

HEATHFIELD AND WALDRON PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY 12 JULY 2011 AT 7.30PM
AT HEATHFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE

PRESENT: Mr A Baker, Mr M Baker, Mr Bowdler, Ms Bowdler, Mr Chambers, Mrs Clark, Mr Coffey, Mr Harmer, Mr Hart, Mrs Holmwood, Mr Hough, Dr Huggett, Mr Newnham (Chairman), Mrs Plant, Mr Smith, Mr Taylor, Mr Waterhouse, Mr Wood and Mr Woodhouse.

The Clerk was in attendance.

Also present: District Councillor Mrs Newton and a representative of the press

11/74 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were none.

11/75 **SUSSEX FLAG**

The Council congratulated Mr Ells for designing a new Sussex flag, which had now been formally adopted for the County.

11/76 **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Apologies had been received from County Councillors Dowling and Simmons. Cllr Mrs Newton stated that she remained Chairman of the Planning North Committee and was a Member of the LDF Sub-Committee.

The Chairman, in his capacity as District Councillor gave an update on the Core Strategy and said that the District's target for affordable housing had been 80 but 228 units had been built. He stated that a Joint Waste Procurement project was being pursued with Eastbourne Borough Council which it was hoped would result in savings.

The meeting commenced at 7.38 p.m.

11/77 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs Kentish-Barnes.

11/78 **DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA**

Mr Bowdler disclosed a prejudicial interest in respect of the co-option of new parish councillors, as his daughter was a candidate.

11/79 **CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLORS**

The Chairman explained the process for co-opting new councillors to fill the three vacancies and stated that Mrs Muddle had now resigned from the Council and Wealden District Council had been notified of this further vacancy. Four applications had been received, from Ms Bowdler, Mr Coffey, Mrs Mackie

and Mr Taylor and the Chairman invited them to speak to the Council in support of their applications.

The Clerk explained that the vacancies were in the wards of Cross-in-Hand, Heathfield and Heathfield East and separate votes would be required to fill each one. At the request of Members, a signed ballot was undertaken and following the voting process, Mr Taylor was co-opted for the Cross-in-Hand ward, Mr Coffey for the Heathfield ward and Ms Bowdler for the Heathfield East ward.

The Chairman welcomed the new Members onto the Council and Declarations of Acceptance of Office were duly signed.

11/80 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2011 and having been previously circulated, be amended in the list of attendees to state “Mrs Clark” and were then approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

11/81 **MATTERS ARISING**

There were none.

11/82 **PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

The following representatives were duly approved:-

Heathfield Partnership Transport Committee – Mr Bowdler
Local Action Team – Mr Bowdler and Mr Newnham
The Heathfield Charities – Ms Bowdler
Heathfield Partnership (Executive) – Mr Woodhouse
Cross-in-Hand Village Hall Committee – Mr M Baker

The Council noted that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council were entitled to stand on any of the Committees of the Heathfield Partnership.

11/83 **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

The Chairman reported on his attendance at a concert of the Heathfield Choral Society, the visit to Heathfield by Richard Ashworth, MEP, the opening of Leeves Common play area, the AGM of HAPI, the Poppy Party, the Big Police Meet in Heathfield and the AGM of Unity Community Association. He also reported that the Tomorrow’s People initiative was commencing and 12 places had been funded until 31 March 2012.

A meeting had taken place with the organisers of the Sussex Marathon due to take place on 1 April 2012. The route was yet to be finalised but it was hoped that it would be based around the Heathfield and Waldron parish.

11/84 **CLERK’S REPORT**

A correspondence list as at 5 July 2011 had been circulated to Members.

11/85

COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

Mr Hough reported that many residents in the Cross-in-Hand area were very upset and concerned about ESCC's proposed sale of strips of land adjoining the highway. Mr A Baker stated that the matter had been discussed at a meeting of the HPS Committee and the land had now been withdrawn from public auction. It was now proposed that a public meeting be held with affected householders but Members acknowledged a serious lack of communication from the County Council over the matter.

Mr Wood reported that, in his capacity as Tree Warden, he had received information regarding funding for tree planting schemes and would pass details on if required.

Mr Hart expressed concern at a further closure of part of the High Street and the Council noted that this was to enable essential electrical supply faults to be repaired.

Mrs Holmwood expressed concern about a recent accident to a pedestrian in the vicinity of the bus stop at Theobalds Green. It was not known whether higher kerbs were being installed in the area.

11/86

EMERGENCY RADIOS

A letter from the Emergency Planning officer at Wealden District Council had been circulated to Members, in relation to the cost of maintaining the current emergency radios. Wealden were consulting on the possibility of withdrawing the radios unless parishes were prepared to fund the cost of an up-to-date digital system.

Whilst it was acknowledged that most people now had mobile phones, Members were concerned that they would not work during an emergency. It was agreed that ideally an emergency network should be retained and the costs of a digital system should be investigated, depending upon the interest of other parishes. Mr A Baker would arrange to meet with the EPO at Wealden.

11/87

TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

11/87a

Finance and General Purposes Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2011 had been circulated and Mrs Clark reported thereon.

11/87b

Highways, Planning and Street Lighting Committee

Mr A Baker gave a report in respect of meetings held on 23 May 13 and 27 June 2011, minutes of which had been circulated previously. The minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2011 were to follow.

11/87c Burial Grounds and Amenities Committee

Mr Newnham gave a report of the meeting held on 24 May, minutes of which had been previously circulated and 4 July minutes of which were to follow.

11/87d Leisure, Environment and Recreation Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2011 had been circulated and Mrs Plant reported thereon.

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

11/88 **LIST OF PAYMENTS 1 APRIL TO 31 MAY 2011**

The payments made during this period were duly ratified and approved by the Council.

11/89 **CCTV**

It was reported that the additional camera should be installed before the end of the month.

11/90 **CRIME & DISORDER ACT 1998 SECTION 17 – TO CONSIDER EFFECTS (IF ANY) ARISING FROM ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

The additional CCTV camera should have a positive effect upon anti-social behaviour in the region of the Prince of Wales PH.

11/91 **RISK MANAGEMENT**

There were no risk management implications with regard to matters discussed at the meeting.

11/92 **TO CONSIDER MOTIONS**

There were none.

11/93 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 13 September 2011 at 7.30 pm in the Ian Price Room, Heathfield Community Centre, Sheepsetting Lane, Heathfield.

The meeting closed at 9.12 p.m.

Signed

Chairman

Dated