

ICKLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 11th February 2008 at 7.15pm at Icklesham Memorial Hall

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

In attendance: Cllrs. N Ramus & P Osborne (RDC), D Rosewell (Clerk). Apologies had been received from Cllr. K Glazier (ESCC). Members of the public were also present.

08/012 The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting at 7.15pm. He invited questions from the public. There were none.

08/013 To receive reports and to ask questions of Cllrs. N Ramus and P Osborne concerning Rother District Council matters.

Cllr. Ramus reported that little had happened since the last meeting. There was a possibility of a higher than expected council tax setting, one major issue being that bus passes for the over 60s had been used far more than expected. In consequence, there was a need to look for further savings. The De La Warr Pavilion may need further funding to match the Arts Council Grant. Questions were invited. The issue of green bins was raised. Cllr. Osborne responded as Chairman of the Committee responsible. He said the service would begin at approximately the end of March. A further question was asked about the high pressure sewer project at Winchelsea Beach. Concern was raised that a lot of mess had been made of the verge and surroundings and that it was hoped those responsible would put this right. The concern was that the contractors would finish the task and disappear without putting right any damage done. This was a County Council issue and Cllr. Ramus said he would pass on the concerns to Cllr. Glazier. Also in attendance was PCSO Dan Bevan. He said it had generally been a quiet month at Rye Harbour. The derelict garage had at last been made safe, on a temporary basis. It is hoped it will be demolished shortly.

The meeting now formally opened for council business at 7.26pm.

08/014 To receive and record any apologies for absence.

.Apologies had been received from Cllr. Mrs C Merricks..

08/015 Disclosure of Interests and Code of Conduct.

Cllr. Comotto declared personal interests in agenda items 9, 16(c), 16(f) and 16(n). He also declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda items 10, 16(b), 16(d) and 17.

08/016 To consider and approve the signing of the Minutes of the Council's meeting of the 14th January 2008 by the Chairman.

The following amendments were put forward:

Item 08/003 line 8 should change from "and that the existing article 4 would be revoked." to "that the existing article 4 be revoked and that a new article be introduced."

Item 08/007 line 1 "that were appended" should be added to the end of the first sentence.

Item 08/010 line 10, final sentence should be situated in line 6 after 'unanimously approved'.

Item 08/011 sub para c(i) Winchelsea Archaeological Society should say 'Deferred'. With the minutes thus amended, it was proposed by Cllr. Thompson, seconded by Cllr. Terry that these be approved. **Agreed.**

08/017 Icklesham Memorial Hall refurbishment project.

Representatives of the Trust were in attendance. Mrs Philpot produced an update sheet for distribution amongst councillors, showing some details of costs and funding sources. Cllr. Terry asked about proof of the other funding sources as this was a requirement for approval of the loan by the council. A discussion followed about a way forward for the

project and IPC's involvement in it. Cllr. Terry offered his services to the team, in view of his project management background. **This was agreed.** Actions on the Clerk: to write to the Trust re-stating the conditions that need to be met. The terms and conditions of the PWLB loan to be circulated to councillors.

08/018 Budget 2008/9.

A paper had been circulated. It was proposed by Cllr. Comotto, seconded by Cllr. Bronsdon, that the revised budget and precept of £70,600 for 2008/9 be approved by council. **Approved.** There followed a discussion on the desirability of circulating budget information to the people of the parish, and in what form this should take. Cllr. Horsman suggested that details of budgeted expenditure for individual wards could be placed on their notice boards.

