

# EAST WITTERING & BRACKLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL



## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 8<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021 AT 7.00PM VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

### EWBPC COUNCILLORS

#### PRESENT:

Brian Reeves (BR) Richard Ford (RF)  
Joe O'Sullivan (JOS) James Salamon (JS)  
Pamela Kensington (PK) Alan Whitcher (AW)  
Doug Holden (DH) Doug Holden (DH)  
Susan Taylor (STT) (CDC Councillor)  
Elizabeth Hamilton (EH) (CDC Councillor)  
Graeme Barratt (CDC Councillor)  
Pieter Montyn (PM) (WSCC Councillor)

#### APOLOGIES:

Emma Cox (EC)

#### ABSENT:

Darren Banks (DB)  
Emile Kott (EK)

#### IN ATTENDANCE

Parish Clerk and 8 members of the public

### **21.31** Declarations of Interest and dispensation requests

None

### **21.32** Chairmans Announcements

CDC have given an indicative allocation of £22K for this years New Homes Bonus Fund. Councillors were invited to submit project proposals for consideration.

MPAG have sent a letter welcoming members to join if they wish.

Chairman has received a request from RF to record meetings for the public – will need looking at in the future to see what the technological options are in order to do this.

### **21.33** Minutes of the Council's Meeting Held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

Accepted.

### **21.34** Update on actions from previous meeting

All had been completed.

Birdham PC have not yet responded to our query re. the cycle path.

Clerk had advised WSALC that we would not be subscribing this year.

Gates have been installed at Downview.

### **21.35** Public Questions

The council had received no questions.

### **21.36** District and County Councillors reports

**EH** – Court case is due in High Court on 21<sup>st</sup> April for a ruling on whether the 1972 Local Government Act permits remote attendance at meetings without a need to changes to secondary legislation.

**GB** – Members bulletin has been circulated. Overview & Scrutiny meeting with SW, EA & NE re. issues with network capacity. GB said no significant upgrades or improvements are planned for the foreseeable future. NE also seemed to suggest that no building should take place on low lying land which may have implications for the HELAA documents.

**PM** – WSCC elections will take place on 6<sup>th</sup> May. Balanced budget has been achieved on a normal basis, despite increased costs from COVID, largely due to central government support of £90m. Has had ongoing contact with Southern Water, but there seems to be little improvement planned at present.

SW focus seems to be largely on the Chichester WWTW at Apuldram. Sidlesham WWTW currently seems to be overlooked with less focus on improving water quality in Pagham Harbour and this needs to be advocated for more strongly.

**21.37** Reports from Parish Councillors on Meetings attended since 11/03/21

**Planning committee** had met on 22/03/21. Minutes had been circulated.

**HELAA meeting** on 25/3/21 – BR and Clerk attended. Update later on the agenda.

**21.38** To review the future co-option procedure

The Clerk had circulated the proposed new co-option policy for consideration based upon the WSALC model document. RF wanted to review the procedure to ensure that councillors had an opportunity to discuss candidates before making a decision on co-option.

AW commented that he would have liked to have the opportunity to speak but appreciated that this was not always possible within the context of remote meetings.

RF – possible solution may be that we do not co-opt remotely, only at in person meetings so that people always have the opportunity to make their representation.

*Council **RESOLVED** To adopt the policy subject to removal of references to electoral wards.*

**21.39** Finance

**21.22.1** The Chairman had previously agreed and signed the bank reconciliation.

**21.22.2** The council received a statement of the current financial position and budget monitor. The council are now anticipating a modest budget surplus at year end.

**21.22.3** The council received the list of payments made between 01/03/21 and 31/03/21 totalling £11,169.48.

*Council **RESOLVED** to ratify the bank reconciliation, finance reports and payment schedule.*

**21.40** To receive an update on the Local Plan, including changes to the HELAA Maps

The Chairman advised that CDC have re-drawn the HELAA maps for the parish, following updated flood risk models provided by the Environment Agency, as the previous model used had been incorrect. This had resulted in a number of sites previously excluded from the HELAA due to flood risk being reinstated. The re-inclusion of sites in the HELAA did not automatically mean that they would be suitable for development, just that they must be considered by CDC when making site allocations.

