



Minutes of the Council meeting held Tuesday 2nd March 2021 at 7.30pm using Zoom as per The Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings) (England) Regulations 2020.

Present: Councillors: David Pankhurst (DP) (Chair), Ray Hollman (RH) (Deputy Chair), Hilary Pankhurst (HP), Peter Lamont (PL), Gina Sanderson (GS) (Joined at 7.45pm and left at 8.45pm due to poor internet), Mick Coleman (MC), Celia Pollington (CP), Robert Barham (RB) and County Councillor Angharad Davies (AD).

Also present: Clerk A Head (AH)

- 102. Apologies for absence.** Parish Councillor Terry Hogan (TH) and District Councillor Paul Osborne (PO). The proposal by DP to approve an extension beyond 6 months allowed absence prior to disqualification was unanimously approved for Councillor Terry Hogan.
- 103. Disclosure of interests under the Council's Code of Conduct** – CP for 110.1, RH for 111.2 and HP/DP/MC for 112.2.
- 104. Minutes of the last Council meeting – February 2nd 2021** – The minutes were unanimously approved. The Clerk to use DP's electronic signature with his consent.
There was one member of the public present. Paul Redstone said that he wanted to make a statement stating that he would be running as Conservative candidate for Northern Rother as the existing Councillor (Angharad Davies) was not standing again in May 2021. He has lived in Cripps Corner for 30 years. He said that he understood Parish Councils are non-political but he said that he wanted to sit in this meeting to listen and learn about Peasmarsh. The PC welcomed Paul to stay and watch the rest of the meeting and expressed sadness that Angharad was leaving.
- 105. District & County Councillor Reports – County** – AD supplied a written report. In addition to this report, she stated that over half a million Covid vaccinations had now been administered in Rother and that the County Council were running a 'My Job' campaign providing information about the vaccination programme. 20,000 have been added to the clinically vulnerable list and Angharad reminded the PC that Community Hubs providing help with food, medicine and essentials for those in this category were continuing this year. The ESCC social care helpline was still running as is support from Rother Responders. Referring to AD's written report, DP asked whether the Safer Schools app is being advertised. AD said yes, via schools. DP also expressed shock at the rise in abuse reported by parking enforcement officers across East Sussex. **District** – In PO's absence he sent a written report to be read. The Clerk read this stating that the budget was approved last week, a rise on the Band D of £4.22 per annum. The total budget is around £16 million. There are plans afoot to redevelop/upgrade the Town Hall site in Bexhill. This will cost £500,000 for architectural drawings and professional fees, with a likely project cost of circa £14.5 million. The current Chairman of RDC will stay in place for another year. AD asked if the RDC budget was

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balanced. The Clerk said that this would need to be checked with PO as this was not specified in the report.

106. Consultation on draft RDC Corporate Plan – HP said that she is responding as a member of the Rother Resident’s Panel and she will try and circulate this response as a basis for the PC response. However, HP said that her responses were likely be different from a PC perspective. For example, RDC is planning on getting rid of all car parks that aren’t their own by 2022.

RESOLVED: HP to circulate her response to PC as a basis for their response.

107. RDC car park review – **RESOLVED:** PC to pass on this questionnaire as they felt they could not answer the questions fairly as travel outside of the local area has not been permitted during lockdown 3. Therefore, the benefit or not of the new parking enforcement regulations since October 2020 cannot be measured.

108. Rother Planning Service – DP attended a virtual ‘brain storming’ session led by the head of the planning department (Tim Hickling) on 23rd February 2021. **RESOLVED:** DP to send the Clerk the presentation screen shots to circulate to the rest of the PC.

109. To confirm a date for PC’s AGM in May – **RESOLVED:** All agreed that the AGM should take place virtually at 7pm on 4th May 2021, prior to the usual monthly meeting at 7.30pm.

110. Housing

110.1 Current DaSA Site Allocations – no updates to report.

110.2 RDC Local Plan update – Early engagement form – no updates to report.

110.3 Neighbourhood planning for Peasmarsh – GS reported that recruitment for a planning group is ongoing and a meeting for potential volunteers is being held on 03/03/20. The Clerk asked for any volunteers from the PC who wished to attend to let her know. PL, DP and GS requested an invitation. DP asked for ad hoc support from the rest of the PC when necessary, especially from those with particular local knowledge/interests. All meetings will continue to be reported on at the Monthly PC meeting.