08/019 Financial Matters

- a) **Receipts & Payments report for the year to 31st January 2008 (circulated).** Noted.
- b) **To approve items for payment for February 2008.** The Clerk tabled items of expenditure totalling £5,640.28 for February which concerned cheques numbered 1871 to 1881 sequentially, plus £730.00 Standing Orders. Proposed by Cllr. Comotto, seconded by Cllr. Terry that these be approved. **Agreed.**
- c) **Financial Regulations.** The Clerk sought approval to set up a direct debit arrangement in respect of the council's telephone account with BT. It was proposed by Cllr. Comotto, seconded by Cllr. Mrs Stanford, that this be approved. **Agreed.**
- d) **Grant Application – Winchelsea Archaeological Society.** Cllr. Comotto briefly outlined details before retiring from the room. He said that the Society was asking for a donation of £500, of which £400 would be in respect of a geophysical investigation, and £100 would be a contribution towards a conference to be held later in the year. He pointed out that the total cost of the conference was expected to be in the region of £20,000 so the £100 would be only a very small part of this. After Cllr. Comotto had left the room, the matter was put to the vote. Proposed by Cllr. Terry, seconded by Cllr. Chishick. **Agreed.**

08/020 Correspondence.

The Clerk reported that he had received a message, via email, from Mr Morris of Winchelsea expressing concerns about the difficulty in hearing the discussions in the various halls in which the parish council conducts its meetings, due to acoustic difficulties. He had asked whether it was possible for some sort of PA system to be available. After some discussion, it was decided that the Clerk should enquire about the possibility of renting a portable PA system to see how things might be improved.

08/021 Quality Council status – update.

The Clerk reported that, at this point, he was looking at improvements in communicating council activity to ward residents, with a particular regard at the moment to improving the website.

08/022 Parish Office – review.

It was decided that this item need no longer appear on the agenda.

08/023 Reports from Council Representatives.

Cllr. Thompson reported that the Alms House in Icklesham had now been sold. A new one, in Guestling, had been acquired. Those people living in either Icklesham, Three Oaks or Guestling who feel they would benefit from residency in the Alms House are eligible to apply. Cllr. Bronsdon reported on a recent RALC meeting.

08/024 Cllr. Comotto proposes that the Council endorse the attached draft letters and that it will write to the relevant bodies accordingly.

A number of letters, some of which had been originally on earlier agendas, were submitted. It was proposed by Cllr. Comotto and seconded by Cllr. Mrs Lyward that the council endorse all the letters previously submitted about work required in Winchelsea.. **Agreed.** It was proposed by Cllr. Terry, seconded by Mrs J Stanford, that the council endorse the letter appended to the current meeting's papers about damage caused in Winchelsea recently, possibly by BT staff. **Agreed.**

There was a long discussion about the letter appended to the current meeting's papers concerning the Life Boat House at Rye Harbour as to whether the building had value as a memorial or whether it simply should be maintained to avoid being an eyesore. It was proposed by Cllr. Comotto, seconded by Cllr. Terry, and **agreed**, that the parish be surveyed as to how they feel about the Life Boat House and its future. The councillors from Winchelsea agreed to draft an appropriate survey form to be delivered to individual houses. Action on the Clerk: to write to The Environment Agency (the owners of the Life Boat House) asking what their intentions are in respect of the building.

08/025 Cllr. Comotto proposes the following resolutions (deferred from previous meetings):

a) *The Council will lower the Parish notice board in Winchelsea to, or as close as possible to, the standard height of 800mm.* Proposed by Cllr. Comotto, seconded by Cllr. Terry. **Approved.**

For items b) c) and d), Cllr. Comotto left the room during the voting process.

b) *The Council agrees to maintain the three new town maps and four forthcoming interpretation boards and include them under its insurance policy.* Proposed by Cllr. Terry, seconded by Cllr. Comotto. **Approved.**

c) *The Council will offer a reward of £50.00 to anyone providing information leading to police action against the person or persons responsible for graffiti in Winchelsea. The reward shall be funded under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 from this year's budget by virement from item 1301 (Section S137 Grants) and a budget item of £100 will be made in future budgets.* Proposed by Cllr. Terry, seconded by Cllr. Chishick. **Not approved.**

d) *The Council will make a grant of £360.00 to match-fund the cost of purchase of a speed gun by the Winchelsea Speed Watch. The grant shall be funded from this year's budget by virement from item 1301 (Section S137 Grants).* Proposed by Cllr. Terry, seconded by Cllr. Chishick. **Not approved.**

