Back Lane, Winchelsea. The Clerk reported that this was on the agenda because Council should be aware of the matter. His attempts to discuss the matter further with ESCC have thus far been unsuccessful due to the absence of the letter's originator. Concerns were expressed about potential problems with soil run-off as mentioned in the letter. Cllr. Comotto said that the way forward was to apply to ESCC for a licence to cultivate, as if there was a perceived problem with soil run-off, the licence would not be granted. He referred to the minutes of April 2007 where a resolution to apply for such a licence was deferred. Letter in Rye Observer re Mary Stanford Lifeboat House. Cllr. Comotto asked what ward councillors were doing about the deteriorating state of the Lifeboat House and its environs. Cllr. Bronsdon responded that this matter had already been addressed by subsequent letters in the Rye Observer, and that the writer of the original letter had been mistaken.

07/150 Budget 2008/9.

Deferred to December meeting.

07/151 Parish Notice Boards - policy on content.

A draft had been circulated. It was proposed that this be approved and adopted by Council. Proposed by Cllr. Thompson, seconded by Cllr. Mrs Stanford. Approved (with 2 abstentions, 1 against).

07/152 Annual Risk Assessment.

The Clerk reported that this had indicated no serious issues. He reminded councillors that regular risk assessments must be carried out locally on a monthly basis, and that a template to assist in this task was available.

07/153 Icklesham Memorial Hall.

The Icklesham Trust Committee had asked for confirmation that the council was still willing to apply for a loan from the PWLB in order to fund a grant of £40,000 towards the repair and renovation of the hall. No change in policy was put forward but council intimated that full details of the project and costings must be provided before the loan application proceeds. The Clerk will write to the secretary of the Committee.

07/154 Quality Council Status - update.

The Clerk reported that the focus at present was on his training for CiLCA, a necessary qualification for quality status.

07/155 Parish Office - review.

Deferred to next meeting.

07/156 Reports from Council Representatives.

There were none.

07/157 Meeting dates and venues for full council meetings in 2008.

Cllr. Comotto said that the APM should be held at Winchelsea as the 2007 APM had been held at Icklesham due to non availability of the New Hall. This was necessary in order to comply with the council's policy of rotating annual meetings around the wards. The Clerk agreed to investigate the feasibility of changing the venue.

07/158 Date and venue for the next meeting.

The next meeting was confirmed as Monday 10th December at Winchelsea Beach commencing at 7.15pm.

The meeting closed at 8.54p.m.