

ICKLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

A local council for the peoples of Icklesham, Winchelsea, Winchelsea Beach and Rye Harbour

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at 7:15 pm on Monday 23rd January 2023 at Winchelsea Court Hall

Present: Councillors: J Justice, D Kitteridge, I Mann, I McConnochie, T Moore, D Smedley (Vice Chair), Mrs J. Stanford (Chair), H. Sutton, Mrs A. Thomson, and N. Warren

In attendance: Jenner Sands (Clerk and RFO), members of the public were also present

23/19 Item 1. The Chair opened the meeting at 7.15 pm. The Chair invited comments or questions from members of the public on matters relating to the business of the Council.

Paul Veys of Winchelsea spoke in relation to item 5 of the agenda. He said that the four problems identified in the RSA appear to be resolvable with fairly minor changes to the original design. Mr Veys commented on the update report and said that he understood this was produced following a meeting with the Vice Chairman, the Clerk and undisclosed members of National Highways (NH), GTA were not at this meeting. He said that they would need clarification as to how NH came to these conclusions. He said that the no left turn no right turn was an option clearly selected by Winchelsea residents and it was felt that this was the only feasible option to stop the rat running through Winchelsea. His second point was that the junction at the bottom of Strand Hill is already dangerous, if changing the kerb to facilitate traffic calming really also requires removing the hump in the A259, changing the drains and chopping the trees down and NH can't or will not do the work to bring it up to modern safety standards then maybe there is a simple safety solution, don't change the kerbs. His third point is that if the police want to use Strand Hill as a diversion strategy for a A259 blockage and don't want us to change the layout then again, don't change the layout/ kerbs. The final point, is that the report suggests a one way option. This had virtually no support at the meeting on traffic calming held some months ago as one way traffic is likely to increase the speed of cars and therefore the risk to pedestrians. He said that the residents strongly urge the Council to disregard this update and convene a proper meeting between GTA, IPC, East Sussex County Council and NH.

John Clarke of Winchelsea said that GTA were selected by a panel of residents and Councillors on the basis their knowledge and experience in dealing with East Sussex and NH. He said that the residents feel that one of the reasons GTA may not have been involved in this meeting or subsequent meetings was down to money and therefore, if that is the case, he is authorised to offer to pay the fees for GTA to attend a meeting.

23/20 Item 2. To record any apologies for absence. Apologies received from Mrs C Rice and Cllr P Turner (via text message read after the meeting).

23/21 Item 3. Disclosure of Interests - to receive any disclosure by members of personal interest required under the Council's Code of Conduct and to consider any written requests made by members for dispensation to allow them to participate in, and vote on, an agenda item for which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest. Members are reminded a) to repeat their declaration immediately prior to commencement of the item in question and b) complete the declaration of interests' form. **There were none.**

23/22 Item 4. To consider and approve the signing by the Chair of the attached minutes of the Full Council Meeting of 9th January 2023. **RESOLVED:** Cllr Warren raised an amendment on page two of the Minutes which should read item 6 not 16. Subject to this amendment the Minutes were approved and signed.

23/23 Item 5. Winchelsea Traffic Calming

a) To receive the RSA1/2 from National Highways. **RESOLVED:** The RSA1/2 was noted.

b) To consider Clerk's update report and to discuss way forward.

The Clerk clarified that the reason GTA were not at the meeting with the Clerk, Cllr Smedley and National Highways was because the meeting was arranged at very short notice. The Clerk explained that John

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Farnaby had offered to meet her on a day where he was passing through on his way to another meeting. The Clerk confirmed that there was not enough time for Council to agree to the expenditure for GTA to attend and so on balance she felt it was best to take the opportunity rather than miss it.

The Chair proposed that Standing Orders were suspended so John Farnaby of National Highways could join the conversation. This was unanimously agreed. John Farnaby explained National Highways' position in relation to the junction at the bottom of Strand Hill. He said that because of the camber of the approach road to the junction from Rye it would entail civil engineering work as the junction would need to be brought up to the current standard if any changes were made. He also said that he had been in contact with Sussex Police regarding the speeding and they also have very strict criteria for an area to be considered for a speed/ safety camera. He said that there would need to be a serious injury or fatality collision as they have only got a certain amount of resources. Sussex Police did suggest a community speed watch and East Sussex County Council have said that they would be willing to help with this. John confirmed that the A21 is currently undergoing a road safety scheme where all of the signage is being changed and the speed limits are being changed. He said that in about 5 years' time they are looking at the A259 and it will be the whole stretch that they deal with. The Chair thanked John for giving his time to attend the meeting all the way from Surrey. She said that as he was also a parish councillor he would know that residents were frustrated that it takes a fatality before action is taken on road changes.

The Clerk was asked to organise another meeting with Cllr Smedley, National Highways, East Sussex Highways and GTA. The Clerk confirmed that GTA's fees for this would be £450 plus VAT.

RESOLVED: Agreed.

23/24 Item 6. To agree draft budget for 2023-24. To agree the precept in the sum of £159,580 and to authorise the Clerk to notify the District Council. **RESOLVED: Approved** and the Chair confirmed she is happy we have been able to keep the figures down this year and hoped that other parish councils were doing the same in the current financial climate.

23/25 Item 7. Date and Venue for Next Meeting. Monday 13th March 7.15 pm at Winchelsea New Hall.

Agreed as a true record of the meeting

Signed
Cllr J Stanford

Dated: 13th March 2023