110.4 Proposal to set Neighbourhood boundary area for submission to Rother District Council – **RESOLVED:** The PC unanimously agreed to begin the application process with RDC. The Clerk to send a letter to RDC Senior Planning Office Julia Edwards (as worded by GS – GS to send the Clerk the wording) and let the leader of the Neighbourhood Planning group, Mike Inkson, know that the letter has been sent.

110.5 Clerk’s hours for Neighbourhood Planning – **RESOLVED:** The PC unanimously agreed the payment of any additional hours related to Neighbourhood Planning. The Clerk will log these hours.

111. Community Matters and Issue

111.1 Village traffic and roads

111.1.1 VAS – PL reported that there were 21,921 vehicles recorded travelling at 36mph and above, of which 1,215 vehicles were recorded as travelling at 45mph and above. The number of recordings is less than the same time last year; reversing the trend of November and December.

111.1.2 Speed Watch – PL reported that there were 10 speed watch sessions carried out. Two other sessions at the beginning of February were cancelled due to snow. A total of 133 cars were recorded, with 101 letters sent and 10 hours spent at the roadside. PL said that it was disappointing that a third letter had been sent to a repeat offender rather than

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a police visit. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to contact the PCSOs about obtaining 'police speed check area' blue and white signs. PL hopes that this signage will prevent arguments with drivers that have been caught speeding.

111.1.3 Black Cat device purchase – DP said that any purchase should be postponed until reassurance had been received from police that they will do something with the information obtained from this device. RALC, led by Keith Robertson has written to various police chiefs including Assistant Chief Constable Lisa Bell and MPs Huw Merriman and Sally-Ann Hart to seek support for this device. MP Sally-Ann Hart has responded saying that she is supportive in theory and we are awaiting further responses. DP said that we need more information from the Catsfield device and this device is also going to be lent to Icklesham, so the results from this will also be valuable in building up a picture of speeding 'hot spots' within Rother. We also need to know what speeds the police are interested in; is it just 45mph and above? PL asked DP if it was possible for Peasmarsh to borrow a device as the information gathered from this could help to plan Speedwatch sessions. It would be good to use it at varying points in the village; beginning, middle and end. DP said that the use of the Black Cat device would also help to provide traffic flow data for the Neighbourhood Plan. **RESOLVED:** DP said that he would ask Jonathan Vine-Hall about lending a device as they have funding for a Black Cat device. DP to update the PC next month with any new information.

111.2 Recreation Ground/Playspace/Pavilion – RH reported that there had been no movement on decorating the Pavilion during this latest lockdown but work on this would begin once restrictions have been lifted. HP said that she could not see a CCTV notice visible in the Recreation Ground/Pavilion area. RH said that he had just received it and would put it up when he next went to the Pavilion. **RESOLVED:** DP also added that he will complete the end of grant form(s) for the Tesco Bags of Help scheme for the £1,000 playpark grant and the Little Cheyne grant for the pavilion refurbishment

111.3 Bowls club's finances – RH informed the PC that he had been contacted by the Bowls Club Chair at the end of January to say that the club only had 4 members and needed 12 to play and would need to close if numbers didn't increase by early February. RH confirmed that this closure was due to membership and not finance. RH said that the issue in retaining membership at a bowls club is a continuing problem. As members improve their game, they move on to different clubs and there is a lot of clubs to choose from locally, e.g., Rye, Beckley, Staplecross and Winchelsea to name a few. GS said that in her work with RVA, falling membership of bowls' clubs across Rother was a perennial problem. RH said that part of the ground is leased and part of the car park is part of the skate park field. RH suggested that the PC could keep the finances going and maintain the grass and club house (which includes a changing room and toilets) with a view to making it into something again in the future. At this stage the Recreation Ground Committee are investigating getting a council tax rebate and helping the Club to organise final meter readings. **RESOLVED:** PL proposed and MC seconded that the PC should take over the utilities and cost of running the bowls club building for the immediate future with a view to possibly transforming it into something else in the future. For example, a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) for tennis in the summer and

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basketball in the winter. RH to continue to liaise with the Chair of the Bowls Club and provide reassurance about the finances. Clerk to ask Beckley PC for information about cost of MUGA after their recent installation. DP asked the PC to think about ideas for what to do with the area. DP and RH also agreed that once lockdown is lifted and more information has been gathered a meeting should be arranged with the bowls club chairman to do an inventory and discuss any other practicalities e.g., insurance. DP asked to add this as a project on future agendas.

