



WEST DEAN PARISH COUNCIL

Dave Kent
Clerk to the Council

Clive Hooper
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COUNCIL MINUTES

679

Meeting Date: 26th May 2021

Location: West Dean Centre

Present:

WDPC COUNCILLORS: S Crick (SC) (Chair), A Moore (AM), P Dunford (PD), B Evans (BE), A Bruce (AB), S Francis (SF), M Costley (MC), J Richmond (JR), D Oliver (DO), J Dale (JD) and S Dunford (SD).

COUNTY COUNCILLOR: B Hoyland (BH)

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR: R Leppington (RL)

POLICE: PS A Parry

Member of the Public: D Worthington (DW)

D Kent (DK) (Clerk), K Carpenter (KC) (Deputy Clerk) and C Hooper (CH) (Locum Deputy Clerk) were in attendance

PUBLIC FORUM

DW explained some of the issues about the Parkend Road, Parkend, footpath issues which would be considered in item 2.7 ii) of the meeting.

RL expressed concern at the poor state of highways in Bream. This would be a matter for the Parish Council to consider perhaps in the newly reconstituted Highways & Footpaths Committee, and to refer to the County Council.

BH introduced herself to the Parish Council as the newly elected County Councillor for Blakeney & Bream. She advised that she would be taking an interest in Highways issues.

PS A Parry provided a report on policing issues in the area, and advised that he would be available to receive concerns from members of the public.

COUNCIL FORMAL BUSINESS

1.1 Election of Chair

S Crick was unanimously re-elected as Chair

1.2 Election of Deputy Chair

A Grant was unanimously re-elected as Deputy Chair

1.3 Apologies were received from:

B Gayler, A Sumners, S Yeates and A Grant (WDPC) and P Hiett (FODDC)

1.4 Declarations of Interest

None made

1.5 General Power of Competence

Council asserted its right to exercise the General Powers of Competence through the professional qualification of the Clerk and the elected status of the required percentage of councillors

1.3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting – The minutes of the meeting of 28th April 2021 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

2.1 Corona Virus Emergency

CH provided a brief report.

2.2 Finance & Staffing

- i) The schedule of electronic payments for May 2021, as presented to the meeting, were approved..
- ii) AM and JR were appointed to provide the electronic authorisations for the May 2021 bank payments.
- iii) It was noted that SC and AB had conducted a satisfactory financial inspection of documents and bank statements for the previous month.
- iv) The June financial inspection would be conducted by JD and DO.
- v) The Internal Auditor's report and recommendations were noted, with action as required.
- vi) Renovation works for the Bream Cenotaph were approved, with the support of a grant award to the Council. The volunteers who keep the site tidy would be acknowledged in the next newsletter.
- vii) The necessary refund of the unspent funds in the Groundworks grant (£3,770) was approved.

2.3 Dean Forest Greenway

The Clerk presented a report. It was noted with disappointment that the bid for 'Levelling Up' funding had been unsuccessful, but other options were available.

2.4 Climate Emergency/Village Veg

The Terms and Conditions of the Council committee were considered. After further work, a version for approval would be presented to the next meeting.

2.5 Highways & Road Traffic Issues

It was agreed that a meeting would be arranged for the newly constituted Highways and Footpaths Committee, which would include the Speed reduction group.

It was agreed that posters for public display would be printed from the road safety design produced by a student at Yorkley Primary School.

It was further agreed that a competition would be held later in the year for the best road safety design from a student at a primary school in the West dean area, to include the Heart of the Forest School. An award of £20 to be made to the successful student and £200 to their school.

2.6 Yorkley Court Farm

It was agreed that further investigation would be sought from Planning Enforcement at the District Council in respect of developments at Yorkley Court Farm.

2.7 Legal Issues

- i) It was agreed that £500 would be allocated to seek legal advice in respect of the footpath at Crossing Corner, Pillowell.
- ii) It was agreed that Council's reserved funds of £500 allocated for legal advice to assist residents of Parkend Road, Bream, in respect of charges imposed by Two Rivers Housing for footpath maintenance, would be released to pursue this case.

2.8. Governance

It was noted that a meeting of the Governance Committee would be held in June 2021 to consider and propose necessary revisions to Council policies.

2.9 Planning

It was noted that physical meetings of the Committee would resume on Wednesday 2nd June 2021.

2.10 Council Web Site and Face Book page.

Councillors to review and provide comments to the next Council meeting.

2.11 Council Letter of Support for the District Council Five Acres Project

The letter as drafted by the Clerk was approved.

2.12 There was no Chair's Report

3.1 Forest Edge South Neighbourhood Development Plan

A report was presented.

3.2 Grant Awards

It was noted that applications for summer grant awards would close on 4th June 2021

3.3 Youth Services

It was noted that a meeting of the Youth Group would be held on Friday 28th May 2021.

3.4 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was presented.

3.5 Deputy Clerk Report

The Deputy Clerk's report was presented.

It was noted in respect of Council notice boards, that PD would advise on the most appropriate location for the Pillowell notice board, and that an additional notice board was required for Christchurch.

The meeting closed at 9.55 pm.

The next Council Meeting would be held as a physical meeting, under Covid protocols, at the West Dean Centre, at 7.00 pm, Wednesday 30th June 2021, with consideration given to streaming the meeting to external observers.