GB has requested that all sources of flooding are modelled before finalizing the HELAA maps, as at present they only incorporate tidal flooding considerations.

*Council **INSTRUCTED** the Clerk to write a letter to CDC expressing our disappointment with the current situation and requesting that a full assessment of all sources of flooding be modelled when drawing up the maps.*

**21.41** To consider adopting the MPP Resilience and Adaptation Strategy document

Carolyn Cobbold had updated the ICZM Resilience and Adaptation Strategy Document for the MPP, with a view to it becoming an adopted policy in the revised Local Plan. A copy of the document had been circulated to councillors. The Chairman recommended that the Parish Council officially adopt the document so that it can be included in all responses to major planning applications in the Parish.

*Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the Resilience and Adaptation Strategy document and to cite it as a key policy when responding to planning applications.*

**21.42** Response to WSCC 16-19 year old transport policy consultation

The Chairman advised the council that WSCC were inviting comments on the 2021-22 16-19 year old transport policy. The Chairman highlighted the current situation whereby young people are now obliged to remain in education until the age of 18, but with no access to further education on the Manhood peninsula have no choice but to travel to Chichester or further to attend school or college.

At present there is no support with transport costs for this, which can be considerable.

The council appreciate that transport for 16-19 year olds is not a statutory requirement, but feel that more effort should be made to support young people in completing their education, particularly given the toll that the pandemic has taken on family incomes and opportunities for young people and would like WSCC to explore how they can be better supported and the lack of any local opportunities to pursue their studies.

*Council **INSTRUCTED** the Clerk to write a letter to the education secretary highlighting the issues for young people in rural areas in accessing education and requesting that action be taken to guarantee free travel to further education for those who need it. Letter to also be sent to WSCC and Gillian Keegan.*

**21.43** **To Review to Council Social Media Policy**

The council reviewed the social media policy that had been adopted in 2016 and felt it was still fit for purpose.

*Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the current policy, to be reviewed in annually at the Annual Council Meeting.*

**21.44** **Vision update**

Materials were currently being printed and door to door distribution was planned for the first week of May 2021.

Terra Firma had sent some provisional ideas for Booker Green, with an indication of the costs of various elements that fit within the indicative budget of £45K. The Clerk advised that the council may wish to increase the budget and that this could be achieved via a mix of CIL funds and the 2021 New Homes Bonus Allocation of £22K.

The Council noted the receipt of a letter from residents in Tamarisk Walk concerned about the proposed project and agreed that they would be invited to join the Vision Group so that they could feed in directly to the project development process.

*Council agreed to **HOLD** the project until the Vision survey had been completed and results analysed.*

**21.45** **To agree the date for the Annual Council Meeting as 20/5/21**

Legislation to allow remote council meetings lapses on 7<sup>th</sup> May and the government have advised local authorities that it will not be extended. The next council meeting will therefore have to take place in person and is currently due on the 13<sup>th</sup> May.

The Clerk recommended that it be moved back by one week to 20<sup>th</sup> May, as by this time the next phase of the roadmap out of lockdown is anticipated to be in place, which will make it much easier to allow members of the public to attend in person as more activities will be permitted indoors.

*Council **RESOLVED** to amend the date of the Annual Council Meeting to 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7pm.*

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL BE HELD THURSDAY 20<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021 AT 7PM AT BRACKLESHAM BARN**

**These minutes are in draft form until approved by the council at the next meeting and may be amended by resolution. Copies of all unapproved minutes, agendas and more information about East Wittering and Bracklesham Parish Council can be found on the Parish Council's web site: [www.ewbpc.org.uk](http://www.ewbpc.org.uk).**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Chair                      Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Summary of Actions**

<b>Minute number</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>
21.40	Clerk to write to CDC requesting that all flooding sources be modelled in the HELAA maps	CLERK
21.42	Clerk to write to Secretary of State for Education highlighting issues with travel costs for post-16 education in rural areas.	CLERK