

ICKLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

Draft Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at 7:15 pm on

Monday 11th March 2024 at Winchelsea Beach Community Hall

Present: Councillors: C Chappell, S Haden, Mrs. S Lyward, I Mann, A Rixon, D Smedley (Vice Chair), Mrs J. Stanford (Chair), Mrs. A Thomson

In attendance: Jenner Sands, Clerk & RFO, Cllr Keith Glazier (ESCC) and Cllr Paul Osborne (RDC), members of the public were also present.

24/26 Item 1. The Chair opened the meeting and reminded those present that the meeting was being recorded. Then invited comments or questions from members of the public on matters relating to the business of the Council.

A resident from Winchelsea Beach spoke in relation to item 7 of the agenda. She confirmed that she was the Chair of Rye Bay FC. She said that she would like to ask if we can discuss the new terms and conditions that have been put on the club around Winchelsea Beach. She confirmed that the football club have been in Winchelsea Beach since 1996 and they managed to sustain themselves through covid. During covid it was recognised how important physical exercise was and they managed to keep themselves going. As a result of this the club grew because there were a number of local grass roots clubs that dissolved because of covid. They went from about 4 or 5 teams to eleven. They recognise now that they did not have the infrastructure in place for the growth. They were trying to use the space in Winchelsea Beach ignorant to the fact that it was potentially upsetting residents and taking up the whole space. She confirmed that they are run completely by volunteers who do everything in their own time. She said that around 5% of their players have disabilities and they work continuously to educate about neurodiversity etc. They have now recognised how large they have become, and they have found another site to use for the larger matches. What they now have in Winchelsea Beach is the younger teams and the COLTS and the pitches will be 5v5 and 7v7 and this has minimised the numbers of players on Harbour Field. They have taken the 9v9 pitch away which is what was causing a lot of the issues. What they would like within the terms is a compromise to allow them to use the pitch for the COLTS on a Sunday morning and the occasional third match on a Saturday. Cllr Creaser confirmed that Rye Bay FC have approached other local authorities and have obtained some funding as what they are doing is fulfilling some of the priorities.

24/27 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 he was at the Rye Town Council meeting when Rye Bay FC made a presentation there and he confirmed that they are providing an excellent service for many of the young residents in the Parish and it is good to see that there is a thriving football club within the Parish.

Cllr Glazier confirmed that IPC had written to him recently regarding the concerns that residents of Rye Harbour have around the closure of Harbour Road. He said that he now has a response from the team and confirmed that residents will have access at all times whilst the works are going ahead. Whilst the notice does say that you need to talk to the team to get through, they are conscious that access needs to remain available. Cllr Glazier confirmed that the issue in the village is the width of the carriageway, they cannot do lights as there is not enough width to have works on the carriageway and a free carriage way so they will have to let people through. The works outside of the village will be done at night so as to not disrupt residents. There will also be signs up that clearly state "businesses remain open". The Chair asked whether businesses would still be able to get customers and deliveries through and Cllr Glazier confirmed they would, however there may be some delay. Cllr Glazier also confirmed that he had a conversation with Rye Wharf today and they have agreed that, should the need arise with Stagecoach, they could use the entrance to the Wharf to turn and park the bus.

Cllr Glazier confirmed that they are still struggling with potholes. Cllr Glazier urged everyone to carry on reporting potholes and to contact him with any issues. The Chair raised Pett Level Road and she said that she drove down it the other day and could not believe how much water was on it. She said that it was not that long ago that the road was done and ask if the contractors guarantee their work. Cllr Glazier confirmed

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that they do guarantee their work but only for a year. He agreed that it is in a bad state and confirmed that it is down for pothole filling in April and then for resurfacing next year. Cllr Glazier confirmed that Highways are aware of the issues with Pett Level Road.

Cllr Osborne said that he received an email from the planning officer for the Winchelsea Beach Caravan Site application. He has forwarded it to the Clerk as the planning officer has asked whether Cllr Osborne still wants to call it in as they are now happy with what the applicant has provided in relation to the cesspits and drainage. He asked if the Clerk could forward this to councillors and let him know ASAP if we still want it called into committee which would be in April.

