

# ICKLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

## Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee Meeting held at Winchelsea Court Hall on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023

**Present:** Cllrs: C Chappell, I Mann, I McConnochie, D Smedley, H Sutton and Mrs. A Thomson.

In Attendance: Jenner Sands (Clerk and RFO), Danielle Heffernan (Assistant Clerk) members of the public were also present.

**1. To Elect Open Spaces Committee Chairman for Council Year**

**RESOLVED:** Cllr D Smedley was elected as Chairman.

**2. The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:15 pm**

**3. To record any apologies for absence *there were none.***

**4. To receive any Declarations of Interest (Personal or Personal & Prejudicial) by Members *there were none.***

**5. Comments or questions from members of the public present relating to items on the Agenda**

A resident from Winchelsea spoke in relation to item 10 of the agenda. He spoke on behalf of the Conservation Society in Winchelsea and said they were concerned about the historic pathways on the Western slopes of Winchelsea. He is not sure what the National Trust's plans are for these fields and whether they will remain open to the public. He confirmed that although they are not official footpaths they have been used for hundreds of years and in order for a footpath to become registered they need to be used for 20 years. He confirmed that in Hansard it was recorded in 1974 that the land was to be enjoyed by the public.

A resident from Winchelsea spoke in relation to item 7 of the agenda and confirmed she was speaking on behalf of the Winchelsea Residents' Association. She confirmed that they wanted to ensure that the arrangements for the public meeting were open and transparent to ensure the consultation is bullet proof. The Residents' Association had questions in relation to voting arrangements, who will chair the meeting and who will be the witness expert.

A resident from Winchelsea asked whether a representative from the Residents' Association would be invited to speak at the meeting.

The Chairman confirmed that all of these questions would be dealt with under item 7.

**6. To approve the Minutes of the Open Spaces Meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**RESOLVED:** The Minutes were approved and signed.

**7. Winchelsea Traffic Calming**

The Clerk confirmed that as agreed, the Clerk, Cllr Smedley and Cllr Chappell had met last week to discuss the arrangements for the consultation meeting. The following proposals were made:-

- Meeting to take place at 11.00 am on 22<sup>nd</sup> July at Winchelsea New Hall
- Meeting will be advertised on Parish noticeboard, Little Shop noticeboard, website and Facebook. The Residents' Association have also kindly agreed to drop leaflets to all residents of Winchelsea.
- Cllr Smedley will Chair the meeting as before. Clerk will organise a short power point presentation with pros and cons of both options (data to be taken from CTA report and Traffic Calming Working Group's response to GTA report.
- Clerk has written to Nick Skelton and Keith Glazier for advice regarding voting arrangements and possible third option i.e. if residents do not agree with either option.
- Voting will be open to Winchelsea Residents. Residents can vote at the meeting and vote will remain open for 2 weeks after the meeting. Form will be available to download on the

website and residents can download and email or post this to the Clerk.

**RESOLVED:** The meeting arrangements were agreed.

**8. Update regarding devolution of Winchelsea and Winchelsea Beach public conveniences**

Clerk advised that Rother will be undertaking a full survey of the building in Winchelsea. Clerk also advised the Dominic Manning has said that he is very busy and unable to deal with the Winchelsea Beach toilets project at present. Rother advised they need a decision from the Parish Council as to whether we want to start negotiations – this can be a decision in principle at this stage. Clerk also confirmed that she has submitted an expression of interest in the Government's Community Ownership Fund for funding and will know in 3 weeks whether we have been invited to make a full application. **RESOLVED:** Committee is to make a recommendation to Full Council to confirm the Parish Council do wish to start lease negotiations.

**9. Grounds Maintenance Contract Issues**

The Clerk circulated various complaints received in relation to Icklesham Recreation Grounds and confirmed that there have also been issues in the other wards. The Clerk and Cllr McConnochie had met with Philip Merricks earlier on today and it is felt we should ask the contractors to cut Icklesham Recreation Ground once a week until Icklesham Fete in August. Mr Merricks has also offered to meet with the Clerk and Cllr McConnochie again in September to look at the grounds maintenance specification. **RESOLVED:** Clerk is to write to Countrywide Grounds and inform them of the complaints we have received and request that they cut Icklesham Recreation Ground once a week until August.

