



Minutes of the Council meeting held Tuesday 10th January 2023 at 7.30pm at Peasmarsh Memorial Hall.

Present: Councillors: David Pankhurst (Chair) (DP), Mick Coleman (MC), Peter Lamont (PL), Hilary Pankhurst (HP), Gina Sanderson (GS) and Robert Barham (RB).

Also present: Clerk Amy Head (AH), County Councillor Paul Redstone (PR) and District Councillors Paul Osborne (PO) and Lizzie Hacking (LH).

93. **Apologies for absence** – Councillors Ray Hollman (RH) and Ben Clinton (BC).
94. **Disclosure of interests under the Council's Code of Conduct** – GS for 97.2 and HP, DP and MC for 99.3.
95. **Minutes of the last Council meeting – December 6th 2022** – Unanimously agreed and signed by the Chairman.
96. **District & County Councillor Reports – District Councillor Report** – PO reported that in the last Full Council meeting there was a question from a member of the public asking how much money had been spent on the planning application for the regeneration of Bexhill's Town Hall. It was determined that around £730,000 had been spent on this application which was then turned down by RDC itself. DP asked who was behind the plans. LH said that it was the Housing Alliance. In a meeting regarding RDC's budget, PO said that RDC would need to draw down from Reserves to balance the budget (c.£2.3M). This will leave Reserves at a minimum of around £5M. PO said that RDC had new Enforcement Officers working in the community which has caused some controversy. Recently a resident in Battle was fined for doing a litter pick and emptying the contents in a public litter bin and traders in Rye have been fined for not carrying a waste license and disposing of their waste in the Chamber of Commerce bins in Rye. LH said that the recent RDC leisure survey cost £50M to commission which raises questions about the correct use of tax payer's money. Councillors asked if the Rye swimming pool was due to re-open in the Spring. LH said that this was still unknown.
County Councillor Report – PR arrived at 7.50pm. He had supplied a written report prior to the meeting which was circulated to the PC and put on the PC's website. DP asked him if there had been a meeting regarding the medium-term financial plan for ESCC as previously it had been stated that this meeting would take place by 21st December. PR said that he hadn't had a meeting about it since before Christmas but that he did know that the Fire Service were now getting more funding from Central Government than expected. PR raised the current issue of multiple potholes in the area. He had been in contact with Carl Maynard from ESCC Highways and he has stated that 700 potholes have been repaired in the area since 3rd January 2023. There are now 17 teams, working long days to clear the backlog of repairs in the next three weeks. PR also reiterated that ESCC Highways is underfunded compared with

Signed: *D. Pankhurst*

date: 7th February 2023

Education and Adult Social Care (due to the higher proportion of elderly residents in East Sussex). GS also said that this area has fewer roads than other areas which are ESCC Highways' responsibility. DP asked PR why the Rye Community Transport Bus couldn't pick up residents from Peasmarch for the 'Warm Hub' at the Rye Hub on the Hill. PR said he wasn't sure why but it may be to do with Peasmarch not being one of the areas they usually serve. PR said with ESCC's bus improvement project ongoing, he hoped that the £2 max Stagecoach fees may encourage more bus usage in rural areas.

97. Housing –

97.1 Tanyard field development – No updates.

97.2 Pippins' development – No updates.

97.3 RDC Local Plan – The NDP group met with Jeff Pryah from RDC's planning department prior to Christmas, however GS wanted to know from the District Councillors if they knew when the planning department would come back to the NDP group to discuss what sites they are looking at in Peasmarch, so that the NDP group and RDC are not working at odds. Julia Edwards needs a Plan by the end of the first week of February to be able to start Regulation 16 before the Local Election Purdah period begins. LH said that GS should email Jeff Pryah and ask for key headlines. **ACTION:** PO said that he would email Jeff Pryah for an update.

97.4 Neighbourhood Planning for Peasmarch – GS reported that the NDP group had completed the Regulation 14 (Consultation) phase of the Plan at the beginning of December 2022. A meeting followed with RDC planner Jeff Pryah and the group are now working through the comments that they have received. The comments have been very useful, especially ESCC's response and they had more of a response from Public Health England than was expected in relation to mental and physical health provision, dementia care and cycling. PR asked GS if ESCC Highways referenced flooding in their comments. **ACTION:** GS said that they did and she would forward the report to PR.

