

# 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 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022  
at Winchelsea New Hall**

**Present:** Councillors: J. Justice, I Mann, I McConnochie, T Moore, Mrs. C Rice, D Smedley, Mrs J. Stanford (Chair), H. Sutton, N. Warren and P Turner

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

**22/62 Item 1. The Chair opened the meeting at 7.15 pm. She thanked all Councillors for attending the meeting and for all their time they give voluntarily and in between meetings. The Chair invited comments or questions from members of the public on matters relating to the business of the Council.**

John Spencer of Winchelsea said that he had seen Item 9 regarding the Little Shop Association and the money that is kept in those accounts. He said that a number of shareholders have wondered over the years what is to be done so if the Parish Council are taking matters forward then so be it. He also said that he did not know that Councillor Smedley had some joy with the National Trust in trying to get them to speak at a meeting for the residents of the Town and anyone else who wants to come about what the National Trust are planning for land and farms around Winchelsea. The Conservation Society were trying to get the National Trust to give them an update on what they were planning either in the fields or swallow boxes and also in respect of the barn on Rookery Lane which they spent a lot of money on 10 or 15 years ago which has been empty ever since. The Chair confirmed that when the meeting is due to take place, we will advertise this on our website Cllr Smedley confirmed that he would liaise with the Conservation Society.

Mrs. Merricks of Icklesham raised a question regarding Item 13 on the agenda regarding Icklesham Recreation Ground Fence. She said that it wasn't clear from the Open Spaces Committee Agenda what the quote was for and that on this agenda she saw that it was to replace Icklesham Recreation Ground fence. She said that she found it rather odd that Mark Saunters' quote to replace the fence for £1,000 is extremely good in this day and age when wire fencing is £10 per meter. She said that she could not find any information at all on the website. She said that she found it rather odd that we were using a pest control company and a tree surgery company for post and rail fencing when there are good local fencing companies in the area such as Tate Fencing and Jackson fencing etc. she said that she hopes that the new post and rail fencing would last another 20 years and therefore it may be better to go to a reputable fencing company. On that note she said that the fence was replaced in 2002 and when they replaced it, they found a nice plaque which stated that the fence had been erected in 1952 so it had therefore lasted 50 years. They found a plaque which stated that the plaque had been erected in the Queen's Golden Jubilee and that plaque is still there under some ivy. She said that if we are going to replace the fence, she thinks it would be rather nice if we could commission a plaque stating that it was to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Cllr Smedley said that following her enquiry he has the quote in front of him and the quote actually says "quote to supply and install 20 3m bays of 3 rail post and rail fencing" he confirmed that this is from the bus shelter through to the gate. Ms Merricks confirmed that her

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main point was that it would be very nice to mark the fence with a similar plaque as to what is already there.

## **22/63 Item 2. To receive reports and ask questions of County Councillor Keith Glazier and Rother District Councillors concerning County Council and Rother District Council matters.**

The Clerk confirmed that we had received apologies from Cllr Glazier and Cllr Mier. There were no other Rother District Councillors present to give reports.

## **22/64 Item 3. Apologies for Absence.** Apologies received from Cllr K Glazier, Cllr D Kitteridge, Cllr A Mier, Cllr Mrs. A Thomson, Cllr S Tollett.

## **22/65 Item 4. Disclosures of Interest.** There were none.

## **22/66 Item 5. Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022. RESOLVED: The Minutes were approved and signed.**

### **Matters Requiring a Decision by the Council**

#### **22/67 Item 6. Financial Matters.**

- a) To receive the list of items paid to date in June and July and items for payment to date – available at the meeting. **RESOLVED:** The payments were approved.
- b) Receipts and Payments report (budget vs actual) – available at the meeting. **RESOLVED:** the report was approved.
- c) To receive and approve the first quarter bank reconciliations. **RESOLVED:** the reconciliation reports were approved.
- d) To consider and agree on banking arrangements.  
The Clerk explained that the locum RFO who was covering before the Clerk started had suggested opening a different account with a separate bank so that we can utilise the £85,000 guarantee. The Clerk suggested that we transfer our reserve funds of roughly £78,000 into the new Unity Trust Account. This would bring the balance of the Lloyds account down to below £85,000. **RESOLVED:** it was agreed to transfer the balance of our reserve funds into the Unity Trust account.
- e) To consider the attached draft Grant Policy.  
Cllr Warren proposed an amendment to point 2 under 'Conditions of Funding' to 'their latest set of audited accounts unless operating less than one year when their first year projected budget would be accepted'.  
**RESOLVED:** it was agreed to adopt the policy with the addition of Cllr Warren's proposed amendment.

