

HERSTMONCEUX PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Herstmonceux Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 16 March 2015 in Herstmonceux Village Hall.

Present: Councillors Mrs. J. Angear, Ms. A. Ashley, Mrs. S. Charlton, Mr. K. Game, Mr M. Goodsell, Mr. W. Gower, Mr. D. Hockings, Mr. S. Nash, Mr B. Naish and Mrs. I. Willson; East Sussex County Councillors Mr. W. Bentley and Mr L. Keeley. Mrs. J. McInnes, the Parish Clerk and Mr. S. Goacher, the Finance Officer, were in attendance.

Thirteen members of the public attended.

21.2015 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Mr K. Wheatley.

22.2015 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2015 had been circulated. It was **RESOLVED** to accept that the minutes be approved, adopted and signed as a correct record, proposed by Councillor K. Game and seconded by Councillor S. Charlton. All Councillors in favour.

23.2015 MATTERS ARISING

None.

24.2015 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs. J. Angear: Elected Member to Herstmonceux Village Hall Management Committee.

Councillor Mr B. Naish: Elected Member to Herstmonceux Village Hall Management Committee.

Councillor M. Goodsell - minor maintenance work on Herstmonceux recreation grounds, Lime Cross and other sites in Herstmonceux Parish.

25.2015 DISPENSATION REQUESTS

None.

26.2015 FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT

- The meeting having been presented with the Payment of Account Report and accompanying vouchers, **RESOLVED** to authorise expenditure totalling £4795.35 (copy attached), proposed by Councillor S. Nash, seconded by Councillor A. Ashley. All councillors in favour.
- A safe has been ordered for the office.
- Pensions Regulator - the start date of the auto enrollment for the scheme is 1.02.17. The Finance Officer will report details of the scheme and possible providers in due course.
- Councillors signed the Direct Debit for the BT Account.
- The Council agreed that that the rental of the office at The Old Forge, Gardner Street, Herstmonceux will be paid by Standing Order.
- A copy of the proposals from the WDC Remuneration Panel which show a small increase have been circulated to all councillors. However, the Council agreed that the amounts paid for 2015/16 will remain the same as last year i.e. £145 Basic Allowance and £250 Chairman's Allowance, proposed by Councillor J. Angear, seconded by Councillor K. Game. All councillors in favour.
- Credit Cards - it was agreed that the Finance Officer will apply for credit cards for the Officers of the Council to use for Council business. All transactions will be approved by the Council in the normal manner. The matter has become essential as there are a number of services which can only be purchased with a credit card and Officers are advised that they must not use personal cards. The Council needs to extend the Dropbox capability and this is only available by credit card payment. The limit for the cards will be £500.

27.2015 CLERK'S REPORT

Correspondence

1. Wealden Citizens Advice - details of a proposed Outreach Project in Herstmonceux which will offer face to face appointments with an Citizens Advice advisor over a skype connection. **The Council suggests that this could be offered at the Village Information centre. The clerk will report to the April Council Meeting.**

2. Mrs Styles - requesting a cycle path from Windmill Hill to Herstmonceux. **This will be referred to the ESCC Meeting to be held on 17.03.15**
3. Sussex Heritage Awards information.
4. Mrs C. Lucas - comments on the proposed Lime Cross development.
5. ESCC - informing the Council that the proposed road patching outside Causeway Farm has been postponed due to the badger sett in the area.
6. Mrs Gardiner - proposal re her application to rent the Old Surgery, Herstmonceux.
7. Mrs Harrold - requesting a replacement dog bin in Victoria Road, Windmill Hill to replace the broken bin. **The Council agreed to order a new bin and investigate whether an additional bin is required.**
8. Mr Watson - informing the Council that the dog waste bin in Victoria Road, Windmill Hill is broken and the waste is piled up on the ground. **Mr Watson has been informed that a new bin has been ordered.**
9. Mrs von Barnholt - requesting a copy of the letter from WDC about the Community Right to Bid application from Herstmonceux Action Group. **WDC has confirmed that the letter can be forwarded to Mrs von Barnholt.**
10. Mr Stewart - request for a copy of letter to the Council from Mr Williams, Head of Planning at WDC and nomination forms and timetable for the parish council elections. **The information was supplied as requested.**
11. Mr Stewart - complaint about the conduct of the Parish Clerk. **The Council discussed this in confidential session and advised Mr Stewart that it considers the complaint unwarranted as at no time did the clerk exceed the Council's instruction or go beyond the bounds of her employment as clerk.**
12. Mr R. McAll - comments re the planning application for the Garage at Cowbeech. Noted.
13. Mr Merriman - details of meetings to support his application to become the Conservative candidate.
14. Ms A. Emery - proposal to carry out a review of the Rights of Way in the parish as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award programme. **ESCC carried out a review of the parish in 2013. However, the Parish Council is interested in discussing this proposal with Ms Emery.**
15. Carnegie Trust - details of a programme to investigate whether any playing fields which were built by the Carnegie Trust in the 1920s/30s still exist.
16. Speedwatch - informing the Council that a speed camera for use in the parish would cost £895 plus VAT. The Council discussed this matter at length and raised concerns about whether enough residents across the parish will volunteer to run the programme, how Sussex Police will support the scheme and the calibration process. **The clerk will seek more information from Sussex Police.**
17. Mr Nunney - thanking the Council for the improvements to the children's play area.
18. Quotation for a notice board for the office at The Old Forge. **The Finance Officer is waiting for another quotation.**
19. Mrs Kenward - requesting information about the planning process in respect of the application for Lime Cross. **A draft response will be circulated to all councillors for approval.**

