

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 13th March 2023 at Winchelsea New Hall

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

In attendance: Members of the public were present.

23/26 Item 1. The Chair opened the meeting at 7.15 pm explaining that the clerk was unfortunately ill with Covid but that they would be using the recording equipment as usual for the purposes of the Minutes and that the clerk had provided notes on various agenda for the meeting. The Chair invited comments or questions from members of the public on matters relating to the business of the Council.

A resident from Winchelsea spoke in relation to item 9 of the agenda. She said that the Residents' Association do not believe that the one way option is a realistic option. She said that it would not address the problem and the Council's own black cat data shows that nearly 12,000 vehicles are using Strand Hill every week. 70% of these vehicles come up the hill and 8,000 vehicles would continue to travel up the town every week. She also raised the fact that the Council would not be able to afford it as GTA offered the one way option as a partial option stating that this would also require significant construction along High Street and German Street to reduce speeds. There is mention on the meeting note to the impact on local businesses. The landlord of the New Inn has read the meeting note and has specifically asked that his comment on the meeting note be read to the Council "we support traffic calming. Customers complain about the traffic and we need to stop the dangerous driving. A one way option still allows most of the traffic through, if the no left turn, no right turn cannot go ahead we support closure of the road on Strand Hill."

Another resident of Winchelsea also spoke in relation to item 9. He said that there are issues with the consultation in that we are stuck with the requirement of 80-90% majority. The Residents' Association would be happy to provide any support the Parish Council wanted in terms of the consultation. The Chair confirmed that the Parish Council also want the consultation completed as this takes up a lot of the Council's time. She also confirmed that it will not be the Council making the decision, it will be up to the residents and there will have to be another vote.

A resident from Winchelsea raised a question in relation to item 9 of the agenda. He said that at the last meeting he attended the Council considered a traffic survey which showed where the vehicles were travelling to/ from and he asked whether this has been done. Cllr Smedley confirmed that we have been advised by National Highways and GTA that there is no point in doing the survey until we have identified a scheme that can be taken forward.

A resident from Winchelsea also spoke about item 9 of the agenda. He said that they know from data given to them by the Little Shop Association that when the road was closed urgently back in 2001, the fact that it was closed made no difference to the turnover in the Little Shop, in fact the turnover went up. There was no difference in the turnover when the shop reopened.

A resident from Winchelsea spoke about item 11 of the agenda. He said that at present Winchelsea has a single unisex public toilet which is completely inadequate for the large number of visitors the Town experiences. The Chair confirmed that the Parish Council have been in talks with Rother regarding the toilets for a number of years. The Chair confirmed that the Parish Council do not agree with toilets being closed and where we can the Parish Council will step in to do what we can to keep them open.

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A resident in Rye Harbour spoke about item 23 of the agenda. She said that she is very grateful to the Parish Council as we wrote to Councillor Glazier last year about the problems caused by people parking at the top of Rye Harbour Road. She said that East Sussex County Council have produced a pretty good scheme but it doesn't go quite far enough. She asked if the Parish Council could please respond to the consultation which ends on 17th March.

23/27 Item 2. To receive reports and ask questions of the County Councillor Keith Glazier and the Rother District Councillors concerning County Council and Rother District Council matters. (10 minutes)

Cllr Glazier confirmed that 17th March is important and urged the Parish Council to take part in the consultation. He said that everyone should be receiving their council tax bills in the next few days. With inflation on the rise and rising electricity prices he confirmed that the pressure on the County Council's budget is enormous. He said that the options were to make £16,000,000 worth of savings or put the council tax up by 5% which was a very difficult decision to make. They decided that they could not make £16,000,000 cuts to services. Cllr Glazier confirmed that they have a highways steward who is going around all day every day looking at potholes and trying to get potholes repaired. He said that if you see pot holes, do not assume someone else has reported them. He urged people to report potholes and informed people that there is a telephone number, email address or you can report these online.

