

HERSTMONCEUX PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Herstmonceux Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 16 November 2015 in the small hall in Herstmonceux Village Hall.

Present: Councillors Mrs J. Alder, Mrs J. Angear, Ms A. Ashley (arrived 7.40pm), Mr M. Bradshaw, Mr M. Goodsell, Mrs H. Kenward, Mr S. Nash, Mr B. Naish Mr. I. Stewart (left the meeting at 8.15pm), Mrs C. Stirling-Reed, Mr M. Von Barnholt Krag; Wealden District Councillor Mr A. Long and East Sussex County Councillor Mr L. Keeley.

Mrs J. McInnes, the Parish Clerk and Mr S. Goacher, the Finance Officer were in attendance. One member of the public attended.

The Council agreed that the clerk should send a letter of condolences to the Mayor of Varengeville, the village in Normandy twinned with Herstmonceux, about the terrorist attacks in France.

119.2015 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received East Sussex County Councillor Mr W. Bentley.

120.2015 MINUTES

- The minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2015 had been circulated. It was **RESOLVED** to accept that the minutes be approved, adopted and signed as a correct record, proposed by Councillor Mr S. Nash and seconded by Councillor Mr M. Goodsell. All Councillors in favour.

121.2015 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs J. Angear: Elected Member to Herstmonceux Village Hall Management Committee and Planning application WD/2015/1250/MAJ Forge Meadow, Hammer Lane, Cowbeech.

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

Councillor Mr I. Stewart: an Interest in Herstmonceux Village Hall as he is a trustee of Herstmonceux Village Hall, he is the treasurer of Herstmonceux Village Hall Management Committee and he is the solicitor who drew up the lease between Herstmonceux Village Hall and Herstmonceux Parish Council.

Councillor Mr M. von Barnholt Krag - Prejudicial Interest in the vote for the co-opted members of the Building Development Committee as his wife was an applicant. He did not take part in the voting.

122.2015 DISPENSATION REQUESTS

None.

123.2015 FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT

- The meeting was presented with the Payment of Account Report and accompanying vouchers for £5800.71. It was **RESOLVED** to authorise expenditure totalling £5800.71, proposed by Councillor Mr M. Goodsell, seconded by Councillor Mr M. Bradshaw. All councillors in favour.
- The Internal Auditor has reviewed the Council's documents and policies - a full report will be made to the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting.
- Herstmonceux Parish Council will take over the contract with Duro Sport for the artificial pitch for the Cricket Club. The cost is £6500, the Cricket Club will reimburse the Parish Council. It was proposed by Councillor M. Bradshaw, seconded by Councillor Mrs J. Alder that the Cricket Club will be asked to pay a deposit of £2000. This was agreed by a majority decision with one abstention. An agreement will be drawn up for the Cricket Club to sign that all monies are paid to the Council by the end of April 2016.

124.2015 HERSTMONCEUX VILLAGE HALL THE ACCESS ROAD TO HERSTMONCEUX VILLAGE HALL, HERSTMONCEUX HEALTH CENTRE AND THE PHARMACY

- A meeting will be held with Dr Simmons on 24.11.15 and so more information will be available at the December Council Meeting.

125.2015 HERSTMONCEUX NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- The Finance Officer informed the Council that £10,000 is in the Council's Estimates for 2015 - 2016. This will be put in the accounts for 2016 - 2017.

- The main topic of the January 2016 Council Meeting will be the Herstmonceux Parish Neighbourhood Plan. Ms F. Bayou, the professional advisor from Action in rural Sussex will attend the meeting.

126.2015 COMMUNITY LAND TRUSTS

- It is hoped that a Community Land Trust will be set up - the Trust would not be part of the Parish Council's work as the Council will be focusing on the Neighbourhood Plan. The clerk will contact the parishioners who expressed an interest in setting up a CLT.
- There was presentation from Mr T. Warder at the Public Meeting on 11 November 2015.

127.2015 STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS REVIEW

- The first Working Group Meeting will be held at 7pm on 24.11.15 in the Village Information Centre.

128.2015 VILLAGE PLANTERS

- Councillor Mr M. Bradshaw has been in touch with Mr Grocock in Hailsham - the Council recommends that the scheme is passed to Herstmonceux Business Association.

