

FULL COUNCIL November 2009

09-Nov-2009

ICKLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 9th November 2009 at 7.15pm at Village Hall, Rye Harbour

Present: Councillors Mrs F Bates, C Bronsdon, B Chishick, R Comotto, W Drew, J Horsman, Mrs C Merricks, Mrs J Stanford, H Sutton, M Terry, B Thompson.

In Attendance: Cllrs. N Ramus (RDC) and K Glazier (ESCC), D Rosewell (Clerk), J Cannings (Assistant to the Clerk). Members of the public were also present.

09/206 The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting at 7.15pm.

09/207 The Chairman now invited 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 P Turner raised issues concerning council documentation and asked why minutes of previous meetings were displayed on three noticeboards in the parish, but not in Winchelsea. Cllr. Comotto said it was a matter of priorities in terms of space and asked for confirmation of the council's policy on displaying minutes. The Clerk advised that the normal practice was for documents relating to council meetings to be displayed at least 3 working days before the meeting in question. Mr Turner also asked why the draft budget was not publicly available. Cllr. Horsman said the matter of the minutes would be discussed and clarified at the next meeting. He said that the budget item on today's agenda was a first draft for discussion at this meeting. Cllr. Bronsdon asked if the council sent copies of Minutes to the Town Hall. It was confirmed that IPC does not do this.

Mr Spencer asked to speak on item 14. He said that after 4 years campaigning to have the service back at Winchelsea, it would be most helpful if the council could write to Udimore Council. The new timetable for 2010 was proposed but not fixed and the more people who wrote to Southern Rail in support of it, the better.

09/208 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 said he had very little to report concerning Icklesham Parish. Recent work has been on two major projects - setting the budget and trying to achieve a 10% reduction across the board, plus applying for funds under the government Building Schools for the Future programme. The latter project was the last chance of any new money and ESCC are waiting for a response from the government minister concerned.

Cllr. Ramus gave apologies for Cllr. Osborne who he said must have been held up at another meeting. He referred to the Local Transport Plan and the bus strategy saying a pilot scheme is planned in 6 rural areas but, unfortunately, not in Icklesham parish. RDC and ESCC are consulting together. He went on to say that the Southern Rail report sounded positive but noted the trains terminated at Eastbourne, not Brighton. He also said a Rye Harbour resident had asked him to look into compost recycling and could report that Bourne's at Newenden handle this.

Cllr. Comotto said he had been advised that RDC's Conservation Officer had been seconded to the Bexhill Sea Front Project for 3 days a week but the replacement officer only worked 2 days a week. Cllr. Ramus said he would pass on his concerns. Cllr. Comotto referred to the recycling bins near the Winchelsea public conveniences and asked for a screen to hide the bins, and for the cypresses trees and litter behind them to be removed. Cllr. Comotto also said they still had no response concerning a larger bin.

Cllr. Ramus was asked when the refurbishment of the Winchelsea public conveniences would start. He said he did not know but it was in the budget. He went on to say that he had heard on the news today that the government had announced there will not be a new nuclear station at Dungeness.

Mr Turner asked what the current state of play is on the Article 4 Direction of the Winchelsea Conservation Area Appraisal. Cllr. Ramus said he did not know.

09/209 The Chairman now opened the formal part of the meeting at 7.38p.m. and reminded all present that recording of the meeting would commence from this point.

09/210 To receive and record any apologies for absence. These had been received from Cllrs. Mrs Lyward and

Moore.

09/211 Disclosure of interests. Cllrs. Mrs Merricks and Thompson both declared a personal interest in item 11.