#### **22/68 Item 7. Rye Harbour Car Park:-**

- a) To consider sending a solicitor's letter to resident re locking of car park and criminal damage.  
The Chair explained the issues we have been having with a resident in Tram Road who has taken it upon himself to lock and unlock the car park. The Chair confirmed that we have tried to involve Sussex Police but to date they have been particularly unhelpful stating the problems were civil..  
The Chair had been approached at a HORAC meeting by another Tram Road resident recently and she is concerned because they are only hearing one side of the story.  
The Chair asked the Council to consider writing a letter to Katie Bourne of Sussex Police,

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a solicitor's letter to the resident and also to consider herself, the Clerk and Cllr Smedley arranging a meeting with the residents of Tram Road who live on the left-hand side and back on to the car park to come and meet with us.

**RESOLVED:** it was agreed to seek advice from a solicitor, to write to Katie Bourne of Sussex Police and also to arrange a meeting with the residents on the left-hand side of Tram Road.

- b) To consider an email received from a resident regarding coaches and buses in Rye Harbour and discuss a way forward.

There was a general discussion regarding the issues in Rye Harbour with the excess traffic and in particular coaches that use the access road to Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. Cllr Smedley proposed organising a meeting with the Nature Reserve to discuss these issues.

**RESOLVED:** Clerk is to organise a meeting with the Nature Reserve.

### 22/69 Item 8. Traffic Calming:-

- a) To receive the topographical survey. **This was noted and accepted.**
- b) To consider GTA Civils & Transport revised quotation. **RESOLVED:** GTA's revised quote was accepted.
- c) Clerk seeks Council's permission to instruct GTA to carry out detailed drawings of 'no left turn, no right turn' option. **RESOLVED:** following the results of the public vote, Clerk is to instruct GTA to commission detailed drawings of the no left turn, no right turn option.
- d) Traffic Calming Working Group. **RESOLVED:** that the Traffic Calming Working Group be disbanded as they had fulfilled their role and an option had been agreed and that the Council now best placed to take the project forward. The Council thanked the group for their work.

### 22/70 Item 9. Winchelsea Little Shop Association.

Council to consider whether excess funds of around £40,000 should be transferred to the Parish Council to be used for the benefit of all Winchelsea residents rather than sitting in a dormant account. **RESOLVED:** Clerk is to request an agenda item to this effect for the next AGM of the Winchelsea Little Shop.

### 22/71 Item 10. Adult Exercise Equipment.

Cllr Mrs Stanford at the last budget meeting raised the project of installing adult exercise equipment and the Deputy Clerk has now received quotations. Funding will be sought for this, but Council is asked to approve this project being pursued. Quotes received from:-

- a) Broxap - £2,814 plus VAT
- b) Caloo - £2,928 plus VAT
- c) Fresh Air Fitness - £3,812 plus VAT
- d) Outdoor Spaces - £4,668 plus VAT

The Chair explained that the Clerk is going to look into funding options for these and therefore we may not have too much control over which quote we accept. **RESOLVED:** Clerk is going to look into funding options to take this project forward.

### 22/72 Item 11. Review of Standing Orders.

- a) Consider adopting NALC suggested amendments to section 18. **RESOLVED:** the suggested amendments were approved.

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- b) Consider amending standing orders to allow members of the public to ask questions other than what is on the agenda. Clerk recommends adding an item on each agenda 'matters for future agendas'.
- The Clerk explained that she had attended a meeting recently with other Clerks in the area. Fairlight PC include an item at the end of their agenda 'items for future agendas' the Clerk was told that this works well.
- Cllr Turner proposed changing the wording of this to 'considerations for future agendas' as this would allow the Clerk and Chairman to consider whether they felt the item was suitable for Council's consideration.
- Cllr Warren proposed that the Standing Orders are left as they are and said that the Council could end up in difficulty at future meetings. Cllr Warren said that he does not see anything wrong with the current system whereby Councillors and members of the public can write in 7 days prior to a meeting for items on the agenda. This was seconded by Cllr Turner. 3 votes were received in favour.
- Cllr Rice proposed adopting the new agenda item with Cllr Turner's suggested wording 'considerations for future agendas'. Cllr Warren voted against this. This was seconded and 9 votes in favour received. **RESOLVED:** Clerk is to add 'considerations for future agendas' as an item at the end of the agenda going forward.

## **22/73 Item 12. Allotment Committee**

- a) To note the draft Minutes of the Allotment Committee Meeting of 23 May 2022. **The Minutes were noted.**
- b) To consider Cllr Steve Tollett joining Allotment Committee. **RESOLVED:** it was agreed Cllr Tollett is to join the Allotment Committee.

## **22/74 Item 13. Open Spaces Committee**

- a) To note the draft Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee Meeting of 27 June 2022. **The Minutes were noted.**
- b) To approve the Open Spaces Committee recommendation to accept New Timber's quotes for the recommended tree surgery works (item 9). The Committee recommend using funds from EMRs and £2,100 from general reserves. **RESOLVED:** New Timber's quotes were approved.
- c) To approve the Open Spaces Committee recommendation to carry out the necessary repairs to the play equipment (item 10). The Committee recommends the funds are taken from reserves. **RESOLVED:** the quotes for the playground repairs were approved.
- d) To approve the Open Spaces Committee recommendation to accept Mark Saunters quote to replace Icklesham Recreation Ground Fence (item 11). The Committee recommends the funds are taken from reserves.
- Standing orders were suspended to allow Mrs Merricks to speak. She confirmed that the old plaque is still in situ.
- RESOLVED:** Clerk was given delegated authority in conjunction with the Chairman and Chairman of Open Spaces to take this forward and to ensure the replacement fencing is like for like. Cllr McConnochie is going to have a look and report back to the Assistant Clerk is to clear the existing plaques and to ensure a similar plaque is erected to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

## **22/75 Item 14. Rother District Councillor Attendance at Meetings.**

All District Councillors are welcome at our meetings but are asked that only those with items to report concerning IPC attend, as this would allow more time for IPC matters to be discussed and therefore include all Councillors on local issues. **RESOLVED:** it was agreed that any District Councillors with items to report concerning Icklesham Parish are welcome to attend our meetings.

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**22/76 Item 15. Replacement Basketball Nets for Icklesham Recreation Ground and Winchelsea Beach.**

**RESOLVED:** it was agreed not to replace the nets as these are an unnecessary cost that can potentially cause a health and safety issue.

## **Matters for Information or Noting**

**22/77 Item 16. Winchelsea Beach Toilets.** To note that Rother District Council are preparing a business plan with a view of transferring these to Icklesham Parish Council. Clerk should have an update for the next meeting. **This was noted.**

**22/78 Item 17. Winchelsea Beach Bus Shelter.** Clerk has approached ESCC Highways. They can carry out the design work as part of match funding scheme. Clerk is awaiting further details and costings. **This was noted.**

**22/79 Item 18. IPCLT Affordable Housing.** Update on affordable housing development in Icklesham.

Cllr Warren confirmed that only the shared ownership houses have been dealt with so far and there are only three of those properties. He confirmed that when Hastoe did their initial selection of the application forms they should have come to the CLT, but they did not. They made the mistake of looking at addresses in Icklesham rather than addresses for the whole Parish. The CLT have challenged them on this, they have now included the whole of the Parish. Cllr Turner highlighted that people not only have to pass the criteria test but there are other tests they have to pass to qualify for the shared ownership properties. Some people have failed that part of the test whilst passing the criteria test.

**22/80 Item 19. Programme of Works.** Consider and update where necessary. **This was noted.**

## **22/81 Item 20. Correspondence.**

- a) Request from a resident in Rye Harbour to erect a bouncy castle for a child's birthday party on Pound Field on 2<sup>nd</sup> August. **RESOLVED:** it was agreed to not allow this for insurance reasons and the fact we would not be able to control the event etc.
- b) The Chair confirmed that she had received an email from one of the Trustees of the Cheyney Almshouse Charity. She confirmed that this was discussed at the last meeting as Cllr Kitteridge had been asked to act as a trustee. Cllr Kitteridge had said that he was waiting on some documents from the trustees. Cllr Kitteridge has now confirmed that he would be happy to act. **RESOLVED:** Cllr Kitteridge's appointment was agreed.

**22/82 Item 21. Reports from Councillors on meetings they have attended.** Councillors to update Council.

Cllr Mann confirmed that he attended the Sussex Police Focus Group in Rye on 23<sup>rd</sup> May. It was held by Mandy Jameson the director of Coms for Katie Bourne and Olivia Cole who deals with neighbourhood policing based in Battle. The meeting was basically them updating people what has been happening in the area. He said that if you go on the Sussex Police website and search with your postcode it will tell you what crimes have been committed in and around the area. They confirmed that Icklesham Warrants 7 hours of police engagement and they have positive responses for that.

Cllr Stanford confirmed that she attended HORAC. She confirmed everything is going very well for the Harbour of Rye and that she had formally thanked James Bateman for his talk at the Annual Meeting.

Cllr Justice had not been to a meeting but confirmed that he had spoken with the workman who are working on Sea Road who confirmed that they are going to resurface the road. He

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said that at the moment they are raising the kerbs which needs to be done before the resurfacing can start.

Cllr Turner confirmed that he attended the RALC meeting last Wednesday and that was his last meeting. The big message to come back on the speeding issue was that if you collect your data using the black cats you also need to get speed watch in place as well because the two running side by side the police are more likely to use their resources to turn up and take some action.

Cllr Turner confirmed that he is scheduled to attend an online Southern Water Stakeholder meeting on Friday which is to do with their 5 year plan going forward for both water and sewage treatments. The Chair confirmed that councillors needed to inform the clerk when they were invited to meeting on behalf of IPC.

**22/83 Item 22. Date and venue for next meeting.**

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 7.15 pm at Winchelsea Beach Village Hall.

**The meeting closed at 9:05 pm.**

***Agreed as a true record of the meeting.***

**Signed .....**

**Dated: 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2022**

***Cllr Mrs. J Stanford (Chair)***