

EAST WITTERING & BRACKLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 10th DECEMBER 2020 AT 7.00PM VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

EWBPC COUNCILLORS

PRESENT:

Brian Reeves (BR) Chairman
Dawson Parker (DP) Vice- Chairman
Joe O'Sullivan (JOS)
Pamela Kensington (PK)
Doug Holden (DH)

James Salamon (JS)
Emma Cox (EC)
Richard Ford (RF)
Emile Kott (EK) joined at 19.20 hrs

Susan Taylor (STT) (CDC Councillor)
Elizabeth Hamilton (EH) (CDC Councillor)
Graeme Barratt (CDC Councillor)
Pieter Montyn (PM) (WSSC Councillor)

APOLOGIES:

None

ABSENT:

Darren Banks (DB)

IN ATTENDANCE

Parish Clerk and 4 members of the public

20.96 Declarations of Interest and dispensation requests

None

20.97 Chairmans Announcements

The Chairman thanked the council for the flowers he had received whilst in hospital and thanked Councillor Parker for the work he had done covering his absence. Councillor Parker will be leaving us soon to return to the USA. Councillor O'Sullivan thanked Councillor Parker for his work on behalf of the Parish over the past few years. Councillor Parker thanked the Parish Council for their support and commitment over the years and for their best wishes on his departure. Council confirmed that there would be no Parish Council meeting in January, and that the planning committee would take place as planned on 11th January.

20.98 Minutes of the Council's Meeting Held on 12th November 2020.

The minutes were agreed as a correct record and **approved** for signature.

20.99 Update on actions from previous meeting

All had been completed

20.100 Public Questions

No public questions had been received.

20.101 District and County Councillors reports

EH – CDC have just started their budget setting process and will be looking at this in the new year, but they have significant gaps to close.

GB – Had sent through details of potential grant funding that could support the Vision. Had attended the meeting with the PCC re. the PCO presence in the village, so we will hope to see some improvements.

DH commented that the COVID ambassadors were proving effective.

A letter has been sent to OffWat and central govt. re. the poor performance of Southern Water and the repeated release of raw sewage into the harbours at Chichester and Pagham.

JS added that he was very concerned about the water quality issues this year, which had been terrible. GB added that this year there were over 170 days when raw sewage was released into Chichester harbour. JS asked if there was anything that could be done in partnership with Surfers Against Sewage to raise the issues. GB happy to be contacted by them so that he can pass on information. STT added that the multi-agency water quality group had not met for a while, so a meeting was planned in the near future to discuss the problems.

JOS – understood that sewage was discharged at Nab Point, which may affect water quality on the beaches. PM responded that plants at Thorney, Sidlesham and Lavant discharge into the harbours, so this was unlikely to affect the beaches.

STT – Local Plan update; waiting for an announcement from central government on changes to the housing allocation algorithm. Parishes have been advised of their new housing allocations – Witterings has been reduced to zero due to flood risks of climate change and sea level rise. A number of campaign and pressure groups are currently working in the area to try and have the local plan put on hold by central govt. CDC have lobbied hard for several years on this issue but have always been told that they must continue with the work. There are also campaigns for a moratorium of large development sites – again – this is not practical, as CDC have to respond to all applications within 13 weeks otherwise the applicant can lodge an appeal on the basis of non-determination. Groups have been citing examples in Hampshire as a precedent for the moratorium, but this is not applicable in Chichester.

PM - WSCC still looking at budgets and how to make cuts. Still a large gap to be closed. All parishes are now committed to the HWRS agreement, following Selsey Town Council resolution to sign the agreement on 09/12/20. WSCC have received an application from a resident for traffic calming and new speed limits on Piggery Hall Lane in light of the planning application from Wellbeck for 78 houses off of Church Road.

20.102 Reports from Parish Councillors on Meetings attended since 12/11/20

BREW Vision group met on 3/12/20 Cllr Cox gave an update on the meeting; the group working on a revised communications and engagement strategy. Work is currently planned for early in the new year. EC & RF are working on designing signage, posters and leaflets. Also an update of the website will be designed to incorporate the Terra Firma proposals. Working towards a launch in late January 2021, with the consultation to run through to late April 2021.