Cllr Osborne said that the grant application for £3,000 towards the cost of the bus shelter went through cabinet last Monday and so we should receive the confirmation letter about that soon.

Cllr Osborne confirmed that the draft local plan went through cabinet last Monday as well. The consultation starts on 12th April for a 12 week period but he wanted to bring it to the Parish Council's attention now to get everyone prepared. He said that not all of it will be relevant to Icklesham Parish. The Chair raised the fact that there were no planning applications again this week and asked what is happening in the planning department. Cllr Osborne said that it could be that there are no planning applications in the area.

Cllr Creaser confirmed that she was on the steering group for the local plan and she said that it is a good document and urged everyone to take part in the consultation. She has just been appointed to the development strategy task group which looks at housing development etc. They are currently looking at 100% council tax relief for those who are less fortunate, and surprisingly enough it is not a massive amount in the overall scheme of things. Cllr Creaser confirmed that we are one of few district councils in this area who do charge people who have nothing.

24/28 Item 3. To record any apologies for absence.

Apologies received from Cllrs Ms N Eldridge, J Justice, D Kitteridge, I McConnochie, A Mier (RDC), T Grohne (RDC) and N Warren.

24/29 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 in question and b) complete the declaration of interests' form.

Cllr Mrs Stanford declared an interest in relation to item 6(c).

24/30 Item 5. To consider and approve the signing by the Chair of the attached minutes of the Full Council Meeting of 8th January 2024.

Cllr Glazier requested an amendment to the Minutes where he spoke about the cost of looked after children. He confirmed that he did not mean that every child costs £1,000,000 each. He confirmed that there are some children that cost over £1,000,000 per year but they do not all cost this. **RESOLVED:** the Minutes were amended and signed.

Matters requiring a Decision by Council

24/31 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: Noted.
- b) To receive receipts and payments report. **RESOLVED:** Noted.
- c) To consider grant application received from Rye Harbour Village Hall in the sum of £1,725 – annual grant. **RESOLVED:** approved.
- d) To consider grant application received from St Thomas' Church in the sum of £1,800 – annual grant.
RESOLVED: approved.
- e) To consider grant application received from Five Villages Home Association in the sum of £1,000

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towards the costs of running their minibus service. **RESOLVED:** it was agreed to grant £500.

- f) Issues with Lloyds Bank. **RESOLVED:** Clerk confirmed that both payments have now been returned. The issues were noted, Clerk will update Council as and when she receives a formal response to the complaint and the IT investigation.

24/32 Item 7. Use of Harbour Field

To consider request from Rye Bay FC to vary the new conditions to allow COLTS team to play on a Sunday morning and to allow up to three matches per morning on a Saturday.

Standing orders were suspended to allow the Chair of the Football Club to be part of the discussions.

The Chair of Rye Bay FC explained that they have no control over the fixtures, and they cannot guarantee that they will not be allocated three matches. She said that when this happens, they try their best to move matches but if they end up having to cancel matches, they can face losing points over it. They have only had three matches on one day twice so far this year and so it is not going to be a regular thing. The Chair confirmed that Dogs Hill Road is the emergency route for Rye Harbour, and it is important that it is kept clear and emergency access is maintained. The Chair of Rye Bay FC confirmed that they do encourage parents to car share and send out parking information to all parents. The Chair of Rye Bay FC also pointed out that the traffic is not just from the football as the road is very busy with dogwalkers and people visiting the beach. **RESOLVED:** it was agreed to allow this for a trial period of up to 4 weeks to ascertain the impact it will have on local residents. Rye Bay FC are also to look for alternative locations for parking. Clerk is also to supply the club with a key to the gate so cars can park behind the pavilion when the ground is firm enough.

