

## **Minutes: Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at the Icklesham Memorial Hall, 7:15 pm**

**Present:** Councillors: Mrs E Bradley, B Davis, Mrs S Lyward, Mrs Merricks, A Moore, P Myers, D Smedley, Mrs J Stanford, H Sutton, P Turner (Chairman) and N Warren.

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

**20/19 Item 1 The Chairman invited comments or questions from members of the public on matters relating to the business of the Council.** Mr Gordon and Ms Nelson-Smith both of Rye Harbour asked about the flag mast at Rye Harbour. They queried the report of the February inspection and asked about the maintenance of the mast.

**20/20 Item 2 To receive reports and ask questions of the County (ESCC) and District (RDC) Councillors.** Cllr Glazier asked residents to continue reporting pot holes and that three times as many repairs had been undertaken so far this year compared with last year. Budget discussions were complete with a 1.99% increase in Council Tax plus a further 2% on the adult social care precept. Cllr Glazier had just returned from a meeting with the Secretary of State about adult social care; the Government's White paper will be published soon. He answered questions about the pot hole repair criteria and types of repairs and about the road closures in Rye for major gas works. Alternative routes were discussed but they did not meet the standard for heavy goods vehicles. It was suggested that the Rye Hospital look to hold surgeries in village halls if possible during the works; the clerk to contact them and Rye Town Council.

**20/21 Item 3 Apologies for absence.** Apologies received from Cllr Ms Austen and Tollett and RDC Cllrs Osborne and Mier.

**20/22 Item 4 Disclosures of Interests.** There were none.

**20/23 Item 5 It was resolved to** approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

### **Matters Requiring a Decision by the Council**

**20/25 Item 6 Open Spaces Committee.** The draft minutes of the meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were noted and **it was resolved** to approve the draft **Environmental Policy** with thanks given to Cllr Myers for drafting it. The Clerk recommended that following concerns raised by residents about the **Rye Harbour Flag Mast** safety inspection report, that a second opinion should be sought before proceeding with the removal of the mast; **it was resolved to obtain a second inspection report.**

**20/26 Item 7 Allotments Committee.** The draft minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020 were noted and **it was resolved to approve the tenancy and rules for the paddocks** at Rye Harbour Allotment gardens. A tenants meeting will take place on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, 7 pm at the Court Hall.

**20/27 Item 8 Staffing Committee.** The draft minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020 were noted. There were no suggested amendments to the terms of reference for committees.

**20/28 Item 9 Rother District Council (RDC) Community Governance Review – Bexhill-on-sea. It was resolved** to comments that the Council supports the formation of a town council for Bexhill to bring it in line with the governance of the rest of the district.

**20/29 Item 10 Proposed update to the RALC constitution. It was resolved to** approve this without comment.

**20/30 Item 11 Grant application from Rye Harbour Sailability (RHS)** The update on the VAT status was noted and **It was resolved to** approve a grant of £200.00.

**20/31 Item 12 Quotes for tree works.** Three quotes ranging from £980 to £1,400 were tabled and it was resolved the accept the quote from GSH for £980 plus VAT.

**20/32 Item 13 East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service consultation** on planning a safer future. It was resolved to comment that we do not support any potential closures of stations, particularly the Ridge, Hastings as this serves our rural community. The council would like to see more advertising of services for the elderly and vulnerable such a free fire alarms and testing. All members were encouraged to complete the survey.

**20/33 Item 14 Public Works Loan Board application.** It was resolved to amend the wording of the resolution (made on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019 ref: 19/124) as requested by the loan board to the following:

it was resolved to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to apply for a PWLB loan of £36,000 over the borrowing term of 25 years for phase 1 of a traffic calming scheme in Winchelsea to commission the preliminary design. The annual loan repayment (at the time of the meeting) will come to around £2,039.02. It is also intended to increase the council tax precept for the purpose of the loan repayments by 1.83 % which is the equivalent of an additional £2,039.02 a year (£1.66 for a band D council tax.) This will be/has been subject to precept consultation.

**20/34 Item 15 The Planning Committee** minutes since the last meeting were noted.

**20/35 Item 16 Financial Matters. It was resolved to approve:**

- a) **Receipts and payments** report for the month ending 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020;
- b) **Items for payment** in March 2020 and those paid since the January meeting. A list of payments were authorised for January 2020 (2) totalling £3,659.17 represented by bank transfers T/938 to T/945 totalling £3,632.17 plus one direct debit of £27.00. For February 2020 a list of payments were authorised totalling £8,375.13 represented by bank transfers T/946 to T/961 totalling £6,483.64, plus 3 direct debits totalling £1,661.49 and one standing order totalling £230. December 2019 receipts totalled £1.17. January 2020 receipts totalled £5,244.19. There were no payments listed for authorisation in March..

#### **Matters for Information or Noting**

**20/36 Item 17 Notification of the public coastal access report** - noted.

**20/37 Item 18 The repair and maintenance work** recommended in the playground inspection has been booked – noted.

**20/38 Item 19 Major gas works in Rye** – correspondence noted.

**20/39 Item 20 Programme of Works** up until the end of February - noted. Cllr Warren offered to act as the focal point for the litter pick in Icklesham and asked that councillors in other wards consider doing the same.

**20/40 Item 21 Correspondence.** Letter of thanks from the Winchelsea Beach Community Association for their grant and email from Mrs Veale of Winchelsea noted.

**20/41 Item 22 Reports of Councillors and Officers on Outside Bodies and Attending Events.** Cllr Warren attended a meeting in Icklesham about a village shop. The Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk attended a Marsham Parishes meeting and Cllr Mrs Lyward attended a HORAC meeting.

**20/42 Item 23 Future meetings or events.** As given on schedule for planned meetings of the council. The Annual Parish meeting is planned for Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020 and a public flooding meeting at Winchelsea Beach on the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2020, 10 am at the village hall.

**20/43 Item 24 Date and venue for next meeting.** The next full council meeting is confirmed as Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020 at the Rye Harbour Village Hall commencing at 7:15pm. This will be the Annual Meeting of the Council.

Meeting closed at 8.18 pm.