111.4 Oast Cottage – DP reported that there had been no further updates from RDC, however several members of the PC said that they had reported Oast Cottage under the 'Empty Houses' reporting tool as requested by RDC.

111.5 Maltings grit bin – PL asked the Clerk whether she had re-locked the bin following the cold weather at the beginning of February. The Clerk confirmed that she had.

112. Reports and other items

112.1 Clerk's Report – noted.

112.2 Memorial Hall – HP reported that heating issues have not yet been resolved. The hall is now booked for local elections, which will provide welcome income. However, it has not yet been confirmed whether halls can reopen in April or May under the government's road map out of lockdown. Regular attendees at classes/events should receive an email when plans are confirmed. Hall bookings for regular bookers are being offered at a discount rate. **RESOLVED:** DP suggested that a PP could be sent out at the end of March/beginning of April giving the community all this information. The Clerk said that she could also put information on the PC's Facebook page.

112.3 Allotments – MC said that he hadn't checked the allotments recently but other members of the PC said that it was looking good and there was lots of activity at the weekend. The Clerk said that she would be sending out rent renewal letters at the end of March and it was confirmed that £15 per plot would continue to be the fee.

112.4 Noticeboards – **RESOLVED:** It was unanimously agreed that the Brickfields noticeboard needs replacing. Clerk to obtain quotes for a composite or wood 3 panel noticeboard and report back at the next meeting.

112.5 Repairs and Maintenance Reports – none to date.

112.6 ESCC Highways Report – RH reported that he would like an update on the flooding down Flackley Ash Hill which he reported back in late January. Residents on this hill continue to have sandbags at the boundary of their properties. **RESOLVED:** RH to provide the ESCC Highways case number to the Clerk for her to follow up.

112.7 Police and PCSO Report – PCSO report noted. The Clerk reported on the PCSO meeting that she and DP attended on 26/02/21. She said it was useful to hear from neighbouring villages about any issues that they have as well as hearing about current issues from the PCSO's. The PCSO's warned about the increase of outbuilding/shed/garage break ins as we move into Spring. The Clerk put this warning on the PC Facebook page. DP added that he had raised the issue of parking with the PCSO's. However, they said that unless the parking was dangerous/an obstruction that they did not have any powers as this was a civil issue for the Council to deal with. They suggested that double yellow lines could be installed but this was felt inappropriate for School Lane.

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The Clerk confirmed that she hadn't had a response from either RDC or Optivo about the issue of anti-social parking on School Lane.

112.8 Footpaths reports – none to date.

112.9 Village and Environment – no reports to date.

113. Financial Matters

113.1 Reports

113.1.1 Monthly statement of receipts and payments – From February 2021 – **approved.**

113.1.2 Budget comparison and bank reconciliations – for February 2021 – **approved.**

113.2 To approve and ratify payments – all approved.

113.2.1 Clerk's February pay: £468.31 – paid by standing order on 26th Feb 2021.

113.2.2 Clerk's February expenses: £50.28

113.2.3 EDF Energy electricity bill: £8.65

113.2.4 Biffa Waste Collection – monthly direct debit: £58.14

113.3 Receipts – none to date – **noted.**

114. Correspondence – none to date - **noted.**

115. Planning Matters

Applications – Woodside Stables, Malthouse Lane, Peasmarsh TN31 6ST. Two proposed concrete bases to station existing mobile field shelters during winter months as extra dry storage.

RR/2021/50/P. **The PC agreed to support this application.**

Decisions – none to date – **noted.**

Appeals – none to date - **noted.**

116. Dates of Forthcoming Meetings: 6th April 2021 meeting, 7.30pm, location – online Zoom meeting according to Covid-19 government rules.

The meeting finished at 9pm.

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