

ROOTHERFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Working for the Community

in Rotherfield, Town Row, Mark Cross, Eridge Green, Boarshead and surrounding areas

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 19:30 ON THURSDAY 21ST JULY 2011 AT ROTHERFIELD VILLAGE HALL

COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Cllr. L. Pike (Chair)

Cllr. M. Hall

Cllr. J. Padfield

Cllr. Mrs P. Halse Adamson

Cllr. R. Harris

Cllr. D. Thomas

Cllr. C. Clibbens

Cllr. R. Jaques

Cllr. N. Wickenden

ALSO PRESENT. Cllr. R. Tidy (ESCC), Cllr. F. Whetstone (ESCC) and four members of the public.

1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (LGA 1972 s 85).

Apologies were received and accepted for PcsO Matt Boyle, Cllr. C. Dennison, Cllr. C. Prince and Cllr. Miss. N. Bolton.

2. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

- Cllrs. Clibbens and Jaques declared an interest in respect of item 6 f) as they both live near the development.
- The Chairman declared an interest in respect of item 6 l) as he is Chairman of the Society.

3. TO RECEIVE DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS.

Cllr. J. Padfield (WDC) reported the following:-

- 210K tonnes of non-recyclable waste will be incinerated annually at the recently opened Newhaven site.
- 5% of Wealden dustbins require replacing each year.
- WDC are now undertaking planning work for the South Downs National Park and Eastbourne Borough Council, and payment is received for this.
- Wealden Councillors who are also Parish Councillors are not allowed to sit on the Parish Council's Planning Committees to eliminate the risk of conflicting interests. The importance of being aware of, and declaring, personal interests was reiterated.
- The Local Development Framework is ready for submission to Government but has been called in for scrutiny by members of WDC.

Cllr. Tidy (ESCC) reported the following:-

- It is hoped that the problem with the Pre-school waste disposal system has now been resolved.
- On Tuesday ESCC adopted an Environmental Strategy for all departments. Some examples of current projects relating to this were given.
 - Beacon School Crowborough uses wood biomass for heating and is believed to have one of the largest systems in Europe.
 - The new Frant school has been built to achieve high targets of efficiency for heating and lighting the building.
 - Environmental study is taking place into possible uses for "grey water" – it is considered that much of this could be reused rather than it being pumped into the sea.
- There is a proposal to merge West Sussex and East Sussex Fire services to meet the challenge of reduced government funding. There is no proposition within this to reduce manpower or fire stations and a member of the Fire Authority is willing to visit and speak at a Parish Council meeting if wished. A public consultation is taking place.

Cllr. F. Whetstone (ESCC) reported the following:-

- All are encourage to reply to the Fire Service merger consultation, responses are invited from individuals as well as groups.
- Issues regarding a road resurfacing diversion route on the Ashdown Forest were clarified.

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4. TO RECEIVE POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS REPORT

This was delivered by the Clerk in the absence of the Pcco. Crimes reported for the month are as follows:-

- 05/07 Batteries stolen from yard in Eridge Lane.
- 07/07 Bench and weights stolen from yard in Eridge Lane.
- 09/07 break in to toilets at Owlsbury Park Campsite, Hadlow Down Road.

5. TO RECEIVE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 30TH JUNE 2011 & MATTERS ARISING. It was RESOLVED that there were no other matters arising and that they be adopted. The Chairman signed the minutes.

6. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS

a) Report regarding matters affecting Fp22b Court Meadow – Golf Course and any further action.

The Clerk and Cllr. Wickenden walked this path recently and noted that fencing has been installed or upgraded throughout and also that in at least 5 places the wire has been vandalised. It is understood that the land is to be returned to agricultural use shortly with livestock grazing. Details and photographs of the work undertaken to the drainage near the pond have been passed to ESCC Rights of Way who have spoken to the land agent regarding the matter and requested that the surface here be improved. It is considered that the path has now been restored to the correct line. A Parishioner has contacted Clerk raising concerns that the gap in the hedge by St Peter's Church has been fenced - an unofficial route has existed for several years between this point, Fp22b and the pond. Rights of Way advise that any requests to have this route considered for adding to the definitive map should be passed to them by the Parishioners concerned so that their Legal Department may consider the matter further. There was evidence of dog walking, and some fouling, along the route. RESOLVED to write article for Parish Magazine to express concerns at the vandalism of the fences and to advise that there is no general "right to roam" on agricultural land. The matter of a dog bin is not being considered at present until these issues are resolved and it is considered that irresponsible vandalism of the fencing could prejudice co-operation from the landowner and agent in getting the boundary hedge height reduced to improve views from the path.

b) Grant request from the Crowborough Community First Responders Group.

