

14-Apr-2009

ICKLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 14th April 2009 at 7.15pm at the Village Hall, Rye Harbour

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

In Attendance: Cllrs. P Osborne (RDC) and K Glazier (ESCC), D Rosewell (Clerk). Members of the public were also present.

09/070 The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting at 7.15pm.

09/071 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).

Mr Turner, a Winchelsea resident, was present with a specific interest in item 13(i), deferred from previous meetings. He referred to remarks made by Cllr. Comotto in other settings and apologised for any misunderstandings. Cllr. Comotto said that he had prepared a reply to Mr Turner's previous statement and asked whether this would be the appropriate moment to deliver this. Council agreed to his reading it out, which he duly did (statement appended).

09/072 To receive reports and ask questions of Cllrs. K Glazier, N Ramus and P Osborne concerning County Council and Rother District Council matters.

Cllr. Glazier reported that the East Sussex County Council Director of Transport had accompanied him to various sites around the parish. They had been to Rye Harbour to look at the issues raised about the cycle path there. They had also visited Winchelsea Beach. At Dogs Hill Road, the opinion expressed was that there would be no early likelihood of a change of speed limit, but that possibly some other form of traffic calming could be introduced. He will write in due course about possible solutions. He also expressed the view that the County Council would be very unlikely to adopt Smeatons Lane unless the quality of the road were to be upgraded to a condition acceptable to the Highways Department. Cllr. Mrs Stanford asked about problems with foreign coaches parking inappropriately and undertaking dangerous traffic manoeuvres and said she will write to Cllr. Glazier expressing her concerns. Cllr. Comotto raised the issue of travellers occupying a site near Camber Castle and asked if the action being taken to remove the trespassers could be supported. Cllr. Glazier said that he had already been involved in this case.

Cllr. Osborne thanked the Council for its invitation to the parish assembly on the 18th May but said that this date clashed with a Rother District Council meeting. He would do his best to attend the parish council's meeting if possible. He asked again about the issue of the larger waste bin at Winchelsea. The Clerk confirmed that no response had yet been received

about this from Rother District Council.

09/073 The meeting was formally opened at 7.45.p.m.

09/074 To receive and record any apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from Cllrs. Chishick, Horsman and Mrs Lyward.

09/075 Disclosure of interests.

Cllr. Mrs Merricks declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 10(f).

Cllr. Moore declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 9(j).

09/076 To consider and approve the signing of the minutes by the chairman of the meeting of the 9th March 2009.

Item 09/049, second paragraph, sentence beginning "He said ..". Cllr. Osborne said this sentence could be deleted. Item 09/063, first sentence. Cllr. Comotto asked for the word 'police' to be deleted and substituted with 'neighbourhood policing teams'. With these amendments, the approval of the minutes was proposed by Cllr. Comotto and seconded by Cllr. Thompson. Agreed.

09/077 Matters arising.

a & b) Current Activity & Programme of Works. The Clerk introduced the schedule of works document which was welcomed by councillors. Two suggestions were made to further improve this. One was to sort the entries into categories by ward, so that ward councillors could more easily see the issues that concerned them directly. Where this was not possible, then the task should be put in a general category applying across the parish. It was also suggested that the schedule should include issues raised by risk assessments.

c) Newsletter. The Clerk reported that both schools in the parish had been asked whether they wished to take part in the logo design and Icklesham School had responded favourably. The newsletter group of Cllr. Mrs Bates, the Clerk and Assistant Clerk will meet again to set the criteria for the logo and progress the newsletter. They will then go back to the school with guidance on the type of logo the Council are looking for.

d) Winchelsea Street Lighting Maintenance Contract. The draft contract issued by the proposed new supplier of lighting services had been passed to Cllr. Bronsdon and Comotto for comments. Cllr. Mrs Merricks asked if a copy could be circulated to other councillors. This was agreed.

e) Installation of mains water at Pear Tree Marsh Allotments. Southern Water has raised a query about access to the mains. The Clerk is attempting to contact them to take the matter further.

f) Ownership of Goldhurst Green Bus Shelter. It has been confirmed that the shelter is the property of the parish council. although former Cllr. Alford had informed the Clerk that the land the bus shelter is on is actually leased

from the church.

09/078 Financial Matters.

a) Receipts and payments report for year to 31st March 2009. Proposed by Cllr. Comotto, seconded by Cllr. Terry that the report be approved. Agreed.

b) To approve items for payment for April 2009. The Clerk tabled items of expenditure totalling £9,903.50 for April which concerned cheques numbered 2062 to 2085 sequentially, a Direct Debit for £78.80 and £730.00 Standing Orders. Proposed by Cllr. Comotto, seconded by Cllr. Thompson, that the payments be approved. Agreed.

c) The Clerk seeks approval for payment of £250 to a licensed allocontractor for clearance of asbestos rubbish found at Pear Tree Marsh allotment. Proposed by Cllr. Thompson, seconded by Cllr. Terry. Agreed.

