

ICKLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

A local council for the peoples of Icklesham, Winchelsea, Winchelsea Beach and Rye Harbour

**Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held at 7:00m on Monday 13th
December 2021 at Icklesham Memorial Hall**

Present: Councillors: J. Justice, D. Kitteridge, I Mann, I. McConnachie, Mrs. C Rice, D Smedley, Mrs J. Stanford, H. Sutton, N. Warren, Mrs A Thomson P. Turner (Chairman)

In attendance: Jenner Sands (Clerk and RFO), Members of the public were also present

21/280 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.

Paul Veys of Winchelsea confirmed he has recently taken on the role of Co-Chair of the newly formed Winchelsea Residents' Association and it is on their behalf that he is speaking tonight. He confirmed they have around 150 members with numbers increasing rapidly. He confirmed that recently there have been four significant road traffic accidents, by significant he means they have involved more than one car and left the cars undriveable. He said that the residents are terrified that if a pedestrian happened to be around it would be a fatality. He said it is happening because there are at least 200 cars per hour passing through Winchelsea. He said that a recent survey revealed that 80% of the cars are simply cutting through to avoid that narrow u-bend. He said that they are driving quickly as they want to make up time to beat the traffic going the other way. He confirmed Winchelsea is full of obstacles, both with parked cars and blind spots which is why there are so many accidents. He made the point that there are often small children crossing the road and said it is a disaster waiting to happen. He said that with that background, he comes with a request from all members of the Winchelsea Group. They understand we have obtained a report from GTA for traffic calming options which may be suitable for Winchelsea and that report is going to be sent out to a number of agencies. He said that surely, with the utmost respect, the most important consultee is now the residents. He said the report must now go to the residents so if we have a meeting in January to discuss that report more fully we have some feedback from residents which will be crucial. He said that he would be surprised if the agencies we send it to do not need some kind of comments from residents. He has a very firm request that the residents see the full report without redactions, he would be happy for this to come from the Traffic Calming group so they can give us feedback in time for the January meeting.

Jane Taylor of Winchelsea said she would just like to question the point the Chairman made earlier about having to spend the money before the end of March. She said that they do not understand this to be the case. She said that we have to draw down the money before the 12 months but we do not have to spend the money. She said that she hopes this gives Councillors reassurance that there isn't that immediate haste. She said that there is time for resident consultation particularly as the draw down of the funds has to happen before the end of March but the expenditure does not. The Chairman confirmed that the conditions under which the loan was extended were that we drew it down and spent it by the end of the financial year. Jane Taylor said that she does not believe that to be the case but that she would be more than happy to check the loan agreement if we would share it.