e) *The Council will arrange to fit a new, energy-efficient, downward pointing (ie minimal light pollution), light-sensitive vandal-proof light fitting in the German Street Bus Shelter. The style should be as much in keeping as possible.* An amendment was proposed by Cllr. Bronsdon, seconded by Cllr. Mrs Stanford, that the words 'German Street bus shelter' should be replaced by 'all bus shelters in the parish, where practical.' **Approved.**

f) *The Council will plant an oak tree in the western end of the kickabout area of the Jubilee Playground in Winchelsea to replace one of the trees recently felled in that location. The replacement will be sourced as locally as possible. The work will be financed from the budget item (2235) for tree works.* Proposed by Cllr. Comotto, seconded by Cllr. Terry. **Approved.**

g) *The Council will commission a survey of trees on its freehold and leasehold properties in Winchelsea, including the ditch along the eastern side of Pear Tree Marsh, using the Tree Hazard Rating, Evaluation and Treatment System or some similar system of assessment that will provide a documented and scored result. The work will be financed from the budget item (2237) for a tree survey.* **Withdrawn (work currently in hand).**

h) *The Council will replace the bench beside the Parish notice board in Winchelsea with an all wood seat fixed to the ground. The work will be financed from the budget item (2231) for seat repairs.* Proposed by Cllr. Comotto, seconded by Cllr. Terry. **Approved.** It was noted that there would be a need to transfer the plaque from the old bench to the new one.

- i) *The Council will organise the thorough cleaning of the bus shelters in Winchelsea. In the bus shelter on German Street, the windows will be cleaned, the bench washed and re-varnished, the floor steam-hosed and graffiti removed, and any vegetation and debris at the sides and behind removed. In the bus shelter on the Strand, the interior walls and ceiling will be swept and treated with stained preservative, the floor and bench will be steam-hosed, and any vegetation and debris at the sides and behind removed. The work will be financed from the budget item (2202) for bus shelter cleaning. It was proposed by Cllr. Horsman, seconded by Cllr. Hurrell that this be amended so that the first line reads "The Council will organise the thorough cleaning of all bus shelters in the parish of Icklesham."* This amendment was **approved**. Proposed by Cllr. Thompson, seconded by Cllr. Hurrell. **Approved**.
- j) *The Council will commission the pruning and, where necessary, replanting of the hedge alongside the northern boundary of the kickabout area in the Jubilee Playground in Winchelsea, the removal and replacement of the current fences along that boundary with a 2-metre chain link fence that will continue around the other three sides of the kickabout area but on the inside of the existing fences on these sides, and the repair of the fence separating the kickabout area from the rest of the playground. The work will be financed from the budget item (2208) for a new Jubilee field fence and, if necessary budget item (2246) for small works. Proposed by Cllr. Comotto, seconded by Cllr. Terry. **Approved**.*
- k) *The Council will replace the gate on the northern side of the Cricket Field allotment in Winchelsea. One of the posts will need replacing and possibly the other. The work will be financed from the budget item (2301) for allotment maintenance. Proposed by Cllr. Comotto, seconded by Cllr. Terry. **Approved**.*

The remaining resolutions (l) to (o) were deferred due to time constraints.

08/026 Cllr. Comotto proposes the following resolution:

"The Council will include the speed gun used by the Community Speed Watch in Winchelsea in its insurance policy." The relevant authority is Local Government & Rating Act 1997, S26. The Clerk will seek the advice of the council's insurance company as to whether it is practicable to insure the gun, given that it is not the property of the council.

08/027 Cllr. Comotto to report on:

- a) Winchelsea Post Office.
- b) Tree replanting at Trojans Plat.

Cllr. Comotto reported that Winchelsea Post Office is to remain open and that the tree replanting at Trojans Plat has resulted in the County Council planting a copper beech.

08/028 Date and venue for the next meeting.

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 10th March 2008 at the Village Hall, Rye Harbour, commencing at 7.15p.m.

The public were asked to leave the meeting due to confidential business.

08/029 Staff salary review (papers circulated).

The Clerk left the room. Proposed by Cllr. Thompson, seconded by Cllr. Hurrell that this be approved. **Agreed**.

The meeting closed at 9.29p.m.