09/212 To consider and approve the signing of the enclosed minutes by the Chairman of the meeting of the 12th October 2009. Cllr. Mrs Stanford requested the following amendments/additions that she had emailed the Clerk prior to the meeting: i) 09/192. Addition. That she had spoken to Cllr. Ramus about locating an alternative recycling site for the bins in Sea Road, Winchelsea Beach, in order to remove the fly tipping problem, and also in Winchelsea. Cllr. Ramus had said he would make enquiries. ii) 09/197(a). Addition. That she gave the Clerk the date of July 2008 to be added to the Rye Harbour sign item, expressed concern at the delay in dealing with this item and also mentioned that it was important that items were dealt with in some sort of date order. iii) 09/197(d). Amendment. "Cllr. Mrs Stanford informed the meeting that we were unaware that there was a meeting on the Friday following the Monday meeting and the Clerk had not informed HORAC in time that the council had approved me representing them, thus I had not been appointed to HORAC". iv) 09/198(a). Amendment: First line after 'Cllr. Stanford' and before 'raised the issue' insert "asked if payments such as the churchyard payment could be split out under the different ward headings to give a better idea of spending in each ward and". v) 09/199(b). Amendment: Second line. Substitute "Free Car Park sign for Harbour Road" for the word 'signage'.

Cllr. Mrs Merricks referred to 09/199(d) saying she wasn't at the meeting but had emailed the Clerk with background information to the original agreement with the Hastings Youth Football Team to use the ground, which was made in 2007, for one season only and free of charge. They have continued to use the ground ever since but have never come back seeking a new agreement. Cllr. Horsman said he thought it had been agreed that the Clerk would write to the Club concerning an agreement and ask for a fixture list. The Clerk said the item had been raised under Correspondence and, as the Team were effectively in contravention of an agreement agreed by council, it needed to be brought back as an agenda item for further action by council. Cllr. Mrs Merricks said she thought the correspondence between herself and the Clerk had been left that the Clerk would be bringing it back onto the agenda. With these amendments, Cllr. Bronsdon proposed and Cllr. Mrs Stanford seconded, that the minutes be approved. Agreed.

09/213 Matters arising. a) Programme of Works. Previously circulated. The Clerk advised that the new bins had been installed at Icklesham Recreation Ground today and that the repaired Icklesham notice board was part re-installed. He invited questions. Cllr. Mrs Merricks asked about the signage for the Icklesham Memorial Hall. The Clerk said the Highways Agency refused to fund the signs and the council would have to do so. Cllr. Mrs Merricks reported that regarding the sign for Icklesham Primary School, the school says the Clerk has been furnished with all that's needed to proceed. However, she would ask again. Cllr. Mrs Bates asked how risk assessments link into the work progress sheets. The Clerk reported that he had just received a complete safety review of all play equipment which gives a schedule of recommended maintenance, along with quotes, although other estimates can be sought. He said there were no serious issues in the report; matters mostly related to surfacing/matting. Cllr. Mrs Merricks said such reports used to be circulated to councillors and asked that this is done again. Cllr. Bronsdon asked if the Clerk had obtained an estimate to repair the damaged swing at Icklesham. The Clerk said he had received two estimates and was seeking a third. Cllr. Mrs Stanford said that, regarding the broken manhole covers in Coronation Field, Rye Harbour, she had given the Clerk some contact information today. Cllr. Comotto referred to the tree which has fallen into the ditch at Pear Tree Marsh allotments and said the whole ditch needs clearing. The Clerk said that the EA are willing to remove the tree. Cllr. Comotto went on to say the feasibility report on a VAS in Monks Walk was not on the list and the Clerk said that particular item came to a stop after communications with ESCC and Cllr. Comotto was going to pursue the matter by a different route. Cllr. Comotto said it needed to go back on. He also asked about the Tanyard Lane flooding and the Clerk reported that he had been in touch with four different agencies, all of whom denied responsibility although he suspects it is ESCC's. Cllr. Comotto said Highways had cleared the drain at the eastern end of Tanyard Lane but there was no drainage the other end, possibly due to a broken pipe. Cllr. Comotto also mentioned other items not on the list: improved footpath access for Mr Hargreaves in his disabled scooter (Dec 08), request for a bollard on corner of St Thomas Street and the High Street (Jan 09) and a copy of map with footpath numbers on for all councillors. The Clerk asked Cllr. Sutton if he had any comments on Winchelsea Beach items. Cllr. Sutton said the new seats were fine, anything else was ongoing. b) Winchelsea War Memorial (Cllr. Terry). Cllr. Terry referred to the petition with 120 residents' signatures and said he felt this should be taken notice of. Cllr. Horsman said this would have to come back to a future meeting and be voted on. c) Percy Carter seat at Winchelsea - ownership. The Clerk said there was confusion on the rights to the seat which is being replaced. At the last meeting it was suggested that it belonged to the Allotment Society. However, it was on the Council's asset register. Cllr. Comotto said that in May 2000, Cllr. Jasper was told that the bench was owned by the Garden Society. They were contacted but denied anything to do with it. They certainly had not insured or maintained it. The area was owned by the Highways Authority and the council had a licence to use it. The Clerk said the PC maintains donated benches, this one was showing its age and the proposal was to move it to the Strand bus shelter. Cllr. Sutton said he had looked at the bench, it was sound and useable and if it wasn't good enough for Winchelsea he didn't see the point of moving it from the top of the hill to the bottom of the hill and suggested putting the new bench at the bottom of the hill. Cllr. Comotto said the decision had been made. Cllr. Mrs Merricks felt it was disrespectful to move the seat. Cllr. Mrs Stanford asked on what basis the decision to replace the seat was made. Cllr. Comotto said it was in poor condition. The Chairman said the