129.2015 PRESENTATION BY REPRESETNATIVES OF THE STREETS AHEAD TEAM

- This item was postponed until the February 2016 Council Meeting as the speaker from the Street Ahead Team was unwell.

130.2015 CLERK'S REPORT AND UPDATE

Clerk's Update

- The following comments were agreed to the Electoral Review:

Herstmonceux Parish Council response to the Electoral Review of East Sussex County Council and Districts

Herstmonceux Parish Council accepts the principle of boundary review to provide a fairer and more efficient representation. However, the Council would be greatly concerned if the review resulted in a reduction of councillors representing Herstmonceux Parish.

The current proposals for development will lead to a significant increase in development throughout both Herstmonceux Parish and adjoining areas of the district which will demand much of our current representatives. The proposal to reduce the number of councillors representing the parish at this time could prove extremely detrimental to our parish and community.

- Affordable Housing - no response from Herstmonceux Parish Council.
- Minerals and Waste Consultation - councillors will send their comments to the clerk by 14.12.15
- WDC Issues and Options Consultations - representatives from WDC will give a presentation on 8.12.15. There was a discussion on how the information has been circulated to parishioners and how the Council will respond; WDC sent an information leaflet to all households in the parish, the councillors are the elected members to respond to the consultation, the Council has circulated the information via a parish newsletter and a WDC representative will speak at the Planning Committee Meeting.
- Community Asset Working Group has met to look at the information about the Merrie Harriers in Cowbeech. Another meeting has been arranged for 10.12.15.
- Mr T. Scott, the WDC Monitoring Officer has informed the Council that it was in order for the Council to send a representative to speak against Mr K. Cornwall's planning application.
- Some years ago following the changes as to how councils were sent information about planning applications, WDC gave a laptop computer to the Parish Council. This computer is now surplus to requirements and it was agreed that it can be given to the Vitality Villages Project.
- Queen's 90th birthday - a tea party is proposed at Herstmonceux Castle. Permission has been granted by Queen's University for the use of the grounds on Sunday 12 June

2015. It was agreed that Herstmonceux Parish Council will underwrite the event up to £500.

Clerk's Report General

1. Southern Water - response to the Parish Council's email about the sewer improvement scheme in Victoria Road, Windmill Hill.
2. Herstmonceux Cricket Club - thanking the Council for the grant and an update on the refurbishment of the Artificial Pitch, and request for a letter of intent from the Parish Council for the work to be carried out.
3. ESCC Highways - information about the proposed speed limit A271 Hailsham Road, New Road Herstmonceux and request for comments from the Parish Council.
4. ESCC Rights of Way - update on the problems on footpaths 50A and 50B.
5. ESCC Councillor Mr W. Bentley - information about the proposed budget cuts. **Copied to all councillors.**
6. Mrs S. Burlton - expressing concern about the cars parked on the verge at Windmill Hill. The cars are causing problems and danger to users of the footpath and are damaging the verge. **Referred to the Highways Committee.**
7. WDC - information about the Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule. **Copied to councillors.**
8. WDC - details of the proposed new Conservation area to be added to the WDC Local Plan Consultation. **Posters on the notice boards.**
9. Local Boundary Commission - reminder to respond to the consultation about the Electoral Review.
10. Ms A. Hyatt - informing the Council that she had decided not to continue with her application to join the Building Development Committee.
11. Mr J. Pimm - expressing concern about the speed of traffic in James Avenue and Fairfield. **Referred to the Highways Committee.**
12. UK Power Networks - details of the review of the Unmetered Inventory Agreement for WDC Street Lighting in Herstmonceux.
13. Mr T. Leggo, Sussex Association of Local Councils - information about membership arrangements and access to the services of NALC.
14. Health and Safety Executive - review of potential unsafe work at the Warehouse, Gardner Street, Herstmonceux - WDC will contact the owner of the site.
15. "Concerned Tenant" email - expressing concern that the bus stop adjacent to North Lodge is often blocked by parked cars. Bus passengers (often school children) have to walk into the road to get on the bus.
16. Mr W. Gower - expressing concern that the bus stop adjacent to North Lodge is often blocked by parked cars. Bus passengers (often school children) have to walk into the road to get on the bus.
17. Action in rural Sussex - Neighbourhood Plan session at Uckfield on 3.12.15

131.2015 REPORTS

Finance and General Purposes Committee

[Click here for the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Meeting held on 10.11.15](#)

- It was proposed to accept the recommendations in the report, proposed by Councillor Mr M. Bradshaw, seconded by Councillor Mrs J. Alder. All councillors in favour.

