

ICKLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 8th December 2008 at 7.15pm at Rye Harbour Village Hall

Present: Councillors Mrs F Bates, C Bronsdon, R Comotto, J Horsman, Mrs C Merricks, T Moore, Mrs J Stanford, H Sutton, M Terry.

In attendance: D Rosewell (Clerk). Members of the public were also present.

08/205 The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting at 7.15pm.

08/206 The Chairman will invite members of the public to comment or ask questions on any matters they wish to raise, relating to today's business of the Council (15 minutes).

One member of the public thanked the Council for the wreath they provided for Remembrance Sunday and another asked about access to the website. The Clerk said he would advise him at the end of the meeting. Finally, another member of the public asked about the possibility of notices along Rookery Lane in Winchelsea asking drivers not to park there. It was pointed out that this was already in the draft budget for next year.

08/207 To receive reports and ask questions of Cllrs. K Glazier, N Ramus and P Osborne concerning County Council and Rother District Council matters.

All three councillors had sent apologies for the evening.

Cllr. Bronsdon then asked Council's agreement to hear item 11 before item 10. After discussion, this was agreed.

08/208 The meeting was formally opened at 7.25.p.m.

08/209 To receive and record any apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs. Chishick, Thompson, Hurrell and Mrs Lyward.

08/210 Disclosure of interests.

Cllr. Mrs Merricks declared a prejudicial interest in item 11 and a personal interest in item 13. Cllr. Moore declared a personal interest in item 12.

08/211 To consider and approve the signing of the minutes by the chairman of the meeting of the 10th November 2008.

These had been previously circulated for comments. Cllr. Comotto asked for the following amendments: In item 08/190 first paragraph, he asked for the words to include "a stopping up order" to follow "closure of the route"; in item 08/195(a), final sentence, RBS should read RBL; in the final paragraph of item 18/195 concerning SatNav, he asked for the final sentence to read "he said that at the last county traffic conference it was stated that nothing can be done to stop SatNav companies directing drivers onto inappropriate roads." With these amendments the minutes were **agreed**.

08/212 Matters arising.

- a) The Clerk updated the meeting on the payment sheet items and associated activity.
- b) Parish Laptop. The Clerk and Cllr. Mrs Merricks advised the meeting that the Clerk preceding the previous Clerk had been allowed to keep the laptop because she was serving two other parish councils as well.

08/213 Financial Matters.

- a) Receipts and payments report for year to 30th November 2008. Proposed by Cllr. Terry, seconded by Cllr. Mrs Merricks that this be approved. **Agreed.**

- b) To approve items for payment for December 2008. The Clerk tabled items of expenditure totalling £4132.44 for December which concerned cheques numbered 2008 to 2023 sequentially, plus £730.00 Standing Orders. Proposed by Cllr. Comotto and seconded by Cllr. Mrs Merricks that these be approved. **Agreed.**
- c) The Clerk seeks approval to proceed with fencing at Harbour Field, Winchelsea Beach for a sum of £3,805.00 ex VAT. Proposed by Cllr. Mrs Stanford, seconded by Cllr. Terry, that this be approved. **Agreed.**
- d) The Clerk seeks approval to proceed with fencing at Rye Harbour allotment site for a sum of £1,835.00 ex VAT. Proposed by Cllr. Mrs Stanford, seconded by Cllr. Terry. that this be approved. **Agreed.**

Item 11 was now taken, as agreed earlier.

08/214 Cllr. Mrs Stanford submits the following resolution:

“Following the unanimous passing of the resolution under item 13(b) of the September Agenda that we make an annual payment to each of the four village halls in Icklesham Parish Council, I propose that these grants should be in the sum of £2,000 per hall to cover insurance and other running costs and that these grants should be reviewed annually to assess whether this amount needs to be increased.”

Cllr. Mrs Merricks left the room before the discussion commenced. Cllr. Mrs Stanford moved the resolution formally. She said that village halls were central to the quality of village life and that their running costs were high. She therefore felt that Council should support them substantially and that the amounts given should be revised annually. Cllr. Comotto queried the need for this amount of money. He said that each case should be considered on its own merits and that those responsible for running halls should apply for a grant in the same way as any other applicant. Cllr. Horsman said that halls might still apply for specific projects. The resolution under discussion was simply about running costs. Cllr. Terry felt that other cases were more needy and proposed an amendment of the sum to £500.00. This was seconded by Cllr. Comotto. This amendment was put to the vote but **not agreed**. Those in favour: Cllrs. Bronsdon, Comotto and Terry. Those against: Cllrs. Horsman, Mrs Bates, Mrs Stanford, Moore and Sutton. Cllr. Sutton now put forward a further amendment, seconded by Cllr. Mrs Bates, that the sum be changed to £1000 and that the words “The grants will be conditional on the latest approved accounts being provided” added. This was put to the vote and **approved**. Those in favour: Cllrs. Horsman, Mrs Bates, Mrs Stanford, Moore and Sutton. Those against: Cllrs. Bronsdon, Terry and Comotto.

