

HEATHFIELD AND WALDRON PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY 13 JANUARY 2009, 7.30 PM
AT HEATHFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE

PRESENT: Mrs Archer, Mr Bassingthwaite (Chairman), Mrs Clark, Mr Davis, Mr Harmer, Mrs Holmwood, Mr Hough, Mr Kerby, Mrs Muddle, Mr Newnham (Vice-Chairman) Mrs Oakes, Mrs Plant, Mr Wood and Mr Woodhouse.

The Clerk was in attendance.

Also present: County Councillors Dowling and Simmons
District Councillors Angel and Mrs Kirkpatrick (apologies from Mrs Fox)
1 Member of the public
2 representatives of the press

09/01 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were none.

09/02 **REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Mr Simmons gave a report on the Heathfield Partnership and initiatives regarding liquidation advice for local businesses.

Mr Angel spoke about housing allocations within Wealden and a Downing Street Petition objecting to the new target of 11,000 houses.

Mrs Kirkpatrick reporting on the help the CAB were offering in respect of financial problems and stressed the importance of funding by Parish Councils.

Mr Dowling stated that site clearance for the A265/A267 junction works was due to commence in February.

Mr Kerby asked whether the District and County Councils were aware of the review of the 318 bus service and stressed the need to retain this route. Mr Simmons said that all ESCC supported routes were under review but he accepted that the 318 was crucial for Heathfield.

The meeting commenced at 7.44 p.m.

09/03 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr Baker, Mr Chambers, Mrs Gander, Mr Hart, Mrs Kentish-Barnes, Dr Rayner and Mr Waterhouse.

09/04 **DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA**

There were none.

09/05 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2008, having been previously circulated, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

09/06 **MATTERS ARISING**

Cold Calling Zone

It was reported that a meeting would take place with the appropriate officer from Trading Standards to progress this matter.

09/07 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman reported on a letter received from Mr Simmons on behalf of the Heathfield Partnership thanking the Parish Council for their support. He had also received a letter from Mr Loveday thanking Parish Councillors for their hard work in 2008.

Events attended since the last meeting included the public meeting at Leeves Comon to discuss the Youth Shelter proposals, Energy Conference at Wealden District Council, a meeting with WDC to discuss the Skatepark lease, the visit by WDC's Chairman, Mrs Wilson and a Choral Concert at the State Hall.

09/08 **CLERK'S REPORT**

A correspondence list as at 6 January 2009 had been circulated to all Members. The Clerk also reported that the Parish Council's Quality status accreditation was not due for review until 2010.

09/09 **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT**

A report giving details of the revisions to the Act together with a model publication scheme was circulated to Members. It was agreed that the model scheme should be used.

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the model publication scheme as circulated to Members with effect from 1 January 2009.

09/10 **BUDGET FOR 2009/2010 FINANCIAL YEAR**

A report was circulated to all members giving details of the budget requirements of spending Committees for the 2009/2010 financial year as recommended by the FGP Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve a total budget of £330,255, of which £9,000 would be funded from Long Term Reserves, leaving a Precept requirement of £321,255 for the 2009/2010 financial year.

Mr Newnham thanked the Chairman for his hard work in connection with the budget.

09/11 **TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

09/11a **Finance and General Purposes Committee**

Minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2008 (unadopted) had been circulated to members. Mr Bassingthwaight reported thereon.

Further to the Resolution to provide a second town sign, Mrs Oakes put forward a proposal that this should be held in abeyance during the current economic climate, but this was not seconded. The Chairman stated that the cost would be met out of reserves and that the post had been donated by English Heritage buildings.

09/11b **Highways, Planning and Street Lighting Committee**

Minutes of the meetings held on 3, 17 November 1, 15 December 2008 had been previously circulated. Minutes of the meeting held on 5 January 2009 (unadopted) were circulated at the meeting. Mr Newnham reported thereon.

09/11c **Burial Grounds Committee**

Minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2008 (unadopted) were to follow and Mr Newnham reported thereon.

09/11d **Recreation Grounds and Properties Committee**

Minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2008 (unadopted) had been circulated to Members. Mrs Plant reported thereon.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meetings reported above be approved and adopted by the Parish Council.

09/12 **CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 SECTION 17**

It was considered that the proposed No Cold Calling zones would have a positive effect under the above Act.

09/13 **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Council considered that the budget for the next financial year had been set at an appropriate level to enable the Council's responsibilities to be properly executed.

09/14 **TO CONSIDER MOTIONS**

There were none.

09/15

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Council meeting will take place on **Tuesday 10 March 2009**, at 7.30 pm in the Ian Price Room, Heathfield Community Centre, Sheepsetting Lane, Heathfield.

09/16

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was **RESOLVED** to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion of the following item on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. A Confidential Minute at 09/17 follows on a separate sheet.

The meeting closed at 8.36 p.m.

Signed

Chairman

Dated