28.2015 REPORTS

1. Finance & General Purposes Committee:

No meeting.

2. Planning Committee:

Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting of Herstmonceux Parish Council held at **7.00pm on Tuesday 10 March 2015 in the hall of Herstmonceux Primary School.**

Present: Councillors J. Angear, A. Ashley, K. Game, M. Goodsell, W. Gower, D. Hockings, B. Naish, S. Nash and I. Willson.

Apologies were received from Councillors S. Charlton and K. Wheatley.

40 The members of the public attended.

Christopher Hough of Sigma Planning spoke on behalf of Rydon Homes Limited re application WD/2015/0136 – Proposed residential development of 40 dwellings on land South of Hailsham Road (Lime Roughs), Herstmonceux.

This is an application for a housing development of 40 dwellings including 1 bed apartments and

2,3 and 4 bedroom houses served from a new access off Hailsham Road. 35% (14 units) of the new dwellings will be Affordable Housing and they will be managed by a Registered Social Landlord. The remainder of the housing will be available for private sale. A 0.5 hectare (1¼ acre) parcel of land adjacent to the Recreation Ground has been offered to the Parish Council. This offer would be in lieu of (or partly in lieu of) the alternative of providing financial contributions through a Section 106 agreement for open space provision, to upgrade existing facilities in the Parish.

Rydon Homes are based in Forest Row and have been building high quality housing in East Sussex and the South-East for nearly 40 years

Herstmonceux is classified within the Wealden Core Strategy as a Local Service Centre with potential for some housing growth and Rydon consider that this site is the most suitable for development because:-

- it is not in the AONB and is well contained visually within the landscape
- it is well related to the existing settlement pattern and is within close walking distance of the village centre and local facilities.
- there are only a limited number of neighbouring properties that overlook the site.
- the scale of housing proposed is manageable in terms of the size of the village and the site is well-contained so that there will be no obvious precedent for further expansion.

The site has previously been promoted to the Parish Council, through the emerging Herstmonceux Neighbourhood Plan during which consultations have taken place with the local community and also with some local councillors at a Protocol meeting..

The current position with regard to housing numbers and the Neighbourhood Plan is clearly set out in an update on the Parish Council website. The Lime Roughs site is one of two sites mentioned in that update which together comprise the maximum number of dwellings that the District Council will entertain at this stage and any further development proposals thereafter would be resisted as being premature. The housing numbers will count towards those to be allocated to Herstmonceux in the review of the Wealden Core Strategy.

The other site is the Gleasons/Summertree Estates proposal for 70 dwellings at Limes Cross, which the Parish Council recently resolved to support.

This proposal has been very carefully prepared and a full range of consultant reports accompany the application. No over-riding planning issues have been identified.

Briefly addressing the main concerns voiced by local residents:-

Drainage – Southern Water say that there is currently inadequate capacity in the foul sewerage system to accommodate the development but solutions are available at the cost of the developer. The most likely is up-sizing the existing sewer in Hailsham Road.

Education – financial contributions of over £300,000 will be made to assist the Education Authority in providing additional school places at all levels.