[Click here for the minutes of the Planning committee Meeting held on 10.11.15](#)

Planning Committee - application discussed at the Council Meeting:

Application WD/2015/1250/MAJ

Location: Forge Meadow, Hammer Lane, Cowbeech.

Description: Regularisation of de-silted and reformed ponds and associated earth works: bund stability, hydrological impact assessment and covering letter.

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

- The work on the ponds and the associated earthworks have caused problems with raw sewage overflowing and polluting the adjoining water course from the septic tanks of the adjoining properties.
- The report does not offer guarantees of the structural integrity of the earthworks.
- The structure of the earthworks is too steep and too close to the adjoining properties. This may be potentially dangerous in extreme weather conditions.
- There is no information about the long term management of the earthworks.
- There is no information about a maintenance programme for the earthworks.
- The privacy of the adjoining properties is affected by the height and location of the earthworks.
- The adjoining properties suffer noise pollution from the water running in the overflow system.

Committee Reports

[Click here for the November Committee Reports](#)

The following matters were raised at the November Council Meeting:

Ground Committee

- The Football Club has removed all the rubbish.

Allotments

- The Rules and Guidelines document needs reviewing.
- The proposal to change the allotment tenancy year needs to be discussed in more detail.
- The Terms of Reference for the committee needs drawing up.
- A meeting needs to be arranged with the Allotment Association.
- Decisions on the allotment will be postponed until a meeting can be arranged in early 2016.
- There are six names on the waiting list.

Communications

- Discussions on the minute taking of committee - it is recommended, as best practice, by Sussex Association of Local Councils(SALC) that minutes can be taken by an officer of the council or an employed minute clerk. It is possible for a councillor to take the minutes in an emergency. Mr Stevens, the chairman of SALC that the Council should follow the best practice. Zurich Insurance has informed that Herstmonceux Parish Council should follow the advice from the County Association SALC.
- Newsletter - the draft was approved and it will be circulated in the parish.

Highways and Traffic

- It was proposed to accept the quotation a new fingerpost for Lower road, Herstmonceux from JAKK proposed by Councillor Mr S. Nash, seconded by Councillor Mrs H. Kenward. All councillors in favour.
- it was proposed to repair the seat in Stunts Green, Herstmonceux proposed by Councillor Mr S. Nash, seconded by Councillor Mrs H. Kenward. All councillors in favour.

Building Development Committee

- It was previously agreed that three members of the public would be invited to join the Building Development Committee. However, Councillor Mr M. Bradshaw proposed that four members be invited to join, this was seconded by Councillor Mrs C. Stirling-Reed. After lengthy discussion, it was approved by a majority decision with six votes in favour.
- The following five members of the public applied to become co-opted members of the Committee - Mrs B. Burke, Mrs A. von Barnholt, Mr R. Shepherd, Miss C. Stockman and Mrs B. Styles.
- The votes were as follows: Mrs B. Burke 7 votes, Mrs A. von Barnholt 9 votes, Mr R. Shepherd 10 votes, Miss C. Stockman 9 votes and Mrs B. Styles 3 votes.

Councillors with special responsibilities are as follows:

Street Lighting

Highways and Traffic

- The drain at the entrance to the road to the building site adjacent to Eversley House, Gardner Street, Herstmonceux is overflowing when it rains as the drain is blocked with soil from the site.

Police Liaison

Tree Warden

Council representatives to the following organisations

Wealden Association of Local Councils

East Sussex County Council

- A copy of the East Sussex Report about budget cuts was forwarded to all councillors please contact Mr Bentley directly for any questions.
- ESCC funding is being reduced over the next few years which will impact on the provision of transport in the district.
- There are infrastructure issues relating to the proposals in the Issues and Options proposals.
- Work on the Hastings Link Road is still ongoing.

Wealden District Council

- The Issues and Options Consultation is ongoing.
- Councillor Long urges the Council to comment on the Electoral Boundary Review.

Herstmonceux Information Centre

Herstmonceux Village Hall

Cuckmere Community Bus

Herstmonceux Business Association

- The Christmas lights are delayed and will be put up in the near future.

Vitality Villages

Varengeville Twinning Association

132.2015 ITEMS FOR AGENDA

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