24/33 Item 8. Open Spaces Committee

- a) To note draft Minutes of Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on 26th February 2024 **RESOLVED:** Noted.
- b) To consider the recommendation to amend terms of reference (see attached, suggested amendments are shown in ***bold italics***) **RESOLVED:** the amendments were accepted.
- c) To consider the recommendation not to proceed with the Rye Harbour Boundary Sign at present due to the costs involved.
The Chair confirmed that this had been agreed to previously, but the work was never undertaken. The Clerk has written to Highways to explain this and to explain that the sign is to replace an old sign that was stolen. The Clerk will update the Council as and when there are updates.
- d) To consider Clerk's report in relation to drop-in session at Rye Harbour re new play equipment and decide which (if any) will be taken forward. **RESOLVED:** it was agreed not to progress this project due to the lack of public engagement. Only twelve residents attended to vote, 2 of whom did not want any equipment installed. It was therefore felt that this would not be strong enough evidence when applying for funding.

24/34 Media Working Group

- a) To note draft Minutes of Media Working Group meeting held via Zoom on 4th March **RESOLVED:** Noted.
- b) To consider adopting the attached draft, Communications Policy. **RESOLVED:** the Policy was approved.
- c) To consider arrangements for Annual Parish Meeting (Scheduled for 15th April). **RESOLVED:** Clerk is to find out if Icklesham Memorial Hall is available on 31st May.

24/35 Winchelsea Beach Bus Shelter

The Parish Council's application for match funding from East Sussex Highways has been accepted and the application for the Rother District Council Community Grant has been approved by the panel. Council is asked whether to use the funds returned by the Winchelsea Beach Community Association to cover the shortfall of £11,451. **RESOLVED:** this was agreed.

24/36 Winchelsea Beach Toilets

To consider quotes received Holi Architecture, Baker Architectural and RX Architects for drawing up plans for Winchelsea Beach Toilets. **RESOLVED:** the quote from RX Architects was accepted.

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24/37 To Consider Producing leaflet for new residents to the Parish. RESOLVED: agreed. The Media Committee are to look into this with input from Cllr Smedley.

24/38 To consider installing additional access on to Harbour Field for Contractor.

The new contractor needs a new access to be installed on the northern end of Harbour Field. **RESOLVED:** it was agreed to install removable lockable posts rather than a gate.

24/39 D-Day 80th Anniversary Commemorations.

There was a general discussion about the commemorations and beacon lighting. **RESOLVED:** Cllr Chappell will investigate whether the Corporation are lighting the beacon in Winchelsea and report back.

Matters for Information or Noting

24/39 Correspondence. (Any late received correspondence will be tabled at the meeting).

- a) Email received from East Sussex Highways regarding dropped kerbs in Winchelsea. **RESOLVED:** Noted.
- b) Email from Hugh Sutton thanking the Council for gift. **RESOLVED:** Noted.
- c) Email from resident regarding Smeatons Lane. **RESOLVED:** Noted.
- d) Email from resident regarding dog fouling in Icklesham. **RESOLVED:** Noted. Clerk is to report this to RDC.

24/40 To Note Planning Permission has been granted for Icklesham Pavilion. Work is due to commence from 2nd April. RESOLVED: Noted.

24/41 Programme of Works. Consider and update where necessary. **RESOLVED:** Noted. Cllrs are to report anything they wish to be added to the list to the Clerk.

24/42 Reports from Councillors on meetings they have attended.

Cllr Smedley confirmed that he attended a meeting with Rother District Council with the Clerk and Cllr Justice regarding the caravan park licencing and enforcement. Cllr Smedley confirmed that Rother had agreed to take drone shots of the caravan parks.

24/43 Items for Consideration for Future Agendas.

There was nothing to report however Councillors will contact the Clerk if they have anything they wish to discuss at the next meeting.

The Council then resolved to go into private session on the grounds that the following business would disclose exempt matters.

24/44 Rye Harbour Car Park

24/45 Date and venue for next meeting.

Monday 13th May 2024 7.15 pm venue TBC