

ICKLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

Monday 8th July 2024 at Winchelsea New Hall

Present: Councillors: C Chappell, Ms N. Eldridge, S Haden, J Justice, I Mann, I McConnochie, A Rixon, D Smedley (Vice Chair), Mrs J. Stanford (Chair), Mrs. A Thomson and N Warren.

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

24/72 Item 1 Public Questions. A resident from Winchelsea Beach spoke in relation to item 7 f) of the agenda. She confirmed that she was present to represent Rye Bay FC and answer any questions the Council had in relation to the grant application.

24/73 Item 2. Reports from County Councillor Keith Glazier and Rother District Council.

Cllr Glazier confirmed that he has been in contact with the Clerk regarding a number of issues and he has not yet been able to find out any information about the trees on the A259 in Winchelsea, but he has been working on this. He said that they have been making headway on the potholes but there is still more to do. He told people to not give up on reporting potholes, so he has evidence if they are missed. He confirmed that Pett Level Road is down for some patching repairs and is due to be resurfaced next year. East Sussex have changed contractors, and they now have Hailsham Roadways doing repairs and the standard of workmanship has improved. Cllr Glazier said that some of the past problems were due to the fact they went from the normal 15 to 20 gangs to 30 gangs to try and clear the back log and there was not enough checking on the standard of work. Cllr Glazier confirmed that they have just closed the accounts for the previous year and there has been a £42,000,000 overspend but with the treasury management work they managed to get that down to £10,000,000 which they have taken out of reserves. Tomorrow they are hoping to have cross party support to write to all of the new MPs highlighting the fact that part of their manifesto was to ensure that there was longer term budgeting but equally to ask them to recognise the true costs of providing services to the people of East Sussex and most importantly highlighting that residents will not be able to afford Council Tax being raised to the full 10% because residents cannot afford the 5% that people are paying already.

Cllr Thomson asked Cllr Glazier who she could contact about an overgrown bridleway on Pannel Lane. The Clerk confirmed that she would report this.

Cllr Grohne confirmed that their financial reports are being prepared at the moment and so he said it would be more appropriate to speak about that at the next meeting. He confirmed that there are some changes coming to the CIL funding in that expressions of interest have always been collected once per year, but this will now be open all year round. Cllr Grohne confirmed that Parishes will be contacted in October. There will also be some match funding available as well. Cllr Grohne confirmed that some of the smaller funds have been collapsed into one large fund available only to Bexhill and the reason behind this is so they can contribute to some of the larger projects rather than having small pots of money. Hopefully, they can make up for this using the match funding.

24/74 Item 3. To record any apologies for absence.

- a) To receive and record apologies for absence. *Apologies received from Cllr Lyward, Cllr Mier, Cllr Osborne, Cllr McGurk, and Cllr Creaser.*
- b) To consider any requests for approval of reasons for absence, if any. **There were none.**

24/75 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. **There were none.**

24/76 Item 5. To consider and approve the signing by the Chair of the attached minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting of 13th May 2024. **RESOLVED:** The Minutes were approved and signed.

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Matters requiring a Decision by Council

24/77 Item 6. General Power of Competence

To resolve from 8th July 2024 until the next relevant annual meeting of the Council (2027) that having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and SI 965 The Parish Council's (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012. To adopt the General Power of Competence.

RESOLVED: Approved.

24/78 Item 7. Financial Matters

- a) To receive the list of items paid to date in June and July and items for payment to date. *Cllr Warren raised a question re the Castle Water bills. The Clerk confirmed that Castle Water took the wrong meter reading and the final bill will be much lower than that.* **RESOLVED:** Approved.
- b) To receive receipts and payments report. *Cllr Warren raised the dog bins figure which is currently at 83%. The Clerk confirmed that it is an annual fee that we have paid, and we are actually under budget.* **RESOLVED:** approved.
- c) To receive and approve first quarter bank reconciliations. **RESOLVED:** The reconciliations were approved, and Cllr Rixon signed them.
- d) To note complaint has been made to Financial Ombudsman regarding Lloyds Bank. **RESOLVED:** Noted.
- e) Update on Rye Harbour Car Park Contactless donations. *The Clerk confirmed that there has been an issue with our payment gateway account and verifying the PC's address as they cannot accept a PO Box address. The Clerk has sent them a declaration signed by Andy Beams to confirm there is a connection between the Clerk's address and the Parish Council.* **RESOLVED:** Noted.
- f) To consider grant application received from Rye Bay FC in the sum of £2,000 for works to Harbour Field Pavilion. **RESOLVED:** Approved.