d) The Clerk seeks approval to proceed with fencing work and the installation of a stile or kissing gate at Icklesham Recreation Ground. Cllr. Comotto said that he wished the money to be vired from Contingency to Small Works Maintenance. Cllr. Mrs Stanford proposed, Cllr. Mrs Merricks seconded, that the fencing and installation of a stile be approved and carried out by Tate Fencing Ltd. Agreed.

e) The Clerk seeks approval to proceed with resurfacing the Memorial Hall car park and path at Icklesham Recreation Ground. Cllr. Terry raised concerns about the issue of specifying works in such a manner as to obtain consistent tenders in response. It was pointed out that these were not tenders as such as they under the limit prescribed in the Financial Standing Orders. There was a lengthy discussion about this. It was finally proposed by Cllr. Thompson, seconded by Cllr. Mrs Bates, to proceed on the basis of accepting the quote from Hailsham Roadway Construction Co. Ltd and agreed by 7 votes to 2.

f) The Clerk seeks approval to proceed with the installation of a 'rock-n-rider' in the Rye Harbour play area. Cllr. Comotto said that IPC should seek external funding for playground equipment on subsequent occasions. Proposed by Cllr. Mrs Stanford, seconded by Cllr. Thompson, that installation proceed. Agreed.

g) The Clerk seeks approval to purchase a Philips 995 Conference Recorder, plus software for transcription facilities, for the sum of £903.12. A lengthy discussion took place about the desirability, or otherwise, of recording meetings and how this could be done. Cllr. Comotto proposed an amendment "that the purchase of the equipment be approved on a trial basis, without the transcription facilities. Funded from a source other than Contingency". This was seconded by Cllr. Terry and approved, as amended.

h) The Clerk seeks approval to release funds up to £400, approved in the 2009/10 budget, for a parish laptop. Proposed by Cllr. Comotto, seconded by Cllr. Mrs Stanford. Agreed.

i) The Clerk seeks approval to proceed with "No Parking" signs for Winchelsea. Proposed by Cllr. Comotto, seconded by Cllr. Terry. Approved, subject to the Clerk checking that permission from the relevant land owners has been granted to the parish council.

j) The Clerk seeks approval to release the sum of £1,500, allocated in the 2009/10 budget, for a donation to Rye & District Community Transport. Proposed by Cllr. Mrs Stanford, seconded by Cllr. Comotto. Agreed. (Cllr. Moore left the room while the vote was taken).

09/079 Correspondence.

The Clerk reported on the various items identified. It was agreed that Icklesham Stool Ball Club could use the Recreation Ground at Icklesham on July 5th and August 2nd. Under item (h) the Clerk reported on issues raised by the Monitoring Officer on instruction by the Standards Committee and their recommendation that the parish council be offered training in the understanding, and operation, of the Code of Conduct. The Clerk will seek to arrange a mutually acceptable date for the training to take place.

09/080 Annual Parish Assembly.

The agenda was circulated. Cllr. Comotto pointed out that traffic had not been included on the agenda although Council had agreed to do so in December. Cllr. Bronsdon said traffic issues had been omitted from the draft but would be included in the final version as the Assembly would include an item on SIDS.

Item 13 (i) was now taken.

09/081 Cllr. Comotto submits the following resolution (deferred from previous 2 meetings):

i) "Councillors are elected to be representatives of their ward. Councillors have no individual standing in other electoral wards. If a Councillor receives a complaint from a resident of another ward, that Councillor will direct that person to a councillor representing that person's ward of residence, or directly to the Council via Clerk. All written complaints will be copied to the Councillors of the complainant's ward and to the Council via the Clerk."

It was proposed by Cllr. Comotto, seconded by Cllr. Terry. A vote was taken with 2 in favour and 7 against. The resolution was therefore not approved.

Item 16 was now taken.

09/082 Cllr. Mrs Stanford submits the following resolution:

"That the Council write to the ESCC Highways Department requesting 'Free Parking' signs on Harbour Road to draw people to the car park at the top of Harbour Road instead of parking on the roads during summer months as this causes problems with residents' parking."

Proposed by Cllr Mrs Stanford, seconded by Cllr. Thompson. Agreed.

09/083 Cllr. Comotto submits the following resolution:

"That rubbish dumped at the Cricket Field allotment site between the stock fence and the deer fence, and close to plot 31, is removed."

Proposed by Cllr. Comotto, seconded by Cllr. Terry. Agreed.

Item 13(ii) was now taken.

09/084 Cllr. Comotto submits the following resolution (deferred from previous 2 meetings):

"The Council will write to ESCC to enquire whether it would adopt Smeatons Lane."

Proposed by Cllr. Comotto. There was no seconder and therefore not approved.

Items 12, 13(iii) & (iv), 14, 15, 18, 19, 20 and 21 were deferred to the next meeting.

09/085 Date and venue for the next meeting.

The date of the meeting was confirmed as Monday 11th May at the Icklesham Memorial Hall, commencing at 7.15p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.30p.m.

Approved