original decision that had been voted on would stand, the seat would be replaced and the original one moved to the Strand. Cllr. Sutton said that due to the size of the new seat, either a smaller seat would have to be purchased or the area would have to be repaved. Cllr. Horsman said this would be looked at. d) Warding Issues. The Chairman said this item was for information only and read out the advice given by legal advisers at NALC in answer to a question raised by Mr Steve Turner concerning the status of ward councillors. Cllr. Comotto said we had an answer, but could we have the question? He also said Trevor Leggo's advice on this matter had not been given and was an issue outstanding in Matter Arising. The Chairman said Trevor Leggo had sought legal advice and this was it.

09/214 Financial Matters. a) Receipts and payments report for year to 31st October 2009. (circulated). There were no questions. Proposed by Cllr. Comotto, seconded by Cllr. Bronsdon and agreed. b) To approve items of payment for November 2009. The Clerk tabled items of expenditure totalling £3,772.79 for November which concerned cheques numbered 2179 to 2191 sequentially, plus £730.00 Standing Orders. There were no queries. Proposed by Cllr. Comotto, seconded by Cllr. Terry, that the payments be approved. Agreed.

Cllr. Comotto now asked if item 13(a) could be brought forward due to representatives being present. It was agreed that the item would be taken after 9(c) and before 9(d)

c) The Clerk seeks approval to proceed in purchasing a notice board for the Strand bus shelter within the budgeted sum of £165.00. Proposed by Cllr. Comotto, seconded by Cllr. Chishick. A vote was taken: 4 votes in favour, 6 votes against. Not agreed.

Item 13(a) was now taken. **09/215 Cllr. Comotto moves as follows:**

a) "The Council will contribute £800 towards a geophysical survey of a possible public tennis court site at the north end of the Cricket Field in Winchelsea, to match contributions by the Winchelsea Tennis Association and Winchelsea Archaeological Society, so that the feasibility of this site and the basis for estimating the likely archaeological costs can be established." Cllr. Comotto said this was a grant application which the Clerk had had sight of. The National Trust is hiring a ground penetrating radar machine for a day to carry out a survey and have offered time to the Cricket and Tennis Club. An archaeological survey is needed before planning permission can be granted and a geophysical investigation is required before archaeological excavations are made. The Cricket Club and Archaeological Society were donating £100 each. The survey will allow them to do a costing on the archaeological work necessary to apply for planning permission. 104 people had signed up to play. It would be a public tennis court with subscriptions. Cllr. Mrs Merricks asked if any funds granted by the council would come out of S137. Cllr. Comotto said it would come from Donations. He advised the match funding available. Accounts were provided by the Club's representative who was present at the meeting. Cllr. Bronsdon queried the status of the new proposed site for the court, saying the original site was still shown on the Club's website. It was agreed that Standing Orders be suspended in order to allow the Tennis Club representative present to speak. He said they were currently awaiting feedback from the Cricket Club as a result of their consultation and confirmed that the site had not actually yet been agreed although the current site had been chosen in consultation with the Cricket Club. Mr P Turner said that the Captain of the Cricket Club, and members, did agree the site but they had not had a committee meeting yet. Cllr. Mrs Merricks asked if the court would be open to all members of the parish, not just Winchelsea residents, and whether it would include use for other sports as well as tennis. She felt it should benefit the whole community. Cllr. Comotto said it would be a public court and a decision could be made at a later date as to usage other than tennis. The Chairman said accounts were now available but council should have time to look at them, as well as obtaining further information. He felt a decision should be deferred until the next meeting. Agreed deferred.

