

EAST WITTERING & BRACKLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2021 AT 7.00PM AT BRACKLESHAM BARN

EWBPC COUNCILLORS Brian Reeves (BR) Joanna El-Batal (JEB)
PRESENT: Pamela Kensington (PK) Mike Dicker (MD)
Toby Wilshire (TW) Richard Ford (RF)
Alan Witcher (AW) Joe O'Sullivan (JOS)

Graeme Barratt (CDC Councillor)
Elizabeth Hamilton (EH) (CDC Councillor)
Susan Taylor (CDC Councillor)

APOLOGIES: Doug Holden (DH)
Emma Cox (EC)
James Salamon (JS)
Pieter Montyn (PM) (WSCC Councillor)

IN ATTENDANCE Parish Clerk and 1 member of the public

21.148 Minutes of the Council's Meeting Held on 11th November 2021

The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

21.149 Declarations of Interest and dispensation requests

None

21.150 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman advised that following legal advice from Hampshire Procurement Services, the Parish Council would no longer be using the ESPO framework agreement for the Skatepark tender process. Instead contractors would be invited to quote for the project under public (minor) works regulations and engaged using a JCT contract. Final paperwork was expected to be available for approval at the February meeting.

Given rising COVID cases and the new government instructions to work from home where possible, the Chairman proposed that the January meeting be cancelled, with the February meeting to be reviewed in the new year.

As per last year, the Clerk and Deputy Clerk would be working alternately in the office or at home in order to minimise their contact but still ensuring that the Barn was staffed. The Parish Office would now be open to the public by appointment only.

The Chairman requested volunteers to distribute Christmas wrapping paper and gift tags to the shops. Cllrs Wilshire, Ford and El-Bataal volunteered.

*Council **RESOLVED** to cancel the January meeting, with a decision on the February meeting to be taken by 3/2/22 at the latest.*

21.151 Introduction and Q&A with PCSO Lucasz Kowzalski

PCSO Kozawlski gave a short presentation about his role: The PCSO apologised for not attending a meeting sooner, but COVID has made in person attendance difficult until this time – he has, however, been busy working in the area. In November 2019 PCSO's were given areas of responsibility – Lucasz covers the whole western manhood, along with PCSO Matt Isles who covers the area half time. They aim to deal with most resident's enquiries for low level crime. They encourage residents to report crime through 99 or 101 as this is the best way for information to be recorded. Over the last two months only 84 calls have been recorded – this could mean that crime is low, but it could mean that residents are under-reporting issues. The team would like to work with the community to ensure that they are focusing their resources where they are needed, and reports are essential in helping them to plan this.

JOS asked if the 84 reports were 999 calls – LK responded that they were a range of calls, some of which were emergency and others which were lower level or community based (e.g. mental health support for vulnerable residents).

JOS asked if he liaised with the community warden – the PCSO confirmed this happened where possible, although often their shifts do not align.

GB asked if the PCSO receives support from WSCC and the CCG with mental health calls and responses – PCSO replied that often they did not have the back-up they needed, particularly out of hours. GB will raise this at CDC overview and scrutiny committee meeting with John Carter, the Chichester Police Commander next month.

21.152 Update on actions from previous meetings

All completed.

21.153 Public Questions

None had been received in advance of the meeting.

21.154 District and County Councillors reports

Cllr Montyn had sent apologies but asked that Council be advised that at Wednesday's CDC Planning Committee meeting the Bell Lane Kelly's nursery application for 73 homes was dealt with.

In his 3 minute address to the Committee Cllr Montyn argued that inadequate sewage provision and lack of confidence in SW to provide this in time should (reasons included in the Clappers Lane refusal last July) be added the reasons for the recommended refusal. This was supported by the Committee members and is now also a reason for the refusal decision.

GB – Members bulletin had been circulated. The Bell Lane planning application was refused at the planning committee meeting on 8/12/21 and sewage and waste water network capacity were included in the reasons for refusal.

STT – CDC now have a 5-year land supply – they can demonstrate 5.3 years of housing land. This means that the Local Plan is now up to date and the tilted balance in the NPPF no longer applies. CDC expect developers to challenge the assessment, but it will carry weight when making planning decisions and in appeals and will allow CDC to be more confident that they can successfully defend planning appeals.

EH – Special council meeting was held on 8/12/21 to discuss the Chichester Southern Gateway development project. The original developer has withdrawn from the project now that the Courts have been removed from the scheme as they are being used by the Department of Justice for the next two years. This was a critical element for the developer, who had intended

to turn it in to a hotel. The meeting was closed to the public as it discussed contract negotiations and so needed to be conducted as a part 2 (confidential) session.

CDC are now re-considering the project and how they can take it forward without the main developer on board.

Cllr Dicker asked if CDC could confirm that they had a five-year supply of land in an up-to-date local plan or annual interim position statement which had been considered and accepted by the Secretary of State. STT will seek confirmation that this has been done from Andrew Frost.GB advised that as CDC could demonstrate the five-year housing supply the local plan policies were now current and up to date and so would stand.

21.155 Reports from Parish Councillors on Meetings attended since 11/11/21

Planning committee met on 29/11/21 and considered 7 planning applications. Objections were lodged against 2.

Village Hall Committee Meeting 17/11/21 – main item considered was refit of the kitchen

Patient Participation Group Meeting 18/11/21 – Surgery is having staffing difficulties and struggling to find locum cover.

