

ICKLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 13th October 2008 at 7.15pm at The New Hall, Winchelsea

Present: Councillors Mrs F Bates, C Bronsdon, B Chishick, J Horsman, Mrs S Lyward, Mrs C Merricks, T Moore, Mrs J Stanford, H Sutton, M Terry.

In attendance: Cllrs. N Ramus and P Osborne (RDC), D Rosewell (Clerk).

08/168 The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting at 7.17pm.

08/169 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).
There were no questions.

08/170 To receive reports and ask questions of Cllrs. K Glazier, N Ramus and P Osborne concerning County Council and Rother District Council matters.

Cllr. Ramus brought apologies from Cllr. Glazier who was detained at a meeting in Rye. Cllr. Ramus informed the meeting that he had just received an email that evening from the Chief Executive of Rother District Council informing councillors that RDC has no money invested in Iceland. He talked about the proposal for the centralisation of GP pharmacy services which RDC is opposed to. He also referred to a contentious planning issue in Winchelsea which would be dealt with the following Thursday.

Cllr. Osborne informed the meeting that the local development framework formal public consultation will begin on the 31st October 2008 for a twelve week period. There will be public exhibitions in various places across Rother, including Rye.

PC Andy Hanson informed the meeting that he covered a total of 14 villages in the eastern Rother area, including Camber. He referred to the 'not in my neighbourhood' project work at Rye Harbour, including the bike marking day and litter pick-up the following Saturday. He also informed the meeting that he has applied for funding for the 'hang-out' shelter which the Rye Harbour Action Group is seeking to have erected at Pound Field.

08/171 The meeting was formally opened at 7.26p.m.

It was drawn to the Chairman's attention that there was an error in the wording of Cllr. Mrs Stanford's resolution agenda item 08/181(b). A discussion followed and amended wording was agreed.

08/172 To receive and record any apologies for absence.

These had been received from Cllrs. Comotto, Hurrell and Thompson.

08/173 Disclosure of interests.

Cllrs. Sutton and Mrs Stanford declared a personal interest in item 11.

08/174 To consider and approve the signing of the minutes by the chairman of the meeting of the 8th September 2008.

These had been previously circulated for comments. It was proposed by Cllr. Horsman, seconded by Cllr. Mrs Lyward, that these be signed and **this was agreed.**

08/175 Matters arising.

- a) Icklesham Recreation Ground drainage. The Clerk reported on the history and background of this project. A substantial sum had been spent over the past three years in drainage works at the ground. The work completed last week was considered by the contractors, Bourne's, to be a necessary annual maintenance task. There was some discussion over whether the work now needed to be reviewed independently. Cllr. Mrs Merricks suggested that the soil sample report carried out after the major pipe work would be useful.

- b) Training Day. Cllr. Bronsdon thanked Cllr. Mrs Merricks for providing the lunch. Cllr. Mrs Stanford, who had attended both the internal training day at Winchelsea Beach and the SALC training day at Sedlescombe, reported on both events. She said that both had been very good, well organised, and she recommended both the SALC training and that the internal day could be repeated in the future for those who had not been able to go.

08/176 Financial Matters.

- a) Receipts and payments report for year to 30th September 2008. Approval was proposed by Cllr. Mrs Lyward, seconded by Cllr. Horsman. **This was agreed.**
- b) To approve items for payment for October 2008. The Clerk tabled items of expenditure totalling £8,476.23 for October which concerned cheques numbered 1973 to 1992 sequentially, plus a Direct Debit of £72.36 and £730.00 Standing Orders. Cllr. Mrs Merricks questioned cheque no. 1974 an amount of £399.50 payable to Playdale Playgrounds Ltd and suggested that, in order for councillors to be kept informed, expenditure items such as this should be reported under Matters Arising. It was also requested that the relevant budget heading be included in each payment line. Approval of the payments was proposed by Cllr. Horsman, seconded by Cllr. Mrs Lyward. **Agreed.**

