

Icklesham Parish Council

Minutes of the additional meeting held via video conference on

Monday 8th March 2021 at 7:15pm

Present: Councillors: I Mcconnochie, Mrs Merricks, T Moore, D Smedley, Mrs Stanford, H Sutton, S Tollett, P Turner (Chairman), N Warren

In attendance: Miss C Dyer (Clerk), Mrs J Cannings (Deputy Clerk), Cllr Norton (Rother) Cllr Glazier (ESCC) Members of the public were present

21/40 Item 1. The Chairman opened the meeting and reminded those present that the meeting was being recorded. He invited comments or questions from members of the public on any matters in respect of the business of the agenda.

Ms Taylor requested that an amendment be made to the draft minutes of 1st March 2021 as follows; ESCC were not referenced in relation to published costings and that it was other County Councils across the Country. She also requested that her question to Cllr Turner regarding having site of the brief which had been provided to the Contractors being approached for the most recent quotes was noted and the response from Cllr Turner who advised that the quotations were being sought based the brief which been provided by ESCC and that this would be made available to the public.

Mr Justice queried whether a further resolution will need to be made following the resignation of Cllr Lyward. Cllr Turner advised this would need to be clarified. He went on to note the response from OFWAT which he felt demonstrated that Southern Water have given false information. He stated that he felt that it was unacceptable that following repeated requests this issue had still not been resolved.

21/41 Item 2. To receive reports and ask questions of County Councillor Keith Glazier and Rother District Councillors concerning County Council and Rother District Council matters (10 minutes)

Cllr Glazier advised following comments by the public that the timetable for the repair works to the A259 at Winchelsea Beach are scheduled and on course be delivered during 2021/22 financial year. He noted that there had been some design problems due to the mix of road surfaces which had pushed back the design. He went on to say that currently the intervention depth for works was 40mm but that in Winchelsea Beach the structure was concrete with a thin asphalt top. He noted that he had requested that a solution for roads of this construction to be looked at. Cllr Glazier requested that residents report any issues with the road surface via the ESCC website. In relation to Covid numbers he noted that these are continuing to fall but that they are still higher than during the first lockdown and that people should still be encouraged to stay at home wherever possible. Cllr Stanford asked Cllr Glazier to confirm whether ESCC was going to match fund or provide any funds for the Winchelsea Speed calming project. Cllr Glazier responded that the Council has been made aware match funding can be applied for but that currently no Council money had been sought. Mr Justice (resident) queried whether he would be able to request that Southern Water's

Chairman attend the next Council meeting and Cllr Glazier responded that he would be happy to write to Southern Water on behalf of the Parish Council to request this. Mr Justice went on to note that overpumping was now being undertaken in Winchelsea Beach by Southern Water and noted his concerns in relation to this. Cllr Glazier explained that the Environment Agency would have had to agree the overpumping and they were responsible for the licensing and monitoring.

Cllr Norton (Rother) reported that the District Council was facing a difficult financial situation and that there had been an increase to Council Tax for residents. He went on to advise that at the last full Council meeting it had been approved in principal to develop the Town Hall site and that updates will be provided when he has them. He explained that the Council are looking to develop the site as a whole to include some housing. He went on to discuss the planning review which was going through the final stages and advised that the focus was on new developments but that he has raised the issue of dilapidated properties. He noted that toilets continue to be a problem and that a working party is being set up to look at their future. Regarding waste Cllr Norton noted that there had been a 40% increase in fly tipping during the pandemic. He was pleased to have heard that a group of residents in Winchelsea Beach were organising parties to go out and collect litter. In relation to the Green Agenda he advised that Kristina Sodomkova from Rother had started regular seminars with the first meeting taking place last week. He advised that the issue of tree wardens has been raised and that it was hoped that uptake would increase. Cllr Warren discussed the current Rother consultation which states that there will be a £78k cut next year relating to staffing costs and voiced his concern that the planning department in particular were already advising they did not have enough staff to undertake enforcement work or offer advice. He queried how confident Cllr Norton was that cuts would not affect the ability of the District Council to meet its obligations. Cllr Norton responded that he was worried about planning as a whole and that he does see it as an urgent priority. He concluded by saying that he would hate to think any of the cuts would be in planning and that the Council are looking to increase the numbers in this department.

21/42 Item 3. Apologies for absence.

- a. To receive and record apologies for absence. Cllrs Austen and Bradley and Cllr Mier (Rother) gave apologies.
- b. To consider any requests for approval of reasons for absence, if any. Members are also asked to complete and sign the circulated sheet (circulated electronically.) *There were none.*

21/43 Item 4. Disclosure of Interests – Cllr Warren and Cllr Turner declared personal interests in item 15.

21/44 Item 5. To consider and approve the signing by the Chairman of the attached minutes of the Council meeting of 1st March 2021. Cllr Stanford requested that the minutes be amended to include the following discussion against item 5 (a).

Cllr Stanford discussed the need to factor in the cost of the Deputy Clerk's time in relation to the project. She went on to note that the Council needs to be mindful of what it is being spent on behalf of residents and that if the Council were proposing spending funds on speed calming works in Winchelsea then they could expect residents to request money towards resolving the problems with sewage and flooding in Winchelsea Beach and the pothole problems in Rye Harbour. She noted that she felt that costs should be known up front as if the costs of the works are too high that the

money cannot be raised this could be wasted. She requested that a further opportunity to vote on the project should be put to the public before any further decisions are made.

Cllrs Sutton, Stanford and Moore abstained from voting.

It was resolved to approve the minutes subject to the amendments requested by Ms J Taylor (Resident) and Cllr Stanford.