09/214 Financial Matters (continued) d) Budget 2010-11 (circulated). The Clerk said this was a first draft. The intention was to plan in order that essential services continue. His other aim was to keep spending to a point where the precept is unchanged. He invited councillors to put their views and requests. Cllr. Comotto said he thought a total target should be agreed first and then look at prioritising what that money is spent on, not the other way round. He would like to see cuts in this draft proposal to achieve a budget amount of £5000 less than the current year. He said there have been large carry-overs as a result of the time restraints of part time Clerk's which has resulted in projects taking longer to implement than anticipated. Cllr. Mrs Merricks commented that, as far as balances were concerned, was it not a case of building them up to have 6 months expenditure in reserve, as considered best practice. She also suggested that the proposed car park at Pear Tree Marsh should be itemised under Capital Expenditure. This was agreed. The Chairman advised that the carry-over would be less this year as projects were being completed. Each item of the draft was then considered and proposed changes were as follows: 2203 New bus shelter, Strand. Proposed defer. Agreed. 1103 Chair's Allowance. Change to £150 proposed. Vote taken. Not Agreed. Stays £450. 1231 Legal Costs. Change to £500 proposed. Vote taken. Not agreed. Stays £750. 2204 C/yard Maintenance. Stays £3150 subject to review of need. 2244 Youth Projects. Proposed delete. Vote taken. Not agreed. Stays £1000. 2301 Allotments. Proposed increase. Change to £6000. Agreed. 2221 New Play Equip. Stays £7500 with £1800 RH, £5700 W.B. to include a disabled swing as priority if grant not obtained. Agreed. 2601 Grants to Halls. Stays £4000 subject to review of funding usage. Refurbish panels on Winchelsea War Memorial - delete. Agreed. PTM Car Park - defer but continue investigate legal status. Agreed. Budget proposals for all other items on the draft were accepted.

Cllr. Comotto said he had items to add to the budget which he had passed to the Clerk. Cllr. Mrs Merricks asked about the previous request by Cllr. Mrs Stanford for costs to be itemised per ward. The Chairman said that this could be implemented on the accounts system, but not until year end.

Due to time restraints, the Chairman now proposed that items 11, 12, 13b, 16 & 17 were deferred. Agreed.

09/216 Cllr Chishick moves as follows: "The Council will write to Southern Rail in response to their consultation on a new timetable and welcome the more frequent stopping service at Winchelsea Station. Although outside the parish, the service is of interest to residents and visitors." Proposed by Cllr. Chishick, seconded by Cllr. Comotto. Agreed.

09/217 Local Action Plans. The Clerk said Council need to decide whether they wanted to go ahead with this as the RDC consultant's time runs out in March. Cllr. Bronsdon requested that she be invited to come to the parish. The Clerk said one councillor was needed from each ward to lead the project. Cllrs. Bronsdon & Mrs Stanford volunteered for Rye Harbour, Cllr. Horsman for Icklesham and Cllr. Sutton agreed to be the contact for Winchelsea Beach. Two other Winchelsea Beach councillors were not present but he said he was sure they would sort it out between them.

09/218 Correspondence. The Clerk advised receipt of the following:
a) Letter of thanks from Steve Turner for the second grant payment to the Winchelsea New Hall.
b) Letter from the Rye Harbour Management Committee expressing thanks for the second grant payment to the Village Hall and advising that the money had gone towards the ongoing running costs of the hall. £9000 had been spent on maintaining the property last year so donations are much appreciated. c) Letter from Rother District Council regarding Dog Control Orders. They are asking individual parishes if there are any particular areas where they would like to see a dog patrol and requesting a response within 12 weeks.

09/219 Date and venue for the next meeting. This was confirmed as Monday 14th December at the Winchelsea New Hall, commencing at 7.15p.m. The meeting closed at 10.08p.m.

Unapproved