

MEETING OF HEATHFIELD AND WALDRON PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY 19 JANUARY 2010, 7.30 PM
AT HEATHFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE

PRESENT: Mrs Archer, Mrs Clark, Mr Davis, Mrs Gander, Mr Harmer, Mrs Kentish-Barnes, Mr Kerby, Mrs Muddle, Mr Newnham (Chairman), Mrs Oakes, Mrs Plant, Mr Smith, Mr Waterhouse, Mr Wood and Mr Woodhouse.

The Clerk was in attendance.

Also present: County Councillors Dowling and Simmons
District Councillor Mrs Fox
Sgt Hammerton and PC Codling
2 members of the public
1 representative of the press

10/01 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Mr Loveday expressed concern at the lack of snow clearance from pavements in the High Street, which made walking very difficult. He considered that the Parish Council should write to all shopkeepers asking them to clear the areas in front of their premises. He thanked the Members of the Parish Council for all their efforts on behalf of the parishioners and also the Heathfield Partnership.

The Chairman explained that there were liability issues regarding the clearance of snow from pavements and the matter would be raised with ESCC.

10/02 **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

County Councillor Simmons stated that only main roads were gritted, as a directive from the Government. He had asked that all ESCC policies regarding gritting, salt bins and snow clearance be reviewed in time for next Winter.

Cllr Simmons then thanked the Parish Council for the support proposed in the budget for the next financial year, on behalf of the Heathfield Partnership and the representation on Committees of the Partnership by Members of the Council.

County Councillor Dowling informed the Council that an update on the CHAT Petition would be presented to a meeting in February and a site meeting would take place soon with the Possingworth Group.

Mr Kerby expressed concern at the inadequate repair of potholes and it was stated that for liability reasons an immediate temporary repair was necessary, followed by a later permanent repair, which needed a temporary road closure order.

District Councillor Mrs Fox explained that changes were being made to waste collection days with the introduction of more kerbside recycling. WDC had recently consulted on Council Tax and included was a reference to car parking charges, by which means the District Council hoped to obtain evidence that residents were opposed to this.

Mrs Oakes gave apologies on behalf of District Councillors Angel and Mrs Kirkpatrick and said that the Housing Needs Survey summary of results would soon be available for parishes and suggested that an Officer be invited to speak at a future meeting. In the last year, 78 affordable housing units had been provided.

Sgt Hammerton informed Members of the Virtual Question Time initiative and in response to the Chairman's question, confirmed that vehicles parked illegally in the High Street during the recent snow had been ticketed.

The Meeting commenced at 7.57 p.m.

10/03 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr Baker, Mr Chambers, Mr Hart, Mrs Holmwood and Mr Hough.

10/04 **DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA**

There were none.

10/05 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2009 having been previously circulated, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

10/06 **MATTERS ARISING**

There were none.

10/07 **CCTV FOR HEATHFIELD**

A grant application form had been submitted to the Safer Wealden Partnership for £10,000 towards the provision of CCTV in the town. The Chairman thanked the Police for their assistance in completing the form and stated that a useful visit to view the system at Uckfield had taken place in November last year.

10/08 **REPORT OF CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman reported that he had attended the AGM of Wealden Citizens Advice, the Eternal Light concert by Heathfield Choral Society, the launch of the Cross-in-Hand School walking bus, the switching on of Heathfield Christmas lights, the Wealden Citizens Advice Training Day and the Reunion of Friends at the Union Church.

The official opening of the new Heathfield Skatepark had taken place on 12 December and the Chairman thanked Mr Woodhouse and Mrs Drury from Heathfield Youth Centre for all their hard work in respect of the project.

The Chairman reminded Members that the launch of the No Cold Calling Zone would take place on 1 February 2010 in the Hall.

10/09 **CLERK'S REPORT**

A correspondence list as at 5 January had been circulated to Members.

The Clerk reported that the WDC Clerks' Seminar scheduled for 11 January had been cancelled due to adverse weather conditions and a new date would be arranged.

10/10 **COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS**

Mrs Oakes reported that there had been a good community spirit during the recent bad weather, with help being given to vulnerable people.

Mrs Plant expressed disappointment that despite using Back Lane as an access point, no grit had been spread by the gritting lorries during the recent snow.

Mr Davis reported that the footway from Heathfield Community College to the Crown PH had not been cleared. It was noted that there appeared to be some confusion about possible liability implications in respect of clearing paths.

10/11 **TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

10/11a **Finance and General Purposes Committee**

Mrs Clark reported on the meeting of 8 December 2009.

Policy and Consultation Sub-Committee

The Chairman reported on the meeting of 4 January 2010.

10/11b **Highways, Planning and Street Lighting Committee**

Mr Newham gave a report in respect of meetings held on 9 and 23 November, 14 December and 4 January 2010.

10/11c **Burial Grounds Committee**

The Chairman reported on the meeting held on 30 November 2009.

10/11d **Recreation Grounds and Properties Committee**

Next meeting to be held on 16 February 2010. Waldron Recreation Ground Management Sub-Committee next meeting to be held on 20 January 2010.

Mrs Plant reported that Mr Coltart would be standing down as Chairman to the Lucas Hall Management Committee and the Council expressed appreciation for all his hard work in managing the Hall.

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

10/12 **RISK POLICY AND COMMITTEE RISK LISTS**

It was reported that all the Committees had reviewed their risk lists and made amendments where necessary. A copy of the lists, together with the Council's overall risk policy had been circulated to all Members and it was **RESOLVED** that they be approved and adopted for the forthcoming year.

10/13 **APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDIT**

A report was circulated to Members regarding the appointment of Mr Mulberry from Mulberry and Co as Internal Auditor for the Council for the 2009/2010 financial year, which had been approved by FGP Committee. The report included an audit plan, budget implications together with statements of independence and competence.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve this appointment.

10/14 **LIST OF PAYMENTS - 1 TO 30 NOVEMBER 2009**

A list of payments for this period had been circulated to all Members and it was **RESOLVED** that they be approved.

10/15 **REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

It was reported that there was a vacancy on the Wealden Association of Local Councils following the resignation of Mrs Plant. No nominations were put forward and it was hoped that an appointment could be made at the next meeting.

10/16 **STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

The Clerk reported that a few minor amendments had been made and reported to FGP Committee. Copies of the documents had been circulated to all Members and it was duly **RESOLVED** to adopt them, as revised.

10/17 **BUDGET AND PRECEPT REQUIREMENTS FOR THE 2010/2011 FINANCIAL YEAR**

The Council considered a report and draft budget for the forthcoming financial year, as recommended and approved by FGP Committee.

It was considered that the proposed budget was fair and responsible and the Chairman thanked the Clerk and Financial Consultant for their work in its preparation, together with Chairmen of Committees.

It was duly **RESOLVED** to approve a total budget of £359,800 for the 2010/2011 financial year, towards which a contribution of £34,500 would be made from Reserves, resulting in a Precept requirement of £325,300. This represented an increase of £1.26% over the current year.

10/18 **CRIME & DISORDER ACT 1998 SECTION 17 – TO CONSIDER EFFECTS (IF ANY) ARISING FROM ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were none.

10/19 **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Council considered the proposed budget was sufficient to enable it to carry out its functions and responsibilities for the next financial year.

10/20 **TO CONSIDER MOTIONS**

None received.

10/21 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 9 March 2010 at 7.30 pm in the Ian Price Room, Heathfield Community Centre, Sheepsetting Lane, Heathfield.

The meeting closed at 8.23 p.m.

Signed

Chairman

Dated