GS said that the NDP group were now working to a tight deadline as if the NDP is to be approved pre-Purdah and Local Elections, the final chance for RDC to approve the Plan is at their Full Council meeting on 27th March 2023. **RESOLVED:** The PC could provisionally approve the Plan at an extraordinary meeting on Thursday 9th February but that would be based on receiving the final plan no later than Friday 3rd February to allow ample time for Councillors to read the plan and to comply with the legal three working days for a meeting to be called. **ACTION:** GS to consult the NDP group about this. Finally, the NDP group would like to apply for a grant to investigate the possibility/viability of setting up a Community Land Trust in the future. Mike Inkson is going to send DP and Clerk information on the application process.

98. Community Matters and Issue

98.1 Village traffic and roads

98.1.1 VAS – PL supplied a written report which is attached and on the PC website. PL discussed the fact that various dates in the last month the battery for the VAS was depleted but this is something we will have to live with in the Winter months. It is not helped by the fact that the solar panels do not face South.

Signed: *D. Parkhurst*

date: 7th February 2023

98.1.2 Speed Watch – PL supplied a written report which is attached and on the PC website. At the last session, 5 recordings were made and 2 letters sent out. No sessions are currently planned.

98.1.3 Black Cat speeding device – PL supplied a written report which is attached and on the PC website. PL asked PR if he had heard anything from ESCC Highways about his request to monitor Mill Lane. PR said that he was liaising with the License Enforcement team but his last email was pending a response. PL said that he is happy to accept responsibility for his own safety and can monitor traffic safely in this lane if he can be granted a license. **ACTION:** PR to follow up with the License Enforcement team.

98.2 Recreation Ground/Playspace/Pavilion – In RH's absence, the Clerk reported that Biffa were unable to empty the Biffa bin at the Playspace before Christmas as there was fly tipping next to it. The Clerk contacted local waste collectors, Thompson Tippers to collect the excess as RH was concerned that fly tipping would encourage further fly tipping. The Clerk is unsure if the waste has been collected and has not received an invoice yet. **ACTION:** Clerk to check if the waste has been cleared.

98.3 Grit bin at top end of School Lane – The Clerk reported that she had received a request from residents for a grit bin at the top of School Lane following the snow in Mid-December last year. ESCC Highways installed the grit bin this week. The PC were thanked by a resident for the quickness of installation. DP said thanks also go to ESCC Highways for their quick work.

98.4 Emergency/Resilience Plan – The PC and the Clerk discussed the fact that a Plan was a good idea but that it would need to work on a 'cascade' system and needed to be kept up to date with a list of, for example; key holders for the Memorial Hall, those who own farm machinery/4 x 4 vehicles. **RESOLVED:** DP/PL and GS to look into putting together some information as a working group.

98.5 Additional central government funding for defibrillators – DP asked if PR had any knowledge of the recent Central Government announcement on 29/12/22 stating that defibrillators will be increased by at least 1,000 with new funding. PR said that he didn't know about this. Further information is awaited.

98.6 Horse and Cart defibrillator – The Clerk reported that after contacting the building owner of the empty pub after December's meeting, he stated that he hoped the Horse and Cart would be re-opened this month. **RESOLVED:** The Clerk to contact the owner again prior to the February meeting for an update on the pub's future. It was agreed that if the pub is due to re-open shortly then the defibrillator is best left in place.

98.7 Defibrillator quotes for Pavilion – The Clerk said that she had found 3 quotes for defibrillators ranging from £745-787. **RESOLVED:** The PC decided to defer a decision on purchase to the March meeting, until further information is received about the central government defibrillator funding initiative.

98.8 Defibrillator in Brickfields' phone box – The Clerk reported that she had not heard about the Civil Claim for the cost of the destroyed defibrillator, but the Police have until the beginning of March to respond.

98.9 Oast Cottage – No updates on when work will start on demolishing the house and building a semi-detached house in its place. **RESOLVED:** The PC agreed to wait until after

Signed: *D. Parkhurst*

date: 7th February 2023

the February meeting and if no progress has been made by then, the Clerk will write to the developers for an update.

99. Reports and other items

99.1 Clerk's Report – Noted.

99.2 Setting dates for AGM/Parish Assembly to fit in with Local Election timetable –

RESOLVED: Date set for Tuesday 16th May at 7pm for the AGM, the normal monthly meeting will follow at 7.30pm.

99.3 Memorial Hall – HP reported that the Warm Hub restarted on January 5th following on from a break at the end of December due to poor weather. It is going well but there are still more volunteers than attendees. The Rye 10 Road Race is being held again on Sunday 28th May 2023 in conjunction with the Memorial Hall Committee, allowing for funds to be raised for the Hall.

99.4 Allotments – The Clerk reported that the gate work to fix the damaged gates was completed by DD Maintenance Services on 09/01/23 following delays due to poor weather. MC said that he had no further report as he had not been able to get down to the allotments in the last month.