Front Hedge – apart from the access the existing hedge will be retained and its future management secured.

Access – the new access has good sight lines and fully meets the relevant design criteria for a safe access.

Wildlife – the application proposes the provision of a 15 metre buffer adjacent to the ancient woodland which is located next to the site and ecological studies have been undertaken and appropriate mitigation measures incorporated within the application.

This is a high quality development proposal which will not have a major impact on its surroundings and will make a material contribution to meeting the housing numbers that the village is expected to provide in the future.

Mr M. Stockman spoke against the application WD/2015/0136/MAO - proposed residential development of 40 dwellings on land South of Hailsham Road (Lime Roughs), Herstmonceux. He expressed concern about the following issues:

- sewage.
- access.
- the fact that the site is classed as windfall.
- residents' objections to large sites.

The following applications were discussed:

Application: WD/2015/0136/MAO - Councillors J. Angear and M. Goodsell Declared Interest in this application as they have business interests with the owner of the land.

Location: Land south of Hailsham Road, Herstmonceux.

Description: Proposed development of 40 residential dwellings comprising of 4 x one bedroom apartments, 9 x two bedroom houses, 12 x three bedroom houses and 15 x four bedrooms houses together with associated access , roads, parking provision and open space.

Parish Council comments to Wealden District Council: The Council objects to this application.

There was detailed discussion on this application and the Chairman allowed a number of comments from residents.

1. The Council noted the comment from a resident that the application for this site was premature - a councillor proposed that the site should be classified as premature but there was no support for this proposal.
2. Access - there was discussion on the access as a separate issue but the Council agreed to discuss the application as a whole proposal. The A271 slopes towards the access, the speed limit changes from 30mph to 40 mph at the entrance, the busy access to the village hall, health centre and pharmacy is within metres of the proposed new access, the speed of traffic along this stretch of road is noted and there are frequent speed detector cameras used to catch offenders. Councillors noted that there may be solutions to any access issues including traffic management to slow traffic approaching the site, the introduction of a traffic filter system for vehicles accessing and exiting the proposed site.
3. Sewage and drainage - Herstmonceux Parish Council has been working with Southern Water since early 2014 to try and resolve the problems with the capacity of the sewage pipes in Victoria Road, Windmill Hill. The Parish Council received confirmation from Southern Water in January 2015 that a scheme has been identified to resolve the flooding in Victoria Road and this scheme is progressing through the design stage prior to a decision on construction. The Parish Council has been advised that there is sufficient capacity at the Treatment Works but all sewage from the parish is pumped or gravity fed along the pipe in Victoria Road.
4. The proposed site has a spring line across it and the lower sections of the site are waterlogged in wet periods. Is possible to address this issue by engineering solutions but councillors discussed whether the high costs to the developers would mean that the provision of affordable housing could be affected.
5. The adjoining houses at Ferndale are not connected to the main drainage system; connection to the system is offered by the developers although it is not known whether all householders will take up this offer. One resident of the houses noted that although he is happy with his existing septic tank, there are occasional times when the outfall causes drainages problems. Mr Hough from Sigma Planning, informed the meeting that septic tanks which are correctly fitted and maintained will only result in clear water discharge.
6. Herstmonceux Village Hall which is located near to the proposed site has a pump system which is costly and unreliable.
7. The Parish Council queried whether it was correct that the gardens at North Lodge adjacent to Herstmonceux Parish Council have suffered some slippage problems.
8. The Parish Council has previously been informed by Wealden District Council that there would be no further development after the Village Hall. The Parish Council supports this statement. The provision of a Health Centre was considered essential for the community and the location was approved after the investigation of a large number of locations proved unsuccessful. The approval of an innovative designer building was to provide the entrance to Herstmonceux.
9. Residents comments indicate that some residents are opposed to large sites. A resident commented that a previous application for a large site was approved. However, this application is for a different site and a different location.
10. The Chairman stated that the Parish Council is a statutory consultee in the planning process but the final decision on the application will be made in due course by Wealden District Council.

Following the discussion, the Council resolved to object to the application. All councillors were in favour, proposed by Councillor K. Game, seconded by Councillor S. Nash.

Application: WD/2015/0218/O - Councillor A. Ashley Declared an Interest as a friend of the applicant.

Location: Garage, Cowbeech Road, Cowbeech.

Description: Outline planning consent for change of use of site to residential.