Church Road Planning Appeal – meeting with West Wittering Parish Council on 19/11/21 to coordinate our responses.

Police and Crime Commissioner Meeting 25/11/21– we now have a direct contact for any issues we have with the PCSO service.

Cllr Wilshire volunteered to join the village hall committee as the second council representative.

21.156 Budget update, including draft budget for 2022-23

Updated year- to-date figures had been provided for councillors. The Clerk reported that there were no significant variances from expected expenditure at this time.

Council then considered the draft budget for 2022-23 and agreed that they would limit the precept increase to 4%, expecting to run a deficit of £10,000 to be funded from the general reserve. This would result in an annual precept request for 2022-23 of £166,000 or £73.67 per Band D equivalent property. This would equate to an increase of £2.63 per Band D property per year.

*Council **RESOLVED** to set the precept for 2022-23 at £166,000, equivalent to £73.67 per Band D property. This is an increase of 4%, or £2.68 per Band D property on the previous year.*

21.157 Response to the WSCC Fire & Rescue Service's (WSFRS) Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) Public Consultation 2022 – 2026

Council considered the plan and had no comments to make.

21.158 To Appoint a Second Representative to the MPP

Council appointed Cllr Wilshire as a second representative to the MPP.

21.159 To agree the council response the Church Lane planning appeal

The Chairman gave an update on the appeal and the work being undertaken in conjunction with West Wittering Parish Council and the local community. The final submission from the Parish Council will be submitted by 20th December 2021.

Cllr Ford queried if there was any way in which the land could be purchased to prevent it being

developed in the future.

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the expenditure of up to £4,000 from the general reserve to fund the work of the traffic consultant and the planning support coordinator including any in-person attendance at the public enquiry.

21.160 To consider the request from Birdham Parish Council to Support a Traffic Regulation Order for reduced speed limits on the A286

Following the fatal collision involving a cyclist on the Birdham Straight on 26/10/21, Birdham Parish Council had written to local parishes requesting their support for a traffic regulation order (TRO) to reduce the speed limit from 50mph to 40 mph on the Northern section of the Birdham Straight and from 40mph to 30mph on the Southern section of the Birdham Straight and along Bell Lane and Bracklesham Lane.

Council discussed the road, many councillors felt that the safety issues were related to poor visibility and the narrow cycleway due to vegetation encroachment from the lack of highway maintenance rather than excessive speed. Councillors were concerned about the effects of imposing a 30mph limit along such an extended stretch of the main route to Chichester. The appropriate speed limit should be left to WSCC highways engineers and Sussex Police to assess and recommend.

Council **RESOLVED** to write to Birdham that we support efforts to improve road safety, specifically the cycle way and to provide alternative safe routes for cyclists and to engage in better education and support for cyclists to keep them safer, but we cannot support the proposed speed limit changes without evidence that they are supported by the WSCC Highway team and Sussex Police as appropriate for the road.

21.161 Youth Club Building Update

The building survey had been completed and a list of works costed. Indicative costs for the reinstatement of the premises were £412,000. WSCC had indicated that they would be willing to enter into a long-term leasehold for the property on a peppercorn basis. Discussions with the school had taken place and they were supportive of any proposal to bring it back into use as a community hub.

Council **AGREED** to explore funding options to raise the money required to refurbish the building.

21.162 To approve the following works at Bracklesham Barn and park to help meet our net zero carbon target:

The Clerk had sought quotations for the following items of essential maintenance/equipment replacement. Where possible, items would be replaced with less carbon intensive options in order to help the council meet its net zero carbon pledge.

1) Decommissioning of gas range and installation of electric induction cooker in kitchen

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the decommissioning of the old gas cooker and safety shut off system and the purchase and installation of a new electric induction range up to a maximum of £2,500 + VAT.

2) Replacement of strip lighting in community room with LED lights

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the replacement of the strip lighting in the community room with new LED units up to a maximum of £1,584.00 +VAT.

3) To approve the costs for the remaining ditch clearance work to the southern boundary of Bracklesham Park

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the work to clear the remaining ditches in Bracklesham Park, with the costs split with Greenbelt in the areas where there are joint riparian responsibilities up to a maximum of £4,800 +VAT.

21.163 To note the interim internal audit report

The internal audit had been completed on 25/11/21 and the report circulated to councillors. Council **NOTED** the report.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL BE HELD THURSDAY 10th FEBRUARY 2022 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.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Signed _____ Chair

Date _____

Summary of Actions

Minute number	Action	Person Responsible
21.156	Clerk to advise CDC of the annual precept request for 2022/23 of £166,000.	<i>CLERK</i>
21.159	Clerk to authorise the work of the traffic and planning consultants in responding to the Church Road planning appeal up to £4,000.	<i>CLERK</i>
21.160	Clerk to advise Birdham Parish Council that we support efforts to improve road safety, specifically the cycle way and to provide alternative safe routes for cyclists and to engage in better education and support for cyclists to keep them safer, but we cannot support the proposed speed limit changes without evidence that they are supported by the WSCC Highway team and Sussex Police as appropriate for the road.	<i>CLERK</i>
21.162.1	Clerk to arrange works to kitchen at Bracklesham Barn	<i>CLERK</i>
21.162.2	Clerk to arrange replacement of the community room lighting up to a maximum cost of £1584.00 + VAT	<i>CLERK</i>
21.162.3	Clerk to arrange clearance of the southern ditches at Bracklesham Park up to a maximum of £4800 + VAT	<i>CLERK</i>