**10. National Trust Plans for Winchelsea and Footpaths**

The Chairman confirmed that the National Trust have developed a new page on their website specifically for the project in Winchelsea which they will update regularly. The National Trust have also erected new estate fencing at the Cricket Field. There is also a new Regional Wildlife Advisor working with the National Trust, Crispin Scott who would be happy to come and talk to residents. **RESOLVED:** Cllr Smedley is to raise the footpaths issue with Virginia Portman and see if she will come and visit to see them.

**11. Winchelsea Beach Bus Shelter**

**RESOLVED:** Clerk is to organise public consultation meeting for Winchelsea Beach residents including both locations and both styles of bus shelter.

**12. Update regarding CCTV Installation.**

**RESOLVED:** Clerk is to ask 1066 to install camera on left hand side of Memorial Hall. The camera on the pavilion can be revisited once the planned improvement works are complete.

**13. Winchelsea Open Top Bins**

Rother have confirmed that two of the open top bins can be replaced. **RESOLVED:** Clerk is to request that the bins outside the bus shelter on German Street and outside the noticeboard are replaced with closed top bins.

**14. Memorial Benches**

**RESOLVED:** the quote received from Rother District Council's maintenance team in the sum of £1,171 plus VAT be accepted. £171 to be taken from Small Works budget.

**15. Play Equipment**

- a. To consider purchasing new cradle baby swing seats for Rye Harbour Village Hall Playground - Cost of replacement seats £314.00 plus VAT. **RESOLVED:** Clerk is to purchase new swings once the CCTV is available to view on App.
- b. Icklesham Swings – to consider quote received from C.S Engineering in the sum of £261.80 to fit new bronze brushes. **RESOLVED:** Assistant Clerk is to ask the playground inspector to look at this at the inspection due to take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

**16. To review asset register and to consider Clerk's suggested amendments**

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**RESOLVED:** Clerk is to organise ward waiks with ward Counciliiors so Clerk and Assistant Clerk can update assets register fully.

### 17. Winchelsea Interpretation Boards

Quotes received from Care Signs in the sum of £579.10 plus VAT for Aluminium Composite Interpretation panels and £1,127.80 plus VAT for encapsulated GRP interpretation panels.

**RESOLVED:** Clerk is to write to the Corporation and ask whether they would be wiiling to contribute towards the cost of this.

### 18. Dog Control in Rother Consultation

**RESOLVED:** Clerk is to respond no comment to questions 1 and 2 and yes to dogs being kept on a lead.

### 19. Rye Harbour Toilets

Quote received from Jason Sharratt in the sum of £2,750 to treat and repaint walls, ceilings and doors and to fit secondary protection around sink area to protect from further damage. Rother have agreed to contribute towards the work as per the lease. **RESOLVED:** Clerk is to wait and see whether Rother's maintenance team can do the work cheaper. Clerk was given authority to accept the cheapest quote.

### 20. Harbour Field Trees

Quote received from New Timber in the sum of £840 to cut trees touching telephone wires.

**RESOLVED:** The quote was accepted £100 is to be taken from Small Works Budget. Assistant Clerk is to ask them to cut 8 to 10 feet from the telephone wires.

### 21. Multi Use Games Area update

**RESOLVED:** Assistant Clerk is to request a brochure for next Open Spaces Committee Meeting.

### 22. To consider request from Hastings Runners to use Icklesham Recreation Ground Car Park on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July and 22<sup>nd</sup> August. **RESOLVED:** this was agreed.

### 23. To consider request from Tram Road resident to install gate entrance to car park from alleyway.

**RESOLVED:** This was not agreed. Clerk is to direct the resident to the Housing Association who is responsible for the clearance of the alleyway. Clerk is also to write to the Housing Association to request that the alleyway is cleared as this is causing damage to our fence.

### 24. Correspondence

a. Email received from resident regarding the use of Harbour Field

**RESOLVED:** the correspondence was noted. Clerk has written to Rye Bay FC and ask them for details of any fixtures for July and August.

### 25. Suggested Items for Future Agendas

Ciir McConnochie raised locking the gates at Ickiesham Recreation Ground overnight.

### 26. Date & venue of next Open Spaces Meeting.

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September 6.15 pm Winchelsea Court Hall

*Agreed as a true record of the meeting.*

*Signed*

*Dated: 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023*