99.5 Repairs and Maintenance reports – MC said that he had recently reported a blocked drain near Kimberley Cottage on Main Street. **ACTION:** Clerk to add another report on this to the ESCC Highways online reporting problems page. HP reported that the 'Norman Church' direction sign opposite the entrance to Church Lane was broken. **ACTION:** Clerk to report to ESCC Highways online reporting problems page. PL also reported that a derestricted sign had been knocked over on the junction between Tanhouse Lane and the A268. **ACTION:** Clerk to report to ESCC Highways online reporting problems page.

99.6 ESCC Highways report – None to date.

99.7 Rights of Way – The Clerk had no updates on Rights of Way breaches on School Lane. **ACTION:** Clerk to follow up with the Rights of Way team on action taken.

99.8 Police and PCSO Reports – Monthly police report – November 2022 - noted.

99.9 Footpaths reports – None to date.

99.10 Village and environment – The Clerk said that a fly tipped flat screen TV on Church Lane that she reported before Christmas, has since been removed by RDC. HP and DP raised the continued issue of the dead tree outside Birds Cottage on Main Street. ESCC Highways said it was not dead and when it was reported again, they said that the tree is not owned by them, rather it is the home owner's responsibility. The home owner has checked the deeds of the house and disputes this. HP and DP are concerned that a lack of action on ESCC Highways behalf could prove to be very dangerous if this tree falls on the road. **ACTION:** HP/DP to send information and case numbers to PR for him to follow up with ESCC Highways.

RB reported that another tree fell down opposite the Cock Inn last week and he is having tree surgeons work on trees that he is responsible for. However, the UK Power Network are also undertaking tree cutting on other trees further down from the Cock Inn, near Woodside. This may lead to some power outages and/or road closure but the UK Power Network should inform residents if and when this may happen.

Signed: *D. Parkhurst*

date: 7th February 2023

99.11 Cloud storage for Memorial Hall/Recreation Ground Committee – The PC discussed this and the possibility of using external hard drives to save the information and keep it at the Hall. **RESOLVED:** DP to research the best option and test a file from the Memorial Hall Committee Treasurer.

100. Financial Matters

100.1 Reports

100.1.1 Monthly statement of receipts and payments – from December 2022 – **approved by PL.**

100.1.2 Budget comparison and bank reconciliations – for December 2022 – **approved by PL.**

100.2 To approve and ratify payments – all approved. RB and HP to provide the two online authorisations. *PL asked if Councillors should still be counter-signing the paper copies of invoices. The Clerk agreed they should and the internal auditor had recommended it but due to long-running meetings and online payments now being used she had got out of the habit of doing this.* **RESOLVED:** *It was agreed that Councillors should counter-sign a random selection of invoices and always invoices over £250.00.*

100.2.1 Clerk's December pay – monthly standing order: £625.73– comes out on 26th of the previous month.

100.2.2 Clerk's December expenses: £26.00

100.2.3 Calendar Cleaning – Recreation Ground expense: £180.00 – already paid – authorised by HP/MC and paid on 12/12/2022.

100.2.4 Costain Ltd – ESCC – Grit bin and grit for top of School Lane: - £328.00 – authorised by HP/RH and paid on 23/12/22.

100.2.5 Calendar Cleaning – Rec ground and Pavilion cleaning for December - £180.00.

100.2.6 DD Property Maintenance – gate fixing work at the allotments - £434.00

100.2.7 Biffa Waste collection – monthly direct debit – January: £18.71

100.3 Receipts – none to date.

101. Correspondence – None to date.

102. Planning Matters – Noted.

Applications – None to date.

Decisions – Noted.

[RR/2022/2193/P](#) and [RR/2022/2194/L](#) - Horse & Cart, School Lane, Peasmarsh TN31 6UW - Erection of rear outside freezer store enclosure and conversion of existing rear storerooms into two bedrooms with shower room – **APPROVED – 09/12/22.**

[RR/2022/2126/P](#) – Cock Inn Public House, Main Street, Peasmarsh, TN31 6YD – Placement of 3x additional static caravans for holiday use on existing caravan site – **APPROVED – 20/12/22.**

Signed: *D. Parkhurst*

date: 7th February 2023

Appeals – none to date.

103. Dates of Forthcoming Meetings: Monthly meeting, 7th February 2023, Memorial Hall, Peasmarsh at 7.30pm.

The meeting finished at 9.10pm.

Signed: *D. Parkhurst*

date: 7th February 2023