

# 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 7:00 pm on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022  
at Icklesham Memorial Hall**

**Present:** Councillors: J. Justice, I Mann, Mrs. C Rice, D Smedley, Mrs J. Stanford, H. Sutton, N. Warren, Mrs A Thomson and P Turner (Chairman)

**In attendance:** Jenner Sands (Clerk and RFO), Councillors R Bird and A Mier (RDC). Members of the public were also present

**22/17 Item 1. The chairman opened the meeting and reminded those present that the meeting was being recorded. The chairman confirmed that recently there has been an increase on interruptions from the public gallery and that he had taken advice on this. If any member of the public interrupts the meeting they will be asked to leave the meeting. He invited comments or questions from members of the public on matters relating to the business of the Council.**

Paul Veys of Winchelsea confirmed he was speaking on behalf of the Winchelsea Residents' Association of which he is co-chair. He said that he was speaking in relation to item 10 of the Agenda and that it is really good to see such progress on this matter. He confirmed that the Association are very much in favour of the public meeting with GTA to bring the residents up to speed on which options have been discussed. In particular of the assessment made by Council of all of the realistic options based on the essential criteria of effectiveness, affordability and the historic nature of the Town a preferred option has emerged of a no right turn, no left turn at the bottom of Strand Hill. At this public meeting it could also be explained how it could be initially introduced as an experimental TRO. He confirmed that there has been a very recent incident in the High Street where a rat runner was caught behind a resident who was parking outside his home. The rat runner actually stopped the car and threatened the resident with violence. The Winchelsea Residents therefore propose strongly that we hold a public meeting and the Winchelsea Residents Association would be very happy to assist in organising and running this public meeting should the Council approve this item this evening.

**22/18 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 Chairman confirmed that we had received apologies from Cllr Glazier but that he had sent a report which we will put on our website for residents' information.

Cllr Mier introduced himself and said if there is anything that he can help with he is always available via telephone or via email. He confirmed that the Rother Community Lottery is launching with the first draw being on 30<sup>th</sup> April. This will be a weekly lottery and the idea is organisations such as Parish Councils, sports clubs, play groups and any group that may be described as a good cause can sign up for the lottery, sell tickets and then benefit from the sales of those tickets. There is a top prize of £25,000. He then turned to Council tax and confirmed that a Band D property is now going to be £2,131. He confirmed that the great bulk of that goes to the County Council, Rother's share is only £236 for which we get all of the Rother services, this is a rise of 2.5% which compares to Icklesham Parish Council's of £129. He also confirmed that the Planning Committee have been invited to consider the scheme of



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delegation. He said that at the moment any planning application involving a member of staff or a Councillor has to go to the full Planning Committee. It has been said that this is a waste of officers' time and that they could have a small sub-committee to decide whether the public interest requires the application to go to the full Committee. Some Parishes expressed concern that this would affect the District Councillors rights to call in the applications to the Planning Committee but he confirmed this is not the case. Cllr Mier confirmed he attended a meeting with the editorial team of Rye News. Rye News are inviting people to come forward and volunteer to help them on the editorial side. He confirmed that Rother are moving towards civil enforcement of Environmental offences which is really aimed towards flytipping but will also include flyposting and dropping litter. It means that a contractor will be able to issue an on the spot fines for these offences.

Cllr Bird spoke about the Council Tax. He confirmed that many years ago Rother had £18,000,000 in reserve funds and at the end of this year they are down to £11,000,000 and at this rate in 2 years' time they will be down to £5,000,000 which is the minimum required. He said that when we talk about making increased, yes it is very hard but Rother is subsidising this now.

Cllr Mier said that he would just like to reassure the Parish Council that the auditors say that Rother have a robust and credible plan to reduce the deficit to nil over the next 4 or 5 years. He confirmed that these are difficult times as everybody knows but they are working on it.

**22/19 Item 3. Apologies for Absence.** Apologies received from Cllr K Glazier, Cllr D Kitteridge, Cllr I McConnochie, Cllr P Osborne and Cllr S Tollett.

**22/20 Item 4. Disclosures of Interest.** Cllr Warren and Cllr Mrs. Rice declared an interest in relation to item 8b). Cllr Sutton declared an interest in relation to item 18.

**22/21 Item 5. Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022. RESOLVED: The Minutes were approved and signed.**

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

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

- a) To receive the list of items paid to date in January, February and March and items for payment to date – available at the meeting.  
Cllr Justice raised a question in relation to the GTA Civils invoice. He said that there is a bill of £700 and that he feels we should have a breakdown of this work. Cllr Stanford agreed with this. **RESOLVED: Clerk is to ask GTA for a breakdown of the extra charges. The rest of the payments were approved.**
- b) Receipts and Payments report (budget vs actual) – available at the meeting.  
Cllr Warren raised a question in relation to the deficit for Rye Harbour Toilets cleaning. He asked the Clerk if the budget is sufficient for next year or whether we should look at getting a cheaper quote. The Clerk confirmed that the Open Spaces Committee have agreed to a different cleaning company.  
**RESOLVED: the receipts and payments report be accepted.**
- c) Clerk recommends moving £500 from General Reserves into an Ear Marked Reserve



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for defibrillator maintenance. **RESOLVED: Approved.**

## **22/23 Item 7. 2022/23 Meeting Schedule**

- a) To consider and approve the 2022/23 meeting schedule. **RESOLVED: The Schedule be approved.**
- b) To consider and approve the draft meeting venue policy. **RESOLVED: The Policy be adopted.**

