

EASEBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 11th March 2015

Present: Mr A Revill (Chairman), Mrs J Macdonald-Lawson (Vice-Chairman), Mr J Galego, Mrs H Grantham, Mr I Heustice, Mr F Martin, Mr D Pack, Mrs E Hamilton (CDC) and the Clerk.

The first ten minutes were available for the public to express a view or ask questions about any item on the Agenda.

14/15

94. Apologies for Absence: Dr A Guyatt, Mr M Taylor, Councillor M Brown (WSCC).

95. Declarations of Interest: None

96. The Minutes of the meetings held on 14th January and 17th February 2015: The Clerk advised the Council that there was an error in the Minutes of the meeting of 14th January 2015 in that Dr Guyatt was not listed as being present. Minute 83b) should also refer to "Dr" Guyatt. **14th January 2015** - Acceptance as a true record, subject to the above amendment, was **proposed by Mr J Calego, seconded by Mrs H Grantham. - All in Favour.** **17th February 2015** – Acceptance as a true record was proposed by **Mr D Pack, seconded by Mr I Heustice - All in Favour.**

97. Report from District Councillor: Mrs Hamilton reported the following:

- **Council Tax:** This year, CDC's part of the council tax will not rise at all. It will be the same as last year. It again leaves CDC with the lowest tax in West Sussex. WSCC is also freezing its part of the council tax for another year.
- **Recycling changes:** From April 2015, residents will be able to add margarine tubs and the plastic trays that carry vegetables and meat to their burgundy recycling bins instead of putting them in the general waste.
- **Broadband:** The website to inform people which areas are receiving better broadband and which helps them contact suppliers is www.westsussexbetterconnected.org.uk
- **Sport in the Community:** More events are planned in Midhurst during the Easter holidays. Contact Ben Polhill on 01243 534 857.
- **Market Move:** Moving the Chichester traders' market from the Cattle Market car park into the pedestrian precinct is under consideration. A group of Councillors are to be asked to discuss it and make a suggestion via a task and finish group.
- **Gypsy Traveller Site at Westhampnett:** This will be open for travellers before Easter. The site is a multi-partnership agreement with other West Sussex Councils and the Police. This should help prevent the 72 unauthorised encampments Chichester District has had in the last 2 years.
- **Housing:** In January 2015 there had been 14 homeless applications, 35 cases seeking advice and 194 new housing applications on the register.
- **Elections:** There is a General Election and District and Parish Council elections on Thursday 7th May 2015. Mrs Hamilton advised that as it was

more than 5 years since she moved from the ward, she would not be standing for election here again.

- **Choose Work Programme:** This has run successfully in Chichester and Selsey for some 18 months. Unemployed people are provided with an update of their skills and given suitable work placements. A high percentage of them then obtain permanent jobs. This programme is commencing in Midhurst on 16th March 2015 and will be held on the 3rd Monday of each month. People wishing to participate can turn up on the day or book in advance by calling Sarah Bennetts on 01243 534 689.

The Council conveyed its thanks to Mrs Hamilton for all of her years of service to the Parish Council and wished her well for the future.

98. WSCC Highways: Councillor Mr Brown was not present at the meeting. The Chairman advised that there was a proposal from the parents at Easebourne Primary School to petition for a signalised crossing at Wheelbarrow Castle. The petition had gone live this week and it required 5,000 signatures from residents of West Sussex to have any impact. The Chairman also advised that there were other initiatives in the pipeline, such as a school safety zone, a walk to school initiative where the children received stars for walking to school on a number of days per month and a school pledge where the parent have signed up to park considerately when parking at the school.

The Vice-Chairman advised the Council of a meeting she had attended with the Head Teacher of Easebourne Primary School and Fiona Baker, Principal Community Officer, WSCC and the Clerk on 6th February 2015. This had been a productive meeting with Fiona advising on possible funding streams for the project and how to obtain a genesis speed gun to check the speed of motorists along Wheelbarrow Castle. A further meeting was needed to discuss how this project could be taken forward.

99. Finance

To note the following payments (cheque numbers 303 - 307)

303	Mr G Child, Light repair in Telephone Box, Dodsley Lane	130.00
304	WSCC, Street Lighting Street Lighting (from 01.04.13 to 31.03.14)	259.43
305	Viscount Cowdray, Cowdray Estate, Hall Hire for January 2015	48.00
306	S Coulter, Clerk's salary for period 01.01.15 to 31.01.15	288.50
306	S Coulter, Clerk's Expenses for 01.01.15 to 31.01.15	55.94
307	Petty Cash Top Up	43.86

- The receipt of Burial Fess for 2014, as agreed, in the sum of £1,000 was noted.
- The receipt of a grant from WSCC for the replacement of a bus shelter at Dodsley Lane/Hollist Lane in the sum of £1,760.00 was noted.
- The internal check of accounts for January and February 2015, by Mrs Grantham, was noted.