Parish Council comments to Wealden District Council: The Council objects to this application:

- The existing site is connected to the adjacent business and the development of the existing Garage site for residential dwellings could impact on the remaining business.
- The Council notes that the applicant states that the business expects to remain in the area but there are no details of this proposal and so the Council is concerned about the loss of a business which employs a significant number of local people.

- Cowbeech is proposed as an area for consideration under the WDC a Conservation Area consultations.
- The site could be adapted for small start up business units and retain the business opportunities in Cowbeech.
- The only facility in Cowbeech is a local pub.

Application: WD/2015/0266/O Location: West Terrace, West End, Herstmonceux.

Description: Proposal for six new dwellings and access.

Parish Council comments to Wealden District Council:

This application was registered incomplete by Wealden District Council and was not discussed.

Application: WD/2015/0179/F

Location: Lower Chilsham Chilsham Lane, Herstmonceux.

Description: Proposed demolition of existing farm building and replacement with three bedroom dwelling.

Parish Council comments to Wealden District Council: The Council objects to this application:

- It is development in the countryside.
- The proposed development is in the AONB.
- The Parish Council considers that the existing building does not comply with the new rules for changing an agricultural building into a dwelling. There is no information about the Agricultural Holding number which indicates that it was registered as an Agricultural Holding.
- The Council does not consider that this small building can provide a dwelling of the same height, same footprint same height as required under the new guidance.

Application: WD/2015/0294/F

Location: 5 Blanshard Close, Herstmonceux.

Description: Single storey flat roof rear addition.

Parish Council comments to Wealden District Council: The Council supports this application which addresses the size complaints about the previous application.

Application: WD/2015/02663/LB

Location: Elmtree House, Gardner Street, Herstmonceux.

Description: Install secondary double glazing to the existing windows.

Parish Council comments to Wealden District Council: The Council supports the application which will be a benefit to the heat efficiency of this Listed Building property.

Correspondence

1. WDC - informing the Parish Council that application WD/2015/0266/O was registered incomplete by Wealden District Council and was not discussed.
2. Mr Cornwall - comments on his planning application WD/2015/0266/O. This correspondence will be put on the file until WDC inform the Parish Council that the application is complete. (See point 1 above)

3. Ground Committee

- The new trees have been planted on the recreation ground.
- There is a lot of rubbish at the recreation ground which needs clearing.
- Graffiti cleaning needs to be done at the skateboard park.
- The application for coursing has been considered but the Chairman recommended refusal for this application, seconded by Councillor J. Angear. all councillors in favour.
- Woolpack Stoolball Team - expressed concern about the cost of hiring the recreation ground.
- 2015/16 contract for mowing has been awarded to Barcombe Landscapes.
- The netting around the children's play area needs repairing - Councillors S. Nash and W. Gower will arrange for this work to be undertaken.

4. Street Lighting

- It was agreed to investigate the introduction of LED lights in the street lights.

5. Highways and Traffic

- The SLR meeting with ESCC will be held at 9.30am on Tuesday 17 March 2015 in the

Village Information Centre.

- The Council has received two quotations for verge cutting ISS Facility Services £1986 plus VAT and SRL Services £2950.00 plus VAT. The work carried out last year by ISS was considered unacceptable and so it was agreed to accept the more expensive quotation
- The Parish Council has not yet received details about the contribution from ESCC towards verge cutting.

Footpaths

- Committee Meeting will be held as soon as possible.

7. Police Liaison and Local Action Team (LAT)

Next area meeting 6pm 15.07.15

8. Information Centre

Nothing to report.

9. East Sussex County Councillors

- Report to be given at the Annual Parish Meeting

10. Wealden District Councillor

No report.

11. Parish Tree Warden

Nothing to report.

12. Parish Emergency Plan

Nothing to report.

13. Wealden District Association of Local Councils

- Next meeting will be held on 15.04.15

14. Herstmonceux Village Hall

- Next Management Committee Meeting on 24.03.15

15. Allotment

- Nothing to report.

16. Herstmonceux/Varengeville Twinning Association

- There are two vacant allotments.

17. Herstmonceux Church of England Primary School

- Nothing to report.

