

Minutes: Monday 11th November 2019 at the Winchelsea New Hall, 7:15 pm

Present: Councillors: Ms Austen, B Davis, Mrs Merricks, A Moore, P Myers, D Smedley, H Sutton, P Turner (Chairman) and N Warren.

In attendance: Mrs A Evett (Clerk,) Mrs J Cannings (Deputy Clerk) and ESCC Cllr. Glazier, RDC Cllr Norton. Members of the public were also present.

19/118 Item 1 The Chairman invited comments or questions from members of the public on matters relating to the business of the Council. Mr Clarke of Winchelsea thanked the Council for its work on traffic calming and said that this is not just about tackling speeding in Winchelsea; it's also to learn lessons for all wards in the parish. Natasha, a Winchelsea resident, also thanked the Council for its work on traffic calming in Winchelsea and reported that her five year old daughter was recently hit by a car in the town.

19/119 Item 2 To receive reports and ask questions of the County (ESCC) and District (RDC) Councillors. Cllr. Glazier said that ESCC are working on the budget but due to the general election there might be a delay. He was concerned to hear about parking and traffic problems near St Thomas' School in Winchelsea. He confirmed that we will soon have a named PCSO for the area.

19/120 Item 3 Apologies for absence. Apologies received from Cllrs Mrs Bradley, Mrs Lyward and Tollett. Cllr Tollett requested that his reasons for absence (caring for his mother during ill health) were accepted. **Council resolved** to accept Cllr Tollett's apologies and reasons for absence. All absent RDC councillors gave their apologies.

19/121 Item 4 Disclosures of Interests. There were none.

19/122 Item 5 It was resolved to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of 9th September 2019.

Matters requiring a decision by the Council

19/123 Item 6 Allotments Committee. The draft minutes of the meeting held on 23rd September 2019 were noted.

19/124 Item 7 Open Spaces Committee. The draft minutes of the meeting held on the 28th October 2019 were noted. **It was resolved** to approve all recommendations as follows:

- (a) Winchelsea Speed Calming, to proceed to stage one of the project, the design phase at a cost of approximately £36,000 to be funded via a Public Works Loan Board loan over 25 years, to include an article in all parish magazines about the scheme and why it can't be done on the A259 (Highways England) and for the Chairman of the committee to respond to the editor's report in the Icklesham parish magazine;
- (b) To form a parish Speedwatch group – Cllr Smedley to lead
- (c) To form a Crime Prevention Group (not Neighbourhood Watch) to be led by Cllr Smedley and to include residents;
- (d) To form a sub working group of the Open Spaces Committee to work with Sussex Wildlife Trust on congestions issues at Rye Harbour, to include councillors Mrs Merricks, Tollett and Warren.

It was resolved to approve the Clerk to proceed with a Public Works Loan Board loan (annuity) of £36,000 over a twenty five year term with immediate effect; repayment terms fluctuate and are only correct at the time the loan is taken but currently stands at 2.94% with an annual payment of £2,039.02. To note that the estimated costs at the time the budget was set were £25,000 for stage one but as the loan has not yet been drawn there are sufficient funds in the 19/20 budget.

19/125 Item 8 Environmental policy and the Council's view on the cutting of trees and vegetation. Cllr Myers confirmed that he had drafted a policy to be presented to the next meeting. **It was resolved that** the Council approves an policy of not to undertake or approve any cutting of trees or vegetation for any reasons other than safety or to encourage health of a tree; specifically not for cosmetic or amenity reasons. In terms of the allotments, normal husbandry applies.

19/126 Item 9 Recent closure of the A259. It was resolved to authorise the Clerk to write to ESCC Highways, Highways England, RDC and the Police to query the approach on that day and the absence of a plan; ask to take into account the management of traffic as well as the incident.

19/127 Item 10 Letter form the Chairman of Rother District Council about a donation to the Rother Rural Trust. The Clerk was asked to write to the Chairman and ask to see a copy of their accounts.

19/128 Item 11 Planning Committee minutes were noted.

19/129 Item 12 Financial Matters. It was resolved to approve:

- a) **Receipts and payments** report for the month ending 31st October 2019;
- b) **Items for payment** in November 2019 and those paid since the September meeting. A list of payments were authorised for **September** (2) totalling £14,443.56 represented by bank transfers T/871 to T/882 totalling £14,311.51 plus three direct debits totalling £132.05. For **October** 2019 a list of payments were authorised totalling £15,805.09 represented by bank transfers T/883 to T/900 totalling £14,598.64, plus 5 direct debits totalling £976.45 and one standing order totalling £230. September 2019 receipts totalled £447.74. **November** 2019 payments were authorised totalling £3,929.71 represented by bank transfers T/901 to T/911 sequentially totalling £2,736.78 plus 5 direct debits totalling £962.93 and one standing order for £230. October 2019 receipts totalled £5,431.74.

Matters for Information or Noting

19/130 Item 13 Programme of works for October was noted. The officers were asked to keep the football fencing at Icklesham on the agenda until the next meeting.

19/131 Item 14 Correspondence. A letter from the Rt. Hon. Amber Rudd MP dated 5th November 2019 thanking the Council for its work was noted.

19/132 Item 15 Reports of Councillors and Officers on Outside Bodies and Attending Events.

Cllr Mrs Merricks attended a meeting of the Rye Harbour Nature Reserve; Cllr Smedley has been appointed to the RDC Audit and Standards Committee and attended a RALC meeting; the Chairman and Clerk attended Parish Online training and a speeding workshop; some members of the Planning Committee and Clerk attended Planning Training.

19/133 Item 16 Future meetings or events. Cllr Smedley will attend a meeting of the Winchelsea Conservation Society. There is a closed budget meeting on the 25th November.

19/134 Item 17 Date and venue for next meeting. The next full council meeting was confirmed as Monday 13th January 2020 at the Winchelsea Beach Community Hall commencing at 7:15pm.

Meeting closed at 8.05 pm.