Assets & Open Spaces had met on 19/11/20. Minutes had been circulated to the council.

Planning committee had met on 16/11/20 and 7/12/20. Minutes had been circulated.

Staffing Committee had met on the 7/12/20 and reports had been circulated by the committee Chair.

Meeting with PCC on Tuesday 8/12/20 to discuss concerns re. community policing and lack of visibility of the PCSO's. Notes had been circulated.

20.103 Finance

20.103.1 The Chairman had previously agreed and signed the bank reconciliation.

20.103.2 The council received a statement of the current financial position and budget monitor.

20.103.3 The council received the list of payments made between 01/11/20 and 31/11/20 totalling £9133.62

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

20.104 To note the conclusion 2019-20 of the external audit

The signed certificate of completion of the external audit had been received and circulated.

*Council **NOTED** the successful conclusion of the 2019-20 external audit.*

20.105 To note the internal auditors internal report

The interim internal audit had been completed and the report circulated to council.

*Council **NOTED** the internal auditors interim report.*

20.106 To respond to CDC invitation to take on oversight of bus shelters in the Parish

The place team at CDC had asked if the Parish Council could take on oversight of the bus shelters, which is currently provided by CDC. The shelters are managed by Adshel, a marketing company, so there would be no cost to the council, we would merely be required to report any issues for repair and maintenance directly to Adshel. The Clerk added that we already do this on occasions when we identify issues.

*Council **RESOLVED** to take on oversight and reporting of issues with the bus shelters.*

RF asked if a bench could be put on the Bracklesham Lane bus stop, where a chair has been left as there is clearly a need for it. The Clerk agreed to investigate the options.

20.107 To agree the precept request and annual budget for 2021-22

Council considered the budget for 2021-22. The costs of taking on funding for the HWRS from WSCC, along with the drop in income from Bracklesham Barn and the drop in the tax base upon whom the precept could be levied due to the increase in residents qualifying for the council tax reduction grant meant that the council was forecasting a deficit of £42K if all services remained at the previous year's levels. This would require an increase in the precept of 31% to balance the budget, or an increase of £21.70 per Band D property to £90.58.

Significant cuts to services as detailed in the accompanying briefing paper and budget proposals could balance the budget with a 3.5% increase in the precept, or an increase of £2.41 per Band D property to £71.29.

*Council **RESOLVED** to raise the precept by 3.5% for 2021-22 to £154,700. This equates to £71.29 for a Band D property, an increase of £2.41 from the previous year. Cuts would be made to council services as outlined in the low-range budget scenario. Funding for the Christmas Lights would be raised from the community or covered by the general reserve if sufficient community funds cannot be raised.*

EK agreed to investigate crowdfunding platforms and campaign costs.

20.108 To note and agree the recommendations in the report of the staffing committee meeting held on 7/12/20

*Due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, council **RESOLVED** to exclude the public from this section of the meeting.*

Council considered the confidential reports that had been circulated by the Chair of the staffing committee regarding staff pay and the report from the complaints committee.

*Council **RESOLVED** to accept all recommendations of the staffing committee in both reports.*

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL BE HELD THURSDAY 11th FEBRUARY 2021 AT 7PM VIA ZOOM.

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

Signed _____ Chair Date _____

Summary of Actions

Minute number	Action	Person Responsible
20.106	Clerk to inform CDC we will take on oversight of bus shelters.	CLERK
20.106	Clerk to investigate possibility of having a bus shelter/bench installed on Bracklesham Lane.	CLERK
20.107	Clerk to advise CDC of the 2021-22 precept requirement of £154,700.	CLERK
20.107	Cllr Kott to investigate crowdfunding platforms for Xmas lights and report back to Council.	EK
20.108	Clerk to ensure staffing committee resolution is enacted.	CLERK