08/177 Correspondence

- a) Lighting at Winchelsea – withdrawal of maintenance by EDF. Further work needs to be done on this matter, with particular regard to the state of the equipment. The matter will be brought back as an agenda item in November.
- b) SatNav issues at Winchelsea Beach and Winchelsea. The Clerk will write to whichever authority is considered most appropriate about the need to prevent the software of these devices advising drivers to access inappropriate roads such as Hog Trough Lane and Smeatons Lane. The possibility of the Council erecting signs, warning drivers of inappropriate roads, was raised. The Clerk will further pursue the parish council's right to put up such signs.
- c) Completion of external audit. The Clerk reported that Mazars, the external auditors, had issued an unqualified certificate in respect of the Council's annual return. Copies of the relevant sections of the return will be displayed on parish notice boards.
- d) Letters of thanks had been received from the various churches in the parish for the grants from the council towards churchyard maintenance.
- e) A letter of thanks had been received from Icklesham Memorial Trust for the grant of £40,000 towards the refurbishment of the Memorial Hall. The Clerk reported that he had received a further letter from the Trust, asking for the cost of reinstating the path between the car park and the hall to be met. Quotes had been provided, but not in time for this item to be included on the agenda for formal debate. The Clerk will place the matter on the agenda for November and will make enquiries in the meantime about the legal liability for the path.
- f) SALC AGM – 7th November at Ardingly. Details were provided.
- g) The Clerk raised an issue of correspondence about the land at the rear of Tram Road, bordering onto Pound Field, where some residents had asked about the possibility of buying or leasing the land owned by the Council there. The informal view at the meeting was that this issue had come up before and that the land could not be sold. The Clerk will carry out further research and write accordingly to the correspondent.
- h) The Clerk reported he had received an email from Cllr. Comotto advising that the replacement gate at the northern end of the Cricket Field allotment site was a great improvement.

With the agreement of the meeting, the Chairman brought forward item 16 to be discussed next for reasons of time. Standing Orders were suspended whilst Mr & Mrs May, who live in a property bordering the Recreation Ground at Icklesham, spoke briefly to Council about problems caused by trees, owned by the Council, which had grown to a height causing considerable light problems for them. They are requesting that the Council take some form of action to reduce the height of the trees. They provided photographic evidence. Standing Orders were then reinstated.

08/178 Tree Maintenance - Icklesham Recreation Ground

Cllr. Horsman said that he, and the Chairman, Clerk and Assistant to the Clerk, had been to the site and had assessed the situation. He supported the view that action should be taken to reduce the size of the tree. Cllr. Mrs Merricks was concerned that the trees provided shade in the summer to users of the recreation ground. After discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk will continue with arrangements already being made for tree surgeons to look at the trees and make recommendations.

08/179 Deferred item – grant applications.

Cllr Bronsdon submits the following: -

“That the grant applications submitted by Rye Harbour Village Hall Management Committee and the Winchelsea Beach Community Association for £700.00 and £500.00 respectively, supported by documentation previously supplied, be approved”

Information about these had been supplied at previous meetings. Cllr. Bronsdon proposed that the grants be approved. **Agreed.**

08/180 Fencing work at Rye Harbour allotments and Harbour Field.

Quotes for fencing work at the sites were tabled. However, after discussion, Council concluded that a more formal procedure for the awarding of the work be followed. The matter was deferred.

08/181 Cllr. Mrs Stanford proposes the following resolutions:

a) *“that grants for churchyard maintenance across the 4 wards (historically, £250.00 per ward) be made in May of each year”.*

Proposed by Cllr. Mrs Stanford, seconded by Cllr. Horsman. **Approved.**

b) *“that a grant of £250.00 be made to each village hall in the wards annually in May”.*

Cllr. Mrs Stanford said that the wording of the proposal had become confused with the churchyard grants and that she had not mentioned the amount of £250 to be paid annually to each village hall. Indeed, Cllr. Mrs Stanford felt that the amount should be much higher but that it should be discussed and agreed by the Parish Council. After discussion, an amendment to the resolution was put by Cllr. Mrs Stanford that it now read *“that a grant of equal value be made to each village hall in the wards, half to be paid in April and half to be paid in September”.* This was seconded by Cllr. Terry and **agreed.** Cllr. Terry asked for the discussion of the amount to be deferred to the next meeting. **This was agreed.**

08/182 Rye Harbour Youth Action Group.

i) This organisation has requested permission to erect a teenage shelter, similar to the hang-out shelter at Icklesham Recreation Ground, at Pound Field. This was proposed by Cllr. Bronsdon, seconded by Cllr. Mrs Stanford, and was **approved.**

ii) This organisation also wishes to apply for the grant of £1500.00 set aside for it in this year's budget. This was deferred until next month pending developments on other funding sources.

08/183 Letter from Councillor Bantick of Rye Town Council in respect of Area Committees.

Councillor Bronsdon proposes the following:

“That this council notes the contents of the letter sent to each of its members, but takes the view that this is not a matter to which the council should respond. Individual councillors are, of course, at liberty to respond but should make clear that they do so as private individuals.” After discussion, this was **withdrawn.**

08/184 Reports from Council Representatives.

Cllr. Bronsdon reported on the recent RALC meeting.

08/185 Quality Council update.

The Clerk reported that the Assistant to the Clerk is now available to do more hours than previously, albeit within the overall limit agreed by council. He therefore intends to ask her to do some specific work on the website and on potential newsletter activities, all of which would be intended to improve communications with the residents of the wards.

08/186 Agenda items.

It was decided that the “matters to be referred to the next agenda” item would be included on the next two agendas with a view to seeing how useful they are.

08/187 Date and venue for the next meeting.

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

The meeting closed at 9.26p.m.