Matters Requiring a Decision by the Council

- 21/45 Item 6 Rother Voluntary Action.** *It was resolved to make contact with Five Villages Home Association to promote this project.*
- 21/46 Item 7 Defibrillator.** *It was resolved to purchase a defibrillator for installation at the Harbour Field pavilion.*
- 21/47 Item 8 Rye Harbour Discovery Centre Update.** *Information noted.*
- 21/48 Item 9 Draft member and employee protocol.** *It was agreed to defer to a future meeting as it was felt that other documents duplicate the document which has been submitted for consideration.*
- 21/49 Item 10 Approval to apply for debit card.** *It was resolved by Council to approve the Clerk's request to apply for a debit card for the Parish Bank account.*
- 21/50 Item 11 Playground safety inspections.** *It was resolved that the Clerk will continue with weekly inspections. Item to be added to the next Open Spaces Committee meeting for review.*
- 21/51 Item 12 Job evaluation.** *It was agreed to move this item to the end of the agenda to allow it to be taken under confidential business. It was resolved to proceed with the lower of the two quotations for the works and that the works are funded from the legal fees budget.*
- 21/52 Item 13 Rother Corporate Plan.** *It was resolved to send the response as circulated with one amendment of the final sentence due to a grammatical error.*
- 21/53 Item 14 Allotments.** *It was resolved to continue with the current wording of the application form.*
- 21/54 Item 15 Icklesham Parish Community Land Trust.** *It was resolved that Councillors would submit any suggestions direct to the IPCLT.*
- 21/55 Item 16 Icklesham Parish Council Website.** *It was resolved to approve the go live date of 10th March for the new Parish Website being hosted by Rother District Council.*
- 21/56 Item 17 Mary Stanford Lifeboat House.** *Cllr Stanford gave a verbal update in relation to the erosion of the beach at Rye Harbour and the associated threat to the Mary Stanford Lifeboat House and therefore the emergency haul road behind it. She advised that a meeting had been held on 26th January 2021 attended by herself, Cllr Warren and Cllr Tollett along with Angela Marlow and Sue Beale from Natural England. She advised that they had discussed the possible placing of rock armour at the*

boathouse and that Natural England said that the SMP (Shoreline Management Plan) had to be reviewed and suggested a further meeting with the Environment Agency. She noted that she had also had conversations with Dr Barry Yates from Sussex Wildlife Trust who also has concerns in relation to the impact the potential loss of the haul road. Cllr Stanford requested permission from Council to organise a meeting with the Environment Agency and report back their findings. This was agreed.

21/57 Item 18 Winchelsea Recycling bins. *It was resolved to feedback to Rother District Council that the bins at Winchelsea be removed. It was further resolved to request that any associated signage be removed.*

21/58 Item 19 Hastings Athletic Football Club. *It was resolved to take this to the next Open Spaces Committee meeting for further discussion.*

21/59 Item 20 Jubilee Field Entrance. *It was resolved to proceed with the submitted quotation for the review of the deed of easement.*

21/60 Item 21 Continuation of virtual meetings. It was noted that the situation would be monitored.

21/61 Item 22 Winchelsea Beach Sewage System. The correspondence already circulated was noted. Cllr Glazier kindly offered to make contact with Sally-Ann Hart MP with a view to the two sending a letter to Southern Water.

21/62 Item 23 Winchelsea Speed Calming. *It was resolved to advertise for people to volunteer to sit on the working group and to request that they give a brief outline of the expertise that they can bring. Correspondence from Mr Hornig (resident) was discussed. It was resolved that Cllr Turner will provide a direct response.*

21/63 Item 24 To note the **Planning Committee** minutes of 25th January and 8th February already circulated. Any questions to be directed to the committee chairman.

21/64 Item 25 Financial Matters

Resolved:

- a. **Receipts and payments** report for the month ending 28th February 2021 - enclosed.
- b. Items paid (to note) and **items for payment** to date in March 2021 – enclosed. *It was resolved to look into an Amazon Business account for the purchase of stationery.*
- c. To note and thank Cllr Warren for undertaking the quarterly bank reconciliations for quarters 2 and 3 of the 2020-21 financial year. Noted.
- d. To confirm the continuance of the internal auditor Mr Keith Robertson for the financial year 20/21 as per minute 20/51 of the full council meeting of 13th July 2020. *This was agreed.*

Matters for Information or Noting

21/65 Item 26 Conclusion of external audit 2019/20. Noted.

21/66 Item 27 Programme of Works up until the end of February. Noted.

21/67 Item 28 Presentation on Biodiversity Net Gain. The circulated slides were noted.

- 21/68 Item 29 Notice of casual vacancy.** *The resignation of Cllr Lyward was noted. The Council wished to note gratitude for the service she had given during her time as a Councillor.*
- 21/69 Item 30 Correspondence.** Correspondence from two residents was tabled. *It was resolved to respond to the residents that a working group is being formed in relation to the Winchelsea Speed Calming project and further information will be published following these meetings.*
- 21/70 Item 31 Reports of Councillors and Officers on Outside Bodies and Attending Events.** Cllr Turner provided an update on SSALC who from the 1st April will be dissolved. The Parish Council will then be serviced by ESALC as a standalone association. The Chairman will be Trevor Leggo who will work 2 days per week. He went on to advise that he will be attending the RADCOTT meeting on Wednesday and that the minutes for the previous meeting in November have been circulated to Councillors for information.
- 21/71 Item 32 Future meetings or events.** None noted.
- 21/70 Date and venue for next meeting.** Monday 10th May 2021 at 7:15pm (Annual Statutory Meeting).

Meeting closed at 9:41pm.