Claim form has been circulated to Councillors. More information is required before a decision may be made, CLERK to research and add to agenda of August meeting.

c) Response to ESCC request to reduce height of trees fronting Rotherfield Village Hall to eliminate interference to signal from School.

Email offering advice regarding alternatives to tree reduction has been received from a Parishioner with knowledge of the communication method used. RESOLVED not to allow reduction of trees and that ESCC should investigate installation of a repeater device to circumvent the obstruction, CLERK to write.

d) Initial plans to commemorate the Royal Jubilee in 2012 and offer from Sports Club to be involved in any celebrations.

Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th June will be Bank Holidays in 2012 to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee, and the Secretary of the Sports Club has written to enquire if the Council wish to be involved in any celebrations. At the March Council meeting it was resolved that the Parish Council would prefer to commemorate such events by a project or item providing benefit to the Parish in general and not for individual "souvenir" type items. RESOLVED CLERK obtain costings for extending the "1200" Commemorative path to form full circuit of the Recreation Ground. Sports Club to be contacted for further information regarding celebrations considered by them and other organisations so that Council involvements may be considered.

e) Mark Cross bus shelter by Garden Centre. Update on progress with insurance claim and options regarding a replacement.

Claim is being pursued via our insurers for new shelter and cost of site clearance. Photos and quotes obtained for a hardwood replacement, commitment needed from potential sponsor as to how much they wish to contribute. None of the three local

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companies contacted have photos of a similar shelter. CLERK to carry forward to August agenda for progress report.

- f) **Any new information and action in respect of proposed development at Town Row.**
Site at New Road has been visited by WDC Planning Officer who does not consider it suitable for an affordable housing development. Cllr. Merriman has provided information regarding the site at the foot of New Road, report also provided by WDC Planning Officer subsequent to their visit to the site. Cllr. Merriman is to speak to the WDC Planning team regarding affordable planning matters in the Parish and has invited a Parish Councillor to attend this meeting, Cllr. Wickenden has volunteered.
- g) **Progress and further action regarding Parish “Speedwatch” scheme.**
Invite received to a “Speedwatch” seminar on September 14th at Uckfield Civic Centre 18:30 – 21:00. Clerk has spoken with the co-ordinator of the Buxted scheme and has received helpful information and advice from him regarding recording data and availability of volunteers on-line. Cllr. Clibbens reported that there were now 12 volunteers for the scheme including him; 6 other Wealden Parishes were in the process of setting up groups. He had recently toured the Parish with PcsO Tompsett to identify locations suitable for teams to operate from. In addition to the sites already approved near the Millennium Green car park (toward village) and Mayfield Road Court Meadow, the following sites will be put forward for approval.
- Opposite Sylvan Valley entrance, Station Road, (leaving village).
 - Horsegrove Farm, Mayfield Road, (leaving village).
 - Opposite Mark Cross VAS.
- Sites cannot be within 200m of a speed limit sign or on a bend.
- h) **Action regarding advertising sign issues at Mark Cross.**
Signs had recently proliferated in this area (11 counted in the vicinity of the B2100/A267 junction) and details were passed to ESCC. They removed many of the “non local” ones and will be returning to remove the yellow housing development signs for which the licence has expired. RESOLVED CLERK to contact Inn to request that, whilst we wish to encourage measures to promote local businesses please could they confirm that permission is sought from ESCC prior to mounting advertising hoardings around this location.
- i) **Update and further action regarding outstanding groundwork by the Pre School and white lining in Hall car park.**
Have asked ESCC for a progress report and advised of concerns regarding lack of progress with the outstanding groundwork’s and requested confirmation that Parish Council can arrange for the works to be dealt with and charged to project retention monies. CLERK to liaise with ESCC to arrange a site meeting to agree action regarding outstanding groundwork issues.
- j) **Information and request to attend Rights of Burial training course in Crowborough.**
Course to be run by ICCM (Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management), cost £130 per person for the day at Crowborough Town Hall. RESOLVED Council will pay for attendance at this course, CLERK to arrange.
- k) **Promotion of the Parish on the “Enjoy Sussex” website.**
250 word summary and photograph invited by WDC for this site, deadline for submission 31st July. Draft article prepared by Cllr. Dennison has been AGREED by Councillors with some minor additions, CLERK to forward to WDC with photographs for publication on the site.
Clerk has contacted Frant PC who have no Councillor with a tourism responsibility, Wadhurst PC have circulated a request to Councillors who may be interested in involvement in promoting local tourism.
- l) **Request from Rotherfield Bonfire Society to use community storage area beneath Pre School.**
Letter circulated to Councillors prior to meeting. RESOLVED that this request be agreed, CLERK to advise Society to liaise with Chairman regarding access to this area.