## **22/24 Item 8. To Consider the following Grant Applications:-**

- a) Rye Harbour Nature Reserve - £500 requested for new dog waste bin. (£450 in current budget). **RESOLVED: To Grant £450 to Rye Harbour Nature Reserve.**
- b) Icklesham Memorial Hall Trust - £1,725 request for annual grant (to be paid in new financial year). **RESOLVED: To Grant £1,725 to Icklesham Memorial Hall Trust (to be paid in new financial year).**

## **22/25 Item 9. Open Spaces Committee**

- a) To note draft Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022. **The Minutes were noted.**
- b) To consider the Open Spaces Committee recommendation to award new grounds maintenance contract to Countrywide Grounds (£13,170 + VAT) fixed contract for 2 years and Mark Saunters (£4,200) **£17,370 in total. RESOLVED: the recommendation be approved and Clerk is to put the remaining £2,516 in this year's budget into an Ear Marked Reserve to carry over to next year.**
- c) To consider the Open Spaces Committee recommendation to purchase 2 x black cats (quote received from TagMaster in the sum of £2,755 plus VAT per unit). **RESOLVED: Clerk is to purchase 2 x black cats**
  - i. To consider setting up Working Group to agree sites for black cats (to comprise of one Councillor from each ward, Chairman and Chairman of Open Spaces Committee). **RESOLVED: Working Group to be established**
  - ii. To consider purchasing separate laptop to operate software (approx. £500). Cllr Justice suggested buying the Clerk a new laptop and the old laptop being used for the black cat software. **RESOLVED: New laptop to be purchased for use by the Clerk and old laptop to be used for black cat software.**
  - iii. To note black cat training organised by Sedlescombe Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April. **Noted.**

## **22/26 Item 10. Winchelsea Traffic Calming.**

- a) To consider the Open Spaces Committee recommendation to instruct GTA to draw up scheme design for the 'No right turn at the bottom of Strand Hill and no left turn up Strand Hill' option.  
There was a general discussion regarding the traffic calming and the various options. It was felt that there should be more than one option put forward. **RESOLVED: Clerk is to instruct GTA to draw up a Scheme design for the no left turn no right turn option.**
- b) To consider the Open Spaces Committee recommendation to look into pedestrianisation of Winchelsea High Street as a longer term project. **RESOLVED: Clerk is to ask GTA for costs for advising us about this.**
- c) To consider Clerk applying to draw down associated PWLB loan in the sum of £25,000. **RESOLVED: Clerk has authority to draw down the loan up to £25,000.**
- d) To consider arranging a public meeting with GTA. GTA have quoted £495 plus VAT to attend. **RESOLVED: Clerk is to arrange a public meeting for the end of April with GTA and East Sussex Highways present.**



**22/27 Item 11. Risk Assessments**

- a) To note the Annual Parish Risk Assessment and to note progress of works carried out to date. **RESOLVED: The Risk Assessment was noted.**
- b) To consider and approve the Risk Policy and Risk Register. **RESOLVED: The Risk Assessment and Risk Register be adopted.**

**22/28 Item 12 Rye Harbour Nature Reserve.** To appoint an IPC representative to attend the Nature Reserve Meetings. **RESOLVED: Cllr Ian Mann was appointed.**

**Items for Noting by the Council**

**22/29 Item 13. Draft Minutes of Allotment Committee Meeting on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February.** The Minutes were noted.

**22/30 Item 14. Programme of Works.**

The Programme of Works was discussed and progress noted.

**22/31 Item 15. Correspondence.**

There was no correspondence to report.

**22/32 Item 16. Reports from Councillors on meetings they have attended.**

Cllr Stanford confirmed that she attended the HORAC meeting. She said that she has asked the Harbour Master if we could put his report on our website as it is very interesting. There was a big discussion about the illegal immigrants who capsized the yacht in Rye. The people who organised it got to shore and the police think they got a train from Rye to London.

The Chairman confirmed he attended the Big Data meeting with the Chief Constable. It was an online meeting where she outlined the way police policy is changing in the way that it is becoming much more data driven. Sussex Police are one of the lead authorities on new software to handle data which means that quite often the operatives out on the street are getting real time updates as to what is going on in certain areas which is a big step forward. It is going to govern policing more in terms of how they are going to employ resources as decisions on how their resources will be used best is going to be data driven. The message we need to get out to the public is you need to report any incident that is worthy of reporting to the police because if they do not have any data they will consider that you have not got any problems. If you keep reporting things it will change the way they see the area and the resources they need to put in to it.

Cllr Warren raised a question about the Planning Enforcement meeting he had in his diary for 10<sup>th</sup> March. He asked whether this actually went ahead as he never received the meeting details for this. The Clerk confirmed she would look in to this.

The Chairman confirmed there was also a RADCOT meeting on Wednesday afternoon which unfortunately he was not able to sit in on. Along with the Chairman of Pett Parish Council he receives an invite to sit in on the meeting rather than partake in it. It was their preseason meeting where they discuss what the set up is going to be on the Seafront particularly in Bexhill and Camber. They do take in to account what happens on the other beaches as well.

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**22/33 Date and Venue for Next Meeting.** The Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled for Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April 7.00 pm at Winchelsea New Hall.  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April (Finance Committee Meeting) 7.15 pm at Rye Harbour Village Hall

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

**Signed ..... Dated: 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022**