18. Cuckmere Bus

REPORT CUCKMERE COMMUNITY BUS MEETING - MONDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2015

Services

- The ESCC tendering exercise concluded in January when all CCB tenders were rejected! ESCC indicated that they would then negotiate new de minimis contracts with the existing operator ... CCB! After the months it took to go through their procurement process it took just one meeting last week to agree that the existing 40 and 42 services will continue with the same level of support as previously. ESCC members had insisted on the tendering exercise against the advice of their officers and has wasted a great deal of money that could have been used to continue services now withdrawn. Support for Saturday and Sunday services will end from Sunday 19th April affecting service 25 (Alfriston - Lewes and 126 (Eastbourne - Alfriston 0 Seaford) and removing some £15,000 revenue a year from CCB's operations.
- CCB service 50 ran hourly between Heathfield - Hailsham - Polegate and Eastbourne on 1st January 2015 with support from Hailsham and Polegate Town Councils and Heathfield & Waldron Parish Council. The weather was better this year and the service was better supported as it becomes more established.
- Bespoke Services CCB ran services for Alfriston's Dickensian Evening 22nd November 2014 carrying around 3,00 people. CCB have been asked to provide two buses per day for the entire period of Charleston's May Festival between 15th and 25th May operating services to

and from Lewes Station. Timetables have been drafted and prices submitted. Weald Woodfair at Bentley have approached CCB having re-thought their lack of services in 2014 and want CCB to run again during their 2015 event 18th-20th September. Provisional dates for Charleston's Small Wonder Festival are 23rd-27th September.

Fares

- CCB will be raising their fares to make good the loss of income from ESCC although the reduction in fuel costs means that the increase fares will be around 10% rather than 30% that had been forecast. CCB have given notice that unless they receive some financial contribution they will no longer accept Brighton & Hove Saver tickets on their services in the Seaford area. It seems likely that some form of area-wide ticket will be introduced so CCB's action is on hold whilst discussions progress, CCB feel that they should withdraw from the Explorer ticket scheme favoured by Stagecoach in East Sussex. Brighton & Hove pulled out last year in favour of South Downs National Park inspired Discovery ticket. From March CCB will have three buses carrying rear adverts for Discovery paid for by SDNPA.

Vehicles

- CCB have placed an order for a new Mercedes Spring 45 from Evobus UK which is slightly longer and with better suspension and seats than other services. Hopefully delivery will be in the summer. CCB have also earmarked a second vehicle for possibly delivery later in the summer, if CCB are successful with their application for funding which the Department of Transport has made available to CT operators across the country. A vehicle has been sold and it is planned to remove 2 or 3 more vehicles from the fleet over the next few months. The acquisition of new vehicles should assist in reducing maintenance costs substantially which is needed in order to return to surplus in future years.

Drivers

- CCB have two new drivers with another one about to start training. CCB continue to attend the Hailsham Farmers Market each month. There is sufficient space on private land there to allow possible new recruits to try their hand at driving a bus without danger. CCB would like to extend this exercise to other areas if they can find suitable piece of private land.

The future

- All services are run at CCB's own commercial risk so are in fact much more in control of their own destiny. Two areas of concern loom - the withdrawal of Fuel Duty Rebate which is now being talked about quite openly. The other risk comes if there were to be a reduction in the rate of re-imburement to bring CCB in line with OAP passes. There are arguments that there should be full re-imburement to bring CCB in line with any other commercial business but with local authority funding likely to be squeezed even tighter after the election, this would pose a very real threat to CCB's continued existence because many of their passengers fall into that category.

Finance

- The treasurer presented his forecast for 2015 and although things will be tight it is thought that CCB could come out at year end with a small surplus.

Good News

- Service 49 - Eastbourne/Herstmonceux Science Centre (Wednesdays)
- By minor adjustments to the inbound 195 CCB plan to use the lay-over time in Eastbourne from that service to re-instate a service (which operated for only 2012 season with ESCC funding) CCB will provide two journeys out to the centre and three back giving anything from a few minutes to three hours at the centre/Castle. This will only operate when the centre is open - probably for the summer season.
- Service 195 - Waldron - Herstmonceux - Pevensey Bay - Eastbourne (Wednesdays)
- As mentioned above in connection with service 49 the morning journey from Waldron will be brought forward to 9.30 allowing CCB to fit in a service to Herstmonceux in the lay-over.
- Councillor Sheila Charlton 27th February 2015

19. Herstmonceux Business Association

- The first market of 2015 will be held at Lime Cross on Saturday 14 March 2015.
- Full report at the Annual Parish Meeting.

29.2015 ITEMS FOR AGENDA

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