A resident asked Councillor Glazier for his view on the chances of success of the traffic calming that is actually going to stop the traffic coming through the Town. Cllr Glazier stated that he had no idea at all, he has been working on this for 20 years and East Sussex have consulted on this more times than enough, if the residents want to now revert to full closure which he believes is the only solution that is left open to them, the residents will need in excess of 80% support. This is simply because the County Council, when making a traffic regulation order, would need to advertise the scheme and if objections are received and the level of support comes down to 50/50 or 40/60 it becomes very difficult to win that case. He confirmed that it is in the residents hands. He confirmed that he did not think either of the one way options were doable as it is very clear that once you start touching the junction down on the A259 it becomes a new junction that would then have to comply with 2023 regulations and not the regulations that were in place when it was built. He confirmed that because of this, it seems that full closure is the only doable option.

A resident from Winchelsea questioned whether this would be 80-90% of the residents of Winchelsea or the Parish. Cllr Glazier confirmed that he is not entirely sure on this because this would depend on whether it would be the Parish Council paying for this or if the Residents' Association could find an alternative funding solution. Cllr Glazier confirmed that he would report back to the Clerk on this.

Cllr Mier of Rother District Council confirmed that he was here covering for Cllr Norton and that if anyone had any questions for Rother District Council he would be happy to help. Cllr Warren raised a planning application for the Windmill Park Caravan Site in Winchelsea Beach where the planning committee have a number of concerns. Cllr Warren explained that the application had been re-advertised on the call in list in January 2023. Cllr Hacking requested that the application was called in which was refused on the basis that there were no significant changes to the original application. Cllr Warren asked Cllr Mier if he would raise this matter on our behalf. Cllr Mier confirmed that he would and that he would copy Cllr Hacking in.

The Chair thanked both Cllr Glazier and Cllr Mier for attending.

23/28 Item 3. To record any apologies for absence. Apologies received from I McConnochie, Mrs. C Rice, A Thompson and S Tollett.

23/29 Item 4. 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

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in question and b) complete the declaration of interests form. **There were none.**

23/30 Item 5. To consider and approve the signing by the Chair of the attached minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting of 23rd January 2023. **RESOLVED:** the Minutes were approved and signed.

Matters requiring a Decision by Council

23/31 Item 6. Financial Matters.

- a) To receive the list of items paid to date in February and March and items for payment to date. **RESOLVED:** approved
- b) Receipts and Payments report (budget vs actual) **RESOLVED:** approved.
- c) To consider Grant Applications received from the following:-
 - i. Winchelsea New Hall - £1,725 annual grant towards running costs. **RESOLVED:** approved
 - ii. Five Villages Home Association - £1,000 grant towards tax and insurance of eight-seater mini bus. *Standing orders were suspended to allow a member of the public to speak. The Council were informed that the Five Villages have changed the charging structure for the minibus and residents are therefore struggling to use it. The Dial a Ride picked up 8 residents from the Five Villages last week as they were unable to access the mini bus.* **RESOLVED:** Council is to grant £500 towards running costs.
 - iii. Sussex Wildlife Trust (Rye Harbour Nature Reserve) - £500 grant to fund car park data from ESCC. **RESOLVED:** the application was refused on the grounds that the car park is now the Parish Council's concern and that if anyone should collect the data it should be the Parish Council. The Parish Council do not feel the data is necessary and have the black cat devices that can be used to collect this data.

23/32 Item 9. Winchelsea Traffic Calming

Cllr Smedley gave an update following the joint meeting with East Sussex Highways, National Highways, IPC and GTA. Cllr Smedley confirmed that at the meeting IPC were told by East Sussex Highways and National Highways that the two options that would be accepted by National Highways and East Sussex Highways was either full closure of Strand Hill or one way up Strand Hill.

Cllr Turner questioned whether the Parish Council have the spending power to implement the works as the legislation states that Parish Council's can contribute towards the costs of the works. Cllr Glazier confirmed that East Sussex County Council run a match funding scheme whereby they will match funding of Parish and Town Council's for schemes such as this. The scheme would have to pass the value for money test for the match funding. **RESOLVED:** Clerk is to organise the public consultation.

23/32 Item 7. Meeting List Schedule

Council is asked to agree the attached meeting list schedule for 2023/24 meetings. **RESOLVED:** The meeting list was approved.

23/33 Item 8. Open Spaces Committee

- a) To note the Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee Meeting on 27th February. **RESOLVED:** The Minutes were noted.
- b) To approve the Open Spaces Committee recommendation to adopt the attached tree management policy. **RESOLVED:** the policy was approved and adopted.

