

ICKLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 14th January 2008 at 7.15pm at The New Hall, Winchelsea

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

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

08/001 The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting at 7.15pm. He invited questions from the public, pointing out also that the presentation of the Winchelsea Conservation Area Appraisal Document by Diane Russell from Rother District Council would take place during this public question time in order that the public would be able to ask any questions of clarification. The matter would then be formally debated, as part of the agenda, as already published.

08/002 To receive reports and to ask questions of Cllr. N Ramus concerning Rother District Council matters.

Cllr. Ramus explained that, in a planning context, "over-looking" issues can be problematic when a property changes hand. He also reported that RDC had issued a PPG in mid December on flooding. This had the effect that there would now need to be a risk assessment on any property on a flood plain. With regard to village shops, he said that RDC was looking for ways in which these might be assisted and encouraged and, finally, he passed on a warning concerning a recent, sad, case about dangers of hot water systems failing and people were advised to check their own systems.

08/003 The Chairman now introduced Diane Russell of Rother District Council. Miss Russell gave a presentation on Conservation Area issues generally and on the Winchelsea appraisal in particular. She explained that consequences of designation as a Conservation Area involved planning policies on consent in respect of demolition and that trees have certain protection, not otherwise extended. She explained that the Winchelsea Preservation Area was designated in 1969 and, in fact, was one of the earliest to be so designated. The appraisal recently undertaken proposed to extend the area to the north and to the west of the existing one and that the existing article 4 would be revoked. She reminded the meeting that the consultation runs until the 1st February 2008 and that formal representations would need to be made, in writing, to Rother District Council. There followed a lengthy question and answer session about the implications of proposals in the document. The most common issue raised was that of the proposed extension of the area to Tanyard Lane, and the impact it would have on residents there as a result of being re-designated.

The meeting was now formally opened for business.

08/004 To receive and record any apologies for absence.

.Apologies had been received from Cllrs. Mrs Lyward and Mrs Stanford.

08/005 Councillor Mrs Frances Bates.

Following her success in the recent election, Cllr. Mrs Bates was formally welcomed by the Chairman.

08/006 Disclosure of Interests and Code of Conduct.

Cllrs. Comotto, Chishick and Terry declared personal and prejudicial interests in item 12c(ii).

08/007 To consider and approve the signing of the Minutes of the Council's meeting of the 10th December 2007 by the Chairman.

Cllr. Comotto had submitted a number of amendments to the Minutes. These were agreed. Proposed by Cllr. Comotto, seconded by Cllr. Horsman, that the minutes be approved. **Agreed.**

08/008 Matters Arising.

Application to use Icklesham Recreation Ground. The Clerk had written to the organisation requesting use of the ground informing them that there was a cricket match in place for that day, thus the ground was unavailable.

08/009 Winchelsea Conservation Area Appraisal.

Council now formally discussed this. Cllr. Comotto said he thought the document was excellent and that the majority of people he had spoken to in the town were happy with it. He cited a number of examples of archaeological interest which lent weight to the proposal to extend the Area. Cllr. Horsman expressed concern about the economic impact of the extension of the conservation area to the Tanyard Lane area. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that in order to allow more time for consultation with residents by ward councillors, the matter should be discussed by the Planning Committee at its next meeting on the 28th January and a formal response to RDC made by the committee.

08/010 Budget 2008/9

After discussion, **it was agreed** that the sum of money proposed to build car parking facilities at Pear Tree Marsh would be removed from the current budget document, pending further enquiries about the possibility of varying the covenant on the land. The Clerk will write to the Council's solicitors. It was also agreed that the application for funding for the Winchelsea Town Plan would be included in the provision for 2008/9. This was proposed by Cllr. Bronson, seconded by Cllr. Horsman and **unanimously approved.** The final budget figure was agreed at a level requiring a precept of £54,200.00. Proposed by Cllr. Bronsdon, seconded by Cllr. Thompson that the budget document be approved. **Agreed.** Proposed by Cllr. Bronsdon, seconded by Cllr. Mrs Merricks that the Clerk be formally instructed to notify RDC of the new precept figure for 2008/9. **Agreed.** Cllrs. Comotto, Chishick and Terry left the room while the proposal and voting procedure took place.

08/011 Financial Matters

- a) **Receipts & Payments report for the year to 31st December 2007.** Proposed by Cllr. Comotto, seconded by Cllr. Horsman that they be approved. **Agreed.**
- b) **To approve items for payment for January 2008.** The Clerk tabled items of expenditure totalling £5,864.96 for January which concerned cheques numbered 1856 to 1870 sequentially, plus £730.00 Standing Orders. Proposed by Cllr. Comotto, seconded by Cllr. Thompson that these be approved. **Agreed.**
- c) **Grant Applications.**
 - i) Winchelsea Archaeological Society. Withdrawn.
 - ii) Winchelsea Town Plan Steering Group. See above 08/010.

Due to time constraints, all other agenda items were deferred to the next meeting and this meeting closed at 9.55p.m.