

HEATHFIELD AND WALDRON PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY 11 JANUARY 2011 AT 7.30PM
AT HEATHFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE

PRESENT: Mrs Archer, Mr A Baker, Mr M Baker, Mr Bowdler, Mr Chambers, Mrs Clark, Mr Davis, Mr Harmer, Mr Hough, Mrs Kentish-Barnes, Mr Kerby, Mrs Muddle, Mr Newnham (Chairman), Mrs Plant, Mr Smith and Mr Waterhouse.

The Clerk was in attendance.

Also present: County Councillors Dowling and Simmons
District Councillor Angel
1 member of the press

11/01 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were none.

11/02 **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Simmons thanked the Parish Council for co-hosting the Quiz and Raffle Draw in aid of the swimming pool. It was hoped that in the next few months a tender would be accepted for submission of the planning application. Heathfield had been successfully selected by Tomorrow's People for a pilot rural scheme to help young people gain skills and employment.

The County Council were facing a 28% reduction in Government grant and consultation was taking place to ensure services were run to best effect. All services would be affected by the budget cuts. ESCC were working with Essex and Kent County Councils to try and achieve economies. Members commented upon the damage to the road network following the recent severe weather and it was agreed that the effects were a real challenge. Cllr Dowling was happy to pass on information regarding bad potholes to the relevant officers.

Cllr Angel reported on the timetable for the Draft Core Strategy, which would be published in February/March and any representations from the public would be reported back to full Council. A Public Enquiry was expected in May and the process would be complete in the late Autumn.

The planning application for the single site at Hailsham had been submitted and staff would be accommodated at Crowborough, Eastbourne or work from home. Premises would also be rented in Hailsham.

The budget for the 2011/2012 financial year had been set at zero, as expected by Government.

The Meeting commenced at 7.44 p.m.

11/03 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs Gander, Mr Hart, Mrs Holmwood, Mr Wood and Mr Woodhouse.

11/04 **DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA**

There were none.

11/05 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2010 having been previously circulated, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

11/06 **MATTERS ARISING**

There were none.

11/07 **REPORT OF CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman reported that he had attended an event where the Councillor Niki Oakes Memorial Award had been presented. He had also attended the switching on of the Christmas Lights in the High Street, the commissioning of two new Street Pastors, a re-union of friends at Union Church, Heathfield Choral Society Christmas concert and the Quiz and car raffle draw in aid of the Swimming Pool, which had been co-hosted by the Parish Council. He had laid a Remembrance Day wreath at Waldron and Mr Baker had laid one at Cade Street.

The Vice-Chairman had attended the planting of a tree to mark White Ribbon Day at the Jubilee Park.

11/08 **CLERK'S REPORT**

A correspondence list as at 4 January 2011 had been circulated to Members.

The Clerk reported that she had attended the AGM of Wealden Citizens Advice.

Power of Well-Being

The possibility of the Council obtaining the Power of Well-Being had been raised at the previous meeting and the Clerk reported that, once adopted, it would only last for the duration of the Council. In view of the impending elections, it was agreed that the matter should be raised again at the AGM in May.

11/09 **COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS**

The Chairman reported that the British Legion were celebrating 90 years and were inviting communities to hold Poppy Parties. It was agreed that this should be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mrs Plant asked whether ESCC had made a decision regarding the placement of Hippo Bags of grit around the Parish. This would be raised at the next Liaison Meeting although it was noted that two bags had been allocated for Heathfield, for use in the town centre and the grit would be distributed by WDC staff.

Mr Hough raised concerns about allegations of fuel price fixing.

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

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

Mrs Clark reported on the meeting held on 7 December 2010, the Minutes of which were circulated. Council noted that a meeting of the Policy and Consultation Sub-Committee had taken place on 10 January, 2011 to consider a response to Wealden District Council's budget consultation and Minutes would be circulated in due course.

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

Mr Newnham gave a report in respect of meetings held on 22 November and 6 and 20 December (unadopted) previously circulated. Minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2011 were to follow. An ESCC Liaison meeting would take place on 12 January 2011.

Mr Kerby reported on a meeting of the Rural Transport Sub-Committee held on 6 December 2010, the Minutes of which would be circulated in due course.

11/10c **Burial Grounds Committee**

Mr Newnham reported on the meeting held on 29 November 2010. Council noted that a decision had been made not to allow the gravedigger at St Bartholomews' Burial Ground to use a mini-digger. Mr Waterhouse asked that the Committee look again at the matter as graves had to be dug double-depth and wide enough to enable the grave-shoring equipment to be used. It was agreed that the matter be re-visited once 6 months had passed, in accordance with Standing Orders.

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

Mrs Plant reported on the meeting held on 22 November and the Waldron Recreation Ground Management Meeting held on 24 November 2010.

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

11/11 **TO CONSIDER COUNCIL'S AND BUDGET AND PRECEPT REQUIREMENTS FOR 2011/2012 FINANCIAL YEAR**

Members noted the recommendation by FGP Committee for a Budget of £331,806 with £83,605 being taken from Reserves to enable the Precept to remain at last year's level of £325,300, equivalent to £64.04 for a Band D

property. The Chairman thanked all those involved in the budget setting process.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the above recommendation.

11/12 **LIST OF PAYMENTS 1 SEPTEMBER TO 31 OCTOBER 2010**

The Council noted and approved the list of payments.

11/13 **AUDIT MATTERS**

Members noted the Minute 10/59 of the Finance and General Purposes Committee regarding the internal auditor's visit on 15 November 2010.

Appointment of Internal Auditor for the 2011/2012 financial year

The Council then considered the recommendation to re-appoint Mulberry and Co for the 2011/2012 financial year. Members were satisfied as to the scope, independence, competence and effectiveness of the internal auditor and **RESOLVED** that Mulberry and Co be re-appointed for the forthcoming financial year.

11/14 **CRIME & DISORDER ACT 1998 SECTION 17 – TO CONSIDER EFFECTS (IF ANY) ARISING FROM ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were none.

11/15 **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Council considered that risk management considerations had been taken into account when re-appointing the internal auditor and in setting the Budget at a level where the Council's duties and responsibilities would be able to be met.

11/16 **TO CONSIDER MOTIONS**

Mr A Baker – Visit by MEP

A Motion had been put that the Council should host a visit by Mr Ashworth MEP after the formation of the new Council in May. Following consideration it was **RESOLVED** to carry the Motion and issue an invitation for May/June 2011.

Mr A Baker – Emergency Plan (Identification of Volunteers)

A Motion had been put that Parish Council volunteers involved in emergency incidents should be identifiable by means of high visibility vests with the name of the Parish Council on the back. The cost was in the region of £4 each.

Members noted that the Emergency Plan was being updated and would be made available to the Emergency Services for information. It was agreed that personal details of volunteers would not be released to the general public.

Following consideration, it was **RESOLVED** that the Motion be carried.

11/17

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 8 March 2011 at 7.30 pm in the Ian Price Room, Heathfield Community Centre, Sheepsetting Lane, Heathfield.

The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

Signed

Chairman

Dated