23/34 Item 10. Rye Harbour Car Park – Contactless Donations

To consider the Clerk's report and recommendation. **RESOLVED:** Council are to install the QR codes for contactless donations. Clerk is to set up a Stripe payment gateway account to facilitate this.

23/35 Item 11. Devolution of Public Toilets

To consider the possibility of Rother District Council devolving the public toilets in Winchelsea Beach and Winchelsea. **RESOLVED:** Clerk is to write to Rother District Council and ask them to carry out a drain survey on the toilets in Winchelsea.

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23/36 Item 12. Adult Exercise Equipment

The Council's Community Grant Application has been approved by Rother District Council. Council are to agree on how to fund the remaining £5,588. The Clerk recommends using £3,482 CIL income and £2,106 of reserves. **RESOLVED:** Clerk is to use CIL income in the sum of £3,482 and £2,106 of reserve funds to match the funding received from Rother District Council.

23/37 Item 13. Coronation of King Charles III

The Council is asked to consider whether the Parish will hold an event to celebrate the King's Coronation. There is a £500 maximum grant available from Rother District Council on a first come first serve basis. **RESOLVED:** Clerk is to write to the Village Halls to find out if they are doing anything to mark the occasion.

23/38 Item 14. CCTV in Icklesham and Rye Harbour

To consider quotes received. **RESOLVED:** the quote in the sum of £2,115.50 from 1066 Fire and Security was accepted.

23/39 Item 15. The Ridge Fire Station

To consider the attached Clerk's report and consider writing to East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service. **RESOLVED:** Clerk is to write to East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service expressing the Parish Council's wish to see retention of full time 24/7 cover at the Ridge Fire Station.

23/40 Item 16. Winchelsea Beach Bus Shelter

Council is asked to consider the attached Clerk's report and agree a way forward. **RESOLVED:** Clerk is to approach GTA to see what their fee would be to look at this for the Parish Council.

23/41 Item 17. Smeatons Lane

To consider quote received for Smeatons Lane maintenance. Quote will be tabled at the meeting. **RESOLVED:** the quotes from Mark Saunters and Eurogreen were agreed.

23/42 Item 18. Coronation Field Fence Repair

Open Spaces Committee previously accepted a quote in the sum of £300 to repair the fence. However the contractor has been let down by suppliers and is now unable to complete the work before the next playground inspection. Council is asked to consider further quotes received. **RESOLVED:** the quote from New Timber was accepted.

23/43 Item 19. Emergency Plans

To consider updating the emergency plan for Rye Harbour and consider drafting emergency plans for Winchelsea, Winchelsea Beach and Icklesham. **RESOLVED:** Clerk is to contact Rother District Council to find out whether they have an emergency plan officer.

23/44 Item 20. Debate Not Hate Campaign

To consider signing up to the Local Government Association's Debate Not Hate Campaign. The Campaign aims to raise public awareness of the role of Councillors in their communities, encourage healthy debate and improve the responses and support for local politicians facing abuse and intimidation. [Debate Not Hate | Local Government Association](#) **RESOLVED:** Clerk is to find out if there is any cost. If there is no cost then the Clerk is to sign up to it.

Matters for Information or Noting

23/45 Item 21. Programme of Works. Consider and update where necessary. **RESOLVED:** noted.

23/ 46 Item 22. Local Elections Timetable **RESOLVED:** the timetable was noted.

23/47 Item 23. Correspondence (any late received correspondence will be tabled at the meeting)

- a) Letter received from Hadlow Down PC regarding highways maintenance. **RESOLVED:** the letter was noted.

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- b) Late received email from Rye Town Council/ Rye & District Community Transport. **RESOLVED:** Clerk is to email Councillors asking them to confirm agreement to responding to the consultation.
- c) Letter received from Southern Water re EIR request. **RESOLVED:** noted. It was noted that there were tankers in South Undercliff in Rye over the weekend pumping from the pumping station there. The sewerage scheme in Rye was installed roughly the same time as Winchelsea Beach.

23/48 Item 24. Reports from Councillors on meetings they have attended. Councillors to update Council. **RESOLVED:** nothing to note.

23/49 Item 25. Items for Consideration for Future Agendas. **RESOLVED:** nothing to note. Councillors are to contact the Clerk if there are future items.

The Council then resolved to go into private session to discuss confidential items.

Agreed as a true record of the meeting

Signed 

Dated: 15th May 2023