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m) Request to consider reduction of “non parishioner” fee for a burial in the Parish Cemetery.

The person concerned appears to have never actually lived in the Parish but a relative rang to complain that they should be charged the Parishioner rate as her husband (also a non parishioner) was buried in the Cemetery. Clerk asked that their request for reduction in fee be put in writing to the Councillors for consideration, nothing has been received. Based on the details given by the Clerk it was RESOLVED that there was no justification for any reduction in the published fee for non parishioners.

n) Progress report regarding drafting of formal agreement between Rotherfield Horticultural and Allotment Association and the Parish Council for rental of allotments and further action.

Copy of updated draft circulated. RESOLVED that RHAA be contacted to seek their involvement in the running of the allotments and wording of an agreement, also to forward a copy of the draft agreement form for comment.

o) Action regarding correspondence containing invitations or otherwise requesting a response.

- **Consultation document re proposed merger of East and West Sussex Fire Services.**

RESOLVED CLERK to suggest response for consideration at August meeting.

- **ESCC Electoral Services – review of polling stations and any issues arising from recent Council Elections.**

Councillors are not aware of any issues, CLERK to advise WDC accordingly.

- **ESCC Consultation re: closure of Hookstead, Crowborough, 10th August deadline.**

CLERK to forward to Councillors for information and personal comments.

- **Letter from Crowborough resident with business premises in village (location not known).**

RESOLVED that resident be advised to contact local paper to raise his concerns.

- **Letter from Villager raising various issues relating to recent music festival.**

Concerns expressed at unruly behaviour and litter in the Village in the aftermath of this event. On one of the event evenings the Chairman had witnessed many youngsters approaching the Village on foot from Jarvis Brook and Mark Cross with their own alcohol supplies. He has been contacted by the organisers who express regret that the event is becoming a “victim of its own success” and being spoiled by unruly elements from elsewhere; they are reviewing its future. Councillors regretted that this Village event is being put into doubt, particularly in view of the funds that it raises for charitable causes.

- **Wealden Parish Conference 2011 28th September, cost £50 per head.**

RESOLVED Clerk to attend this event.

- **WDC Housing Policy Allocations Consultation – formal consultation will take place in October.**

Clerk to send response for this “pre consultation” questionnaire.

- **Big Society, Small Communities seminar 19th September 13:30 – 17:00 University of Brighton.**

Cllr Hall wishes to attend, CLERK to make arrangements.

7. TO RECEIVE MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS & MATTERS ARISING.

- 19th July 2011 - Planning and Building Committee.

It was RESOLVED that these minutes be adopted and that there were no matters arising.

8. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE FOLLOWING

- **Other committees and sub-committees.** None.
- **Meetings attended on behalf of the Parish Council.** None.
- **Clerk’s report, issues and updates on work in progress.**

Has agreed up righting of Bicycle Arms lamp column within delegated repair limit, cost £75.34.

