

Icklesham Parish Council

Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held at

Rye Harbour Village Hall on

Wednesday 25th August 2021 at 7:15pm

Present: Councillors: J. Justice, I. McConnachie, T Moore, D Smedley, Mrs J. Stanford, H. Sutton, S. Tollett, P. Turner (Chairman), N Warren

In attendance: Mr. A. Beams (RFO), Cllr Ms. G. Stevens Members of the public were also present

The Acting Clerk confirmed that the newly elected ward member for Winchelsea Cllr Smedley had completed the declaration of acceptance of office and he took his seat.

21/236 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 matters relating to the business of the Council.

Ms. Mears asked why the meeting had not been held in Winchelsea Town when the next one was also being held at Rye Harbour.

Laurie Rutman said that he was a member of the traffic calming working group and he spoke on behalf of the whole of the working group that we are now at a stage that they can finally endorse the report and move forward. It's been a difficult process as two years ago the Council agreed to appoint consultants for traffic calming and during that time the rat run, and the speeding have got worse. This isn't just about Winchelsea this is about the problems affecting the entire area and although we are struck with the problem of the rat run the speeding issue affects everyone and so we are hoping that with the consultant's report what we are expecting to see is a report that gives us a platform on which we can deal with speeding issues throughout the area so the figures from the consultancy will be substantially lower as you know from that originally thrown out by the County Council. We are very appreciative of the two councillors who joined in the process. You will see the reports and recommendations of one particular firm, and it is a firm that has worked in both Burwash and Seddlescombe on a comparable project so hopefully tonight we can move forward to deal with Stage 1. No there is no purpose in speculating what might be the outcome or what might be the future cost of any job, we have absolutely no idea because there are whole series of options which we have touched on during discussions with the consultants. The sums could be negligible or be very substantial, but we want a report that provides an economic and pragmatic solution to the problem.

Natasha Murphy said that she spoke on behalf of the PTA of St. Thomas's School with 150 kids. She said the problem had become unbearable she said the children cannot go to the Little Shop because they cannot cross the street. She asked for something to be done before there is a major accident. She said they had all been trying for so long and nothing happens so she hoped something could be done.

Anne Menzies reported that her friend Julia had her car parked and some joyrider came along in the evening and wrote the whole thing off having hit her car and another car and went all the way around to Cleveland House where his axel gave way which forced him to put a note on his windscreen otherwise the police would have prosecuted him for hitting and running. She asked what it was going to be next time, a life?

Craig Andrews endorsed what the previous speakers had to say and there was a major risk to about tourists and business to the town of which there were a number and talked about a 20-mph zone, so cars were not speeding through. He said he had witnessed an incident with a cyclist and a photographer who stepped off the pavement to take a picture. He said that it was not just a problem for the residents and that it was an accident waiting to happen. He hoped that something would come out of the meeting.

21/237 Item 2 Apologies for absence Cllrs K Glazier, R. Bird, H. Norton and A. Mier

21/238 Item 3 Disclosure of Interests – None.

21/239 Item 4 Minutes of meeting of 12th July 2021

Cllr Smedley raised an item 4/7 where the Minutes said that Cllr Hacking stood up and turned her back on IPC members and introduced herself to the residents – that gives the impression that that was a snub to IPC members. He said he was at that meeting and that was not her intention, she did not deliberately turn her back.

The Chairman answered that she was supposed to be addressing the Council not the public gallery. Cllr Stanford made the point that the fact that Cllr Hacking turned her back meant that members of the Council who had hearing problems could not hear what she had to say and did not know until they read the Minutes. **Agreed without amendment.**

Matters Requiring a Decision by the Council

21/240 Item 5 Traffic Calming

- (a) To receive the report from the Traffic Calming Group on the bids for the design of the project. Chairman Cllr Turner said at this point could he express his appreciation for all the work that had gone into the report and asked if anyone had any comments.
- (b) To consider the recommendations from the group and move that the contract be awarded to GTA in the sum of £4,500 plus VAT with an estimated cost of £5,000 for the Road Safety Audit work and a Traffic Order. This work to be carried out by a third party. Cllr Turner said that GTA had been given to him by Burwash Parish Council because they carried out a similar exercise and they were exceedingly pleased by the work and the outcome of the project was a lot cheaper, so he recommended them. Cllr Warren said he supported going ahead with it and the feeling he gets is that GTA understand the problem in Winchelsea, and they would like to see a resolution there as well as right across the parish. It was a reasonable cost, and it was the only way we were going to move forward. Cllr Warren said he does now have someone to be part of the group and they should be looking parish wide not just Winchelsea. Cllr Smedley proposed that we go ahead and also agreed that we needed to look at the whole parish. He said the figures were £36,000 when this first began followed by a possible £200,000 and those were fairy tale figures, and the work will come in considerably cheaper, and we should go ahead with it. **Approved**
- (c) To consider the next steps after the completion of the design stage. Cllr Turner said he had had put this on the agenda to remind members that we would have to do consultations on the design once we have it and it may be some adjustments will have to be made. This would happen first and foremost with the residents of Winchelsea because they were directly affected but depending on costs, we would seriously have to consider consulting the whole Parish. Cllr Smedley reminded the Chairman there were other avenues for grants which would take the figures down

considerably he said there was at least £50,000 sitting at East Sussex CC for match funding. Cllr Justice said that would depend on whether the County Council support the scheme and that we should get things in writing. Cllr Turner said it would depend on who else was in the queue at the time of the application. Cllr Stanford reminded the meeting she had specifically asked Cllr Glazier at a previous meeting whether ESCC had funding for this scheme and was told by there was no money. She agreed with Cllr Justice that we should get these things in writing. Cllr Turner said that there would be some spare capacity in the loan monies, and we have the choice of not to pick up that spare capacity and we only have that option until the end of March, but we might consider whether it is appropriate to purchase that additional equipment as we have sums in the budget for the purchase of SIDs. Cllr Turner said they should consider purchasing equipment to move around the parish. Cllr Justice said he was quite happy to place a pole on his property in Sea Road to get this moving. Cllr Warren said he wanted to put forward Tanya Reading to join the Group for Icklesham. Cllr Tollett asked what had happened to John Hornig for Rye Harbour's application for joining the Group.

21/241 Item 6 Financial Matters

To receive a Receipts and Payments Report updated to 30 June 2021.

21/242 Item 7 District Councillors reporting to the Parish Council. In view of the fact that there are six District Councillors representing the Parish, to consider limiting the number of District Councillors invited to report at Council meetings to the Councillors for the District Ward in which the meeting is taking place. The Chairman said he had added this to the Agenda because of the length of time Items 1 and 2 had been taking. He said with six District Councillors to fit into a 10 minute slot it would make more sense if we only expected the two councillors whose Wards we were actually meeting in to report. Cllr Bird replied to the Chairman that he thought it was a good idea as he normally only attends when we were meeting at Icklesham. It was mentioned that ex District Councillor Sally Ann Hart used to send a written report which we could read before the meeting. Cllr Stanford said that she was excellent. Cllr Warren moved an amendment to the proposal at the end – with the exception that should a District Councillor for that Ward not be available then they could nominate a District Councillor to take their place.
Agreed

Matters for Information or Noting

21/243 Item 8 Appointment of Clerk and RFO. To note the Staffing Committee decision to appoint Jenner Sands as the new Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

The Council then resolved to move into private session to deal with the remaining agenda items.

21/246 Item 18. Date and venue for next meeting. Monday 13th September at Rye Harbour Village Hall

Meeting closed at 9.30pm