Cllr. Mrs Merricks now rejoined the meeting.

08/215 Budget 2009/10.

The draft budget document provided by the Clerk was now examined in detail. Council considered all proposed sums, line by line. The issue of the Chairman’s Allowance was raised. It was proposed by Cllr. Mrs Merricks and seconded by Cllr. Mrs Stanford that this continued to be paid. **Approved.** With regard to legal costs, following discussion it was proposed by Cllr. Mrs Merricks, seconded by Cllr. Horsman, that the sum proposed for legal costs remains in the budget document. **Approved.** Cllr. Comotto proposed, seconded by Cllr. Terry, reducing the grants under 1225 to £2,000 including the £1500 for the Community Transport organisation. This was **not approved**. Cllr. Comotto considered the Contingency figure of £7500 to be unnecessary and proposed a reduction to £5000. There was no seconder. Cllr. Comotto proposed that line 2601 should become a total of £4000, thereby removing the £1500 not specifically allocated. This was seconded by Cllr. Terry and **agreed**. Cllr. Bronsdon suggested that, in view of the advice from Cllr. Ramus (RDC) that election costs would be inflated next year, the sum of £2000 should be increased to £2500. **Agreed.** There were a number of requests from Winchelsea councillors which had only been tabled at this meeting and therefore had not been included in the budget document. It was considered too late to debate them at this meeting. Therefore, the Clerk will update the budget document to take account of changes made this meeting, and include the list supplied by Winchelsea councillors, for the next draft to be discussed at the January meeting.

08/216 Grant Applications (deferred from previous meeting)

Rye Harbour Youth Action Group.

Deferred. Further information is required.

08/217 Cllr. Mrs Merricks submits the following resolution:

"That this Council agrees to pay the cost of re-instating the path leading from the car park to the Memorial Hall in the Icklesham Recreation Ground at a cost of £845.00 ex VAT. This to be funded from this year's budget for 2246 Small Works Maintenance."

Cllr. Mrs Merricks explained that she now had a personal interest due to her becoming Chairman of Icklesham Trust but said that an arrangement had been made for a site visit with a consultant for further advice in respect of Council's obligations to provide a footpath appropriate for use by disabled people. Accordingly, she asked for the matter to be **deferred**.

08/218 Cllr. Comotto seeks approval for the enclosed letter to be sent on behalf of the Council to the Highways Agency and ESCC.

Proposed by Cllr. Comotto, seconded by Cllr. Moore and **agreed**.

08/219 Cllr. Bronsdon submits the following resolution:

"That the wreath for the Winchelsea Remembrance Day Service be laid each year by a ward representative on behalf of Icklesham Parish Council. The ward to be rotated annually as follows: Icklesham (2009), Rye Harbour, Winchelsea Beach, Winchelsea. It shall be clearly shown that the wreath is being laid on behalf of Icklesham Parish Council."

Cllr. Bronsdon formally proposed the resolution, as stated on the agenda. Cllr. Comotto spoke against the motion and said it was ill considered and likely to cause ill feeling. Cllr. Bronsdon said that the wreath is provided by the parish council and should be presented as such. Cllr. Sutton said there were names on the memorial who were relatives of people living outside the town, including him. Cllr. Mrs Merricks proposed an amendment that the resolution read "That the wreath for the Winchelsea Remembrance Day Service be laid each year by the Chairman of Icklesham Council or, in their absence, the Vice Chairman", deleting the rest of the wording. This motion was approved with four abstentions.

08/220 Cllr. Comotto submits the following resolution:

"The subject of traffic problems should be the main topic of the next Annual Parish Assembly."

Cllr. Comotto formally proposed the motion, Cllr. Terry seconded. After discussion, Cllr. Sutton proposed an amendment, seconded by Cllr. Mrs Merricks, that the resolution should read "The subject of traffic problems should be a topic of the next Annual Parish Assembly." This was **approved**.

Due to time constraints, items 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27 were deferred.

08/221 Date and venue for the next meeting.

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 12th January 2009 at Icklesham Memorial Hall, commencing at 7.15p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.35p.m.