24/79 Item 8. Media Working Group

- a) To note draft Minutes of Media Working Group meeting held via Zoom on 2nd July 2024. *Clerk to circulate however the Chair gave a verbal update.* **RESOLVED:** Noted.
- b) To consider recommendations relating to Village Fetes. **RESOLVED:** It was agreed to purchase various items for the village fetes to include tabletop display boards, banner and tablecloth (total cost of up to £300).
- c) To consider recommendations regarding new resident flyers. **RESOLVED:** The Media Working Group still have more work to do in this regard. Drafts will be circulated to Council as and when they are ready.

24/80 Item 9. Allotments Committee

To receive the draft Minutes of Allotment Committee meeting held on 24th June 2024. **RESOLVED:** Noted.

24/81 Item 10. Rother District Council Local Plan Consultation

To agree on response to Local Plan Consultation. **RESOLVED:** The Clerk's suggested comments were approved. It was also noted that there may be some changes made to the plan due to the change in Government.

24/82 Item 11. Rye Harbour Car Park

- a) To consider suggested Terms and Conditions of Use. **RESOLVED** The Terms and Conditions were agreed.
- b) To consider quote received from Care Signs for new signage. *The Clerk confirmed that Care Signs were unable to provide an estimate until the T&Cs were approved however the Clerk will circulate the quote to Councillors once available.* **RESOLVED:** Noted.

24/83 Item 12. National Trust Rewilding Encroachment. *The Clerk explained that she has received some complaints from residents and also the Cricket Field Allotment tenants regarding an increase in rabbits and also the encroachment of brambles. The Clerk also received an email from the National Trust today confirming that they are going to be fencing off the area around St Leonard's Mount with rabbit proof fencing as rabbits are damaging the ancient monument* **RESOLVED:** The Clerk is to write to The National Trust with

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our concerns and also Cllr Glazier as this appears to be causing an issue with vegetation on the roads.

24/84 Item 13. Organised Use of Icklesham Recreation Ground. *The Chair raised the fact that there has been an issue with groups using the recreation grounds without the PC's permission. Cllr McConnochie confirmed that the dog training class have been using the field and there was discussion on whether they should pay for their usage as all the other clubs/ teams do.* **RESOLVED:** Cllr Warren is going to raise this with the Icklesham Trust Committee.

24/85 Item 14. To receive update on boat project at Rye Harbour Car Park. *The Chair confirmed that the first boat is now complete, and that Cllr Mann has kindly been watering it. We are waiting on a second boat to put the other end of the car park.* **RESOLVED:** Noted.

Matters for Information or Noting

24/86 Item 15. Correspondence. Nothing to report.

24/87 Item 16. Programme of Works. Clerk will circulate up to date schedule to Councillors.

24/88 Item 17. Reports from Councillors on meetings they have attended. Nothing to report.

24/ 89 Item 18. Items for Consideration for Future Agendas. The Chair raised a potential restoration and gun carriage project with the *Anne* Gun which is in Winchelsea Museum. The Clerk will add this to the next agenda.

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

24/90 Item 19. Rye Harbour Kiosk.

24/91 Item 20. High Fords Allotments.

24/92 Item 21. Date and venue for next meeting.

Monday 9th September 7.15 pm at Rye Harbour Village Hall

Additional meeting organised for 12th August venue TBC.

Agreed as a true record of the meeting

Signed {
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Dated: 12th August 2024

Cllr Mrs. J Stanford

(Chair)