100. Reports from the Panels

- **Playground:** Nothing to report. Members agreed to inspect the playground weekly on a monthly rota, with Mr D Pack coving April.
- **Burial Ground:** the overhanging tree had been cut back. There was an article in this month's United magazine about a local resident who had cleared a lot of rubbish from the burial ground. The Council wished to convey its thanks to the resident concerned by letter.
- **Footpaths:** The Chairman advised that these were in good condition and would now be inspected every 18 months or so.
- **Grants:** The Council as advised of an application for a grant from Home-Start Chichester, which had been considered by the Finance Panel. It was **proposed by Mr Calego and Seconded by Mr Heustice** that Home-Start Chichester be awarded a grant of £200.00. **Majority in Favour.**

101. Councillor Vacancy

The Council was advised that Mr M Taylor had recently resigned. The Chairman announced that he was also standing down but would continue to serve until 11th May 2015. The Council was asked to consider the co-option of a Member to fill one of the current vacancies. One Candidate had expressed an interest in joining the Council to serve until 11th May 2015. Mr Mike Noble was present at the meeting and introduced himself to the Council. Mr Noble is a local resident, having lived in Easebourne for the past 2 years. He had been involved with traffic Calming measures in the area and his relevant experience included serving on Residents Committees and being a Director of a Management Company for apartments in the past. **Proposed by Mrs J Macdonald-Lawson and seconded by Mrs H Grantham** that Mr M Noble be co-opted onto the Parish Council until 11th May 2015. **Resolved:** that Mr M Noble be co-opted onto the Parish Council until 11th May 2015 - **All in Favour.**

102. Annual Village Meeting: It was noted that this meeting would be held on Wednesday 8th April 2015 and that Darren Rolfe be invited to attend to discuss volunteering.

103. Broadband Coverage: Mr Heustice reported that he had attended a meeting of the North Chichester Local Committee where he had been informed that all of the new houses at the King Edward VII development would have fibre optic broadband delivered directly into their properties. BT had said that 95% of WSCC residents would have access to high speed

broadband by the end of 2016. Mr Heustice had met with the King Edward VII Liaison Group, who had encouraged the Management Company to apply for funding from the New Homes Bonus. BT had suggested that if residents wish to have faster broadband, there would be a cost involved.

104. New Legislation Relating to Electronic Summons to Council meetings: The Clerk reported that there had been a change in legislation which now allowed Councillors to request to receive their copy of agendas electronically, on completion of a form that was available from the Clerk.

105. WSCC & Volunteering: Mrs Grantham advised that Wheelbarrow Castle would be closed on 19th April 2015.

106. Weather Events (including snow): Nothing to report.

107. Wheelbarrow Castle Field: The Clerk advised that a further quote had been received for the cost of fencing at Easebourne Primary School / Wheelbarrow Castle Field from Robert Boddington Contractor. Mrs Grantham advised that Section 77 consent was needed for the Lease as it was considered that the field was a disposal for the purposes of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

108. King Edward VII: Mr Heustice reported that the previous evening, he had attended a meeting of the KEVII Liaison Group. It was pleased that after some encouragement, Cala Homes and Millgate Homes were present for the first time at the meeting. In the absence of the SDNPA, the meeting was Chaired by Simon Vernon-Harcourt of City and Country. City and Country reported that their show apartments had been dressed and would be launched to the public in April. Cala Homes intended to exercise their option on the land known as King's Green. They intend to submit a revised planning application to provide some rows of terraced houses with parking spaces adjacent to the houses, however, this would necessitate moving the rows of houses nearer to Hurst Park. Cala Homes hoped to complete their first tranche of properties in mid-August. Millgate Homes had offered to resurface Scotland Lane when the development of their homes was complete; however, WSCC had declined this offer. This was possibly due to insurance concerns.

109 Replacement Bus Shelter at Dodsley Lane/Hollist Lane junction: The Clerk advised that this project was not as simple as was first thought. Ascot Buildings had been contracted to undertake the work but they had advised that a license would be required from the County Council Highways Department to allow them to undertake the work on/near the roadside verge. A temporary bus stand would need to be provided by Stagecoach, the bus operator for the route, while the work was being carried out to keep passengers safe. The Clerk had contacted WSCC and Stagecoach and these permissions were in the pipeline.

110. Annual Spring Clean: It was noted that this would now be undertaken on 11th April 2015.

111. Elections: The Clerk advised that nomination forms were available. The Chairman advised that Mr M Taylor had recently resigned and that he and Mr F Martin would be standing down at the next election.

112 Correspondence and notices received:

- Clerk and Councils Direct Magazine
- Invitation from David McFarlane, SP Broadway, Comer Home Group to public Exhibition of plans for the development of new homes at Fernhurst Park (former Syngenta Site) Fernhurst
- Media release regarding freezing of council tax by CDC

113. Grass Cutting: The Chairman advised that this item was not on the agenda but that invitations to quote for the cutting of grass at Wheelbarrow Castle Field and the burial ground, including hedge cutting had been sent out. Only one contractor, Grasstex, had responded and their quote for 2015/16 had only slightly increased since 2014/15. **Proposed by Mr J Calego, seconded by Mr D Pack** that Grasstex be awarded the grass cutting contract for 2015/16 – **All in Favour.**

Items for Noting:

The following planning decisions were noted		EPC	CDC/SDNPA
14/02053/HOUS	Bottingdean Lodge Hollist Lane	No Obj	Approved
14/04754/HOUS	Orchard House, Hollist Lane	No Obj	Approved
14/04869/TCA	Sycamore House, Easebourne Lane	No obj	No Obj
14/04984/HOUS	Dunluce, Dodsley Grove	Obj	Approved
14/05052/HOUS	2 Highfield Close	No obj	Approved
14/05014/HOUS	The Barn, Easebourne Street	No obj	Approved
14/05100/TPO	Durlestone, 12 High Path	No obj	Approved
14/05370/TPO	Holly Tree Lodge, Easebourne Street	No obj	No Obj
14/06039/HOUS	9 Crossways	No obj	Approved
14/05341/TPO	1 Weavers Close	No obj	Approved

114. Planning

The meeting closed at 9:30pm.

The Next Parish Council meeting (Annual Village Meeting) will be held on Wednesday, 8th April 2015 at 7.00pm.

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