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9. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING FINANCIAL INFORMATION

- Bank Reconciliation as at end of June 2011. The RFO presented the figures, which were agreed and signed by the Chairman.
- Review of Expenditure against Budget to end June 2011. The RFO provided the summary figures to Councillors and relevant detailed figures to the Committee Chairmen. CLERK to place cemetery tap repair cost against cemetery general maintenance.
- Approval of Payments. After explanation it was agreed that the following payments be made:-

CHEQUE NO	CHEQUE PAYABLE	DETAILS	AMOUNT
801286	Trevor Thorpe	Clerk's salary for July	£954.84
801287	H.M.R.C.	Tax and N.I. for July	£232.48
801288	Trevor Thorpe	Clerk's expenses for July	£91.37
801289	Jim Gander	Street sweeping for July	£78.75
801291	Rotherfield Sports Club	Grass cutting of playing surfaces July	£300.00
801297	Tollwood Garden Services	Grass cutting for July	£2,074.80
801292	Wealden District Council	Dog bin emptying April - June	£245.52
801293	Wealden District Association of Local Councils	Subscription for 2011/12	£30.00
801294	Teambase	Stationery	£21.40
801295	Will Clark	Topping of Cemetery bottom field	£48.00
801296	Rotherfield Village Hall	Hall hire for May and June	£52.58
Total			£4,129.74

Please note that cheque 801290 is spoiled

CREDITS			
PAYMENT FROM	DETAILS	AMOUNT	
ESCC	50% contribution toward replacement fingerpost at Redgate Mill Lane	£445.00	
Bysouth funeral services/Dignity	Interment fee non parishioner	£400.00	
Burslem	Memorial fee non parishioner	£160.00	
Tester and Jones	Ashes plot, interment and plaque fee	£140.00	
Total			£1,145.00

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10. TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE

General

- WDC – notice that application WD/2011/7035/AD General purpose building at Renshurst Farm, Mark Cross will be considered by the Planning Committee North on Thursday 28th July at 10:00.

Circulars and magazines

- English Rural Housing Association - Summer 2011 bulletin.
- Sussex Area Ramblers – July 2011 newsletter.
- WARR Partnership News – Summer 2011.
- Clerks and Councils Direct – July 2011.
- Saint Chéron-en-Bref – No 276.
- The Clerk Magazine July - 2011.

11. TO RECEIVE INSPECTION BOOK & REPORTS

These were presented to the Chair for signature.

12. DATES FOR FORTHCOMING MEETINGS.

- Tuesday August 9th – Planning and Building Committee in Rotherfield Village Hall.
- Thursday August 25th – Monthly Parish Council Meeting in Mark Cross Village Hall at 19:30.

13. TO RECEIVE URGENT ISSUES FOR NOTING OR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDA

- Sports Club advise that the extension works to the Club House are to commence on July 25th.
- Cemetery – parking area could benefit from a weed killing spray and also round the hedge boundary.
- Emergency drainage investigation/repair works will extend road closure in village this weekend, this will now start at 09:30 Friday 21st. Alternative would be to wait until resurfacing had taken place and the excavate it again. Rotherfield – Crowborough bus will not serve St Peter's Mead, arrangements for the Tunbridge Wells – Eastbourne services had not been determined.
- Suggestion received from a Parishioner that a Bus Shelter be provided, it was considered that space is available opposite the top of New Road and that it would serve passengers for both directions. CLERK to add to list of items for consideration when budgets/precepts are being set.
- Hedge in Church Road and by bank opposite Sylvan Valley, Station Road, have now been cut.
- Suspicious vehicle and occupant noted outside Cuckoo Line stores and reported to Police.
- Millennium Green at Mark Cross is now due a cut, CLERK to arrange with contractors and also advise ESCC that there is a “wildlife verge” sign propped by the weather monitor which is presumed to be the one missing from the Green.
- Town Row bridge recently inspected, concerns that debris had been left on footpath by bridge. CLERK to request sight of inspection report for the bridge from ESCC.

The Chairman declared the formal business of the meeting closed at 21:50.

14. PUBLIC FORUM. None.

.....Chairman.....Date

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