**Minutes: Monday 14th January 2019 at the Rye Harbour Village Hall, 7:15 pm**

**Present:** Councillors: R Davis, J Horsman, A Moore, D Smedley, Mrs J Stanford, H Sutton, S Tollett, P Turner (Chairman) S Turner and N Warren.

**In attendance**: Mrs A Evett (Clerk,) Mrs J Cannings (Deputy Clerk,) ESCC Cllr. Glazier and RDC Cllrs. Mrs Hart and P Osborne.

**19/01 Item 1 the Chairman invited comments or questions from members of the public on matters relating to the business of the Council.** There were no questions.

**19/02 Item 2 to receive reports and ask questions of the County and District Councillors.** Cllr Glazier said that, further to the Clerk’s request for a meeting with Amber Rudd MP, he has spoken to Southern Water and will be pushing for a meeting with Ms Rudd and all concerned. He is asking for a full resurface of the main road at Winchelsea Beach and will ask Southern Water when the sewage issues will be resolved. The Chairman pointed out that most of the sewers were not in the road, which is why residents back gardens were flooded with sewage when the sewer overflowed. Turning to County Council matters, the budget will be approved next week (core offer) with some good news in that budget reductions will be better than expected following additional funds from central government (£5m to be saved.) However, the *meals on wheels* subsidy is planned to cease. ESCC are one of only a small number of Councils currently supporting meals on wheels.

Mrs Hart had submitted her report in advance of the meeting (available on the website) but highlighted the new waste management contract with BIFFA, consideration of three local neighbourhood plans, the draft Public Realm Strategy Framework and members’ allowances. She took questions on the enforcement of council tax, the hardship fund, the council tax reduction scheme, problems with road sweeping in Winchelsea, lack of letters in Winchelsea about the collection of waste and the outstanding request to have a meeting with the officer in charge of the waste and recycling contract.

Cllr Osborne spoke about advertising the hardship fund and that the new bandwidths for earnings should help housing benefit customers and process applications more efficiently.

**19/03 Item 3 Apologies for absence** received from Cllr Ms Austen, Mrs Lyward and Mrs Merricks.

**19/04 Item 4 Disclosures of Interests**. It was confirmed that councillors did not need to declare an interest in the hearing loops item as this had been done previously and the decision to proceed with the scheme was made at that time.

**19/05 Item 5 It was resolved to** approve and sign the minutes of the 12th November 2018 meeting.

**Matters requiring a decision by the Council**

**19/06 Item 6 Allotments Committee.** The draft minutes of the meeting held on the 10th December 2018 were noted. Cllr Warren asked if the committee would consider amending the wording of item 6 tenancy agreement 4.1 to add *without prior permission of the Council.* The Chairman of the committee will take this forward.

**19/07 Item 7 Open Spaces Committee.** The draft minutes of the meeting held on the 7th January 2019 were noted. I**t was resolved** **to approve all of the recommendations as follows:**

* Item 3 that the Council proceeds to stage 2 of the traffic calming project;
* Item 4 that a glass bus shelter be installed at Winchelsea Beach subject to permissions and a second quote;
* Item 5 that current parking arrangements at Harbour Field, Winchelsea Beach continue (parking behind the pavilion for special events with prior permission from the Committee)

**19/08 Item 8 Hearing Loops. It was resolved to approved the quotation from Libra** to install hearing loops at Icklesham Memorial Hall and the Rye Harbour Village Hall at a cost of £2,227.86 excluding VAT. It was noted that the Deputy Clerk was only able to obtain one quote despite considerable efforts.

**19/09 Item 9 Grant Request. It was resolved to approve the request for a grant** of £392 from the Winchelsea Beach Community Association of £392 for the purchase and installation of a hearing loop system to augment their existing system.

**19/10 Item 10 Utilities Provision for Rye Harbour Public Conveniences. It was resolved to accept the quotes from British Gas for electricity (2 year contract at £299.59 per year) and Affinity for water (estimated annual use cost of £2,943.14.)** See agenda for a full breakdown.

**19/11 Item 11 Rother Rural Trust. It was resolved to make a donation** at the same level as last year, thought to be **£100.** The Clerk to advertise the scheme.

**19/12 Item 12 Rye Harbour Village Hall Committee.** As the ward structure will be changing in the new council year **it was resolved** that a councillor would be appointed at the Annual Meeting in May. However the Clerk will contact the committee as Cllr Mrs Stanford has offered to stand immediately until the Annual Meeting, if required.

**19/13 Item 13 Rother District Council Renumeration Panel.** The report was noted.

**19/14 Item 14 Highway Improvement Study A259 Winchelsea. It was resolved to** request a meeting with the project manager to discuss the issues in depth including provision of a cycle path and impact on any speed calming measures amongst other things.

**19/15 Item 15 Financial Matters. It was resolved to approve:**

1. **Receipts and payments** report for the months ending 31st December 2018;
2. **Items for payment** in January 2019. Items paid since the last meeting were noted. A list of payments for December 2018 were authorised totalling £20,117.86 represented by bank transfers T/705 to T/730 sequentially totalling £18,974.13 plus three direct debits totalling £913.73 and one standing order totalling £230. A list of payments for January 2019 were authorised totalling £5,857.77 represented by bank transfers T/731 to T/739 totalling £4,718.36 plus three direct debits totalling £909.41 and one standing order for £230. November 2018 receipts totalled £418.41 and January 2019 receipts totalled £1.25.
3. **Budget 2019/20.** The draft budget was approved and the Clerk was authorised to apply for a **precept of £111,248** from Rother District Council.
4. **A donation of £25 was approved** to the organ appeal at St Thomas’ Church Winchelsea for use of the church *from Chairman’s Expenses*.

**Matters for Information or Noting**

**19/16 Item 16 The** **Planning Committee** minutes (previously circulated) were noted.

**19/17 Item 17** The **Rother Voluntary Action** meeting on the 11th February 2019 was noted.

**19/18 Item 18** The email from Mr Johnston of **RDC** about funding grass verge cutting was noted.

**19/19 Item 19 Programme of Works** until the end of December 2018; the report was noted and the Clerk was asked to progress the installation of the Rye Harbour fingerpost and the Winchelsea Heritage Bins using an alternative contractor if necessary.

**19/20 Item 20 Correspondence** – none other than an email just received by Cllr Smedley about the car park at Winchelsea Station. Cllr Smedley will direct the resident to Udimore Parish Council.

**19/21 Item 21 Reports of Councillors and Officers on Outside Bodies and Attending Events**.

The Chairman and Deputy Chairman attended a RALC meeting.

**19/22 Item 22 Future meetings or events**. Noted as listed on the schedule.

**19/23 Item 23 Date and venue for next meeting**. The next full council meeting is confirmed as Monday 11th March 2019 at the Winchelsea New Hall commencing at 7:15pm.

Meeting closed at 20.20 Signed: Dated: