

Minutes of the Meeting of East Dean Parish Council
17th October 2022 at 7.30pm
Held at East Dean Village Hall

Present: Neil Georges-Chair, Sarah Peirson –Vice Chair, Peter West, John Holt, Josh Collins and Sam Hook

Apologies Sara Hutton -Potts

In attendance: Jeremy Hunt –West Sussex County Council
Henry Potter – Chichester District Council
Alexia Ward - Parish Clerk
Three Parishioners

Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on 18th July 2022 were reviewed and approved.

1. Matters arising from Minutes

- Neil Georges said that the filming in the village by Sussex Martyrs Production Ltd had been successful and that they would be back in the next month to complete their filming.
- Josh Collins said that he had looked at the oak fence around Pond Green and suggested that Parish Council review its condition again next year. Josh also added that he had instructed Tattersall Groundworks to de-silt the village pond as it was beyond the capability of his own machinery. The work had now been completed.
- John Holt said that he would cut the hedge at the end of Butchers Lane this autumn.
- Neil said the application of the Blue Plaque in recognition of Christopher Fry was in progress.
- Sarah said that a meeting about Plant Protection Products (PPP) within our greenspaces has been arranged with the other stakeholders.
- Neil said a meeting had taken place to plan the arrangements for the bonfire on November 5th.

2. Update from District and County Councillors

Jeremy Hunt's report had been circulated to the Parish Council before the meeting. Jeremy outlined the impact of increasing inflation was having on WSCC in the same way as other businesses and individuals which would impact the in- year budget as well as the Medium Term Financial Strategy over the next four years. The particular concern was the continuing pressure on social services without knowing the government funding levels for next year which are not expected till mid- December. Jeremy said that the County Council has no additional resources to help individuals or households with the cost of living pressures they were supporting residents by providing information, advice and support across a wide range of issues. Help and advice can be found at either our libraries (<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/libraries/contact-the-library-service/>) - which are open six days a week - or by contacting our community hub (<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/fire-emergencies-and-crime/coronavirus-covid-19-information/advice-and-support/community-hub/>) or call 033 022 27980) which is open seven days a week.

Henry Potter sent his report to Alexia who circulated it to the Parish Council by email. Henry said that the District Council have launched a campaign, 'Supporting You' to help people who are struggling through this

dreadful financial crisis. There are people who you can call on for advice, or just to chat to, as well as financial help and guidance if you are struggling to 'get by'. The Council website chichester.gov.uk/supportingyou gives all details of help which is available.

3. Financial update

Alexia Ward said the balance of the Lloyds Current Account was £5,014.09 which included a donation of £2,000.00 to the Parish Council from the Sussex Martyrs Production Ltd for filming in the village. Alexia said that she had received the precept of £572.00 from Chichester District Council and made a payment to Tattersall Groundworks for de-silting the pond of £900.00 and that she would reclaim the VAT in due course. Alexia also said that she had made a VAT reclaim for the Village Hall refurbishment of £1,013.40 which had been transferred to the Village Hall.

Alexia said that the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return had been approved.

Alexia said that the balance on the Helen West (legacy) savings account was £19,862.84 which included interest of £2.34. Alexia also added that when looking into the higher interest account the terms and conditions were not suitable for that account.

4. Correspondence

Alexia said that she had contacted Jeremy Hunt and Henry Potter about the safety issues at the cross roads at Pilley Green, at the top of East Dean Hill. Jeremy said that he would contact West Sussex Highways and ask if they could do anything to make the crossing safer especially from the racecourse approach suggesting that the signage was improved. Jeremy said that he would follow up the request but thought they had cleared some of the vegetation from the signs approaching the junction.

Henry suggested we contact Jo Shiner, Chief Superintendent for West Sussex Police. Neil emailed her but has not had any response yet which he will follow up.

5. Update on flooding and sewerage

Neil said he would contact Southern Water about the postponed work on the manhole covers and drains near Yew Cottage and The Toft.

6. Update and Highways

Neil said that they would look at any repairs to the road surface on the next village clear up day and report to West Sussex Highways if necessary.

7. Update from Parish Councillors

Sara Hutton-Potts was going to organise the Guy Competition and the winning guy would grace the top of the bonfire.

Sam Hook said she had been out with the speed awareness volunteers during The Goodwood Revival monitoring the speed of the traffic at the sites in the village. Sam said that there were no cars recorded with excess speed but she may consider getting some different sites approved in the village.

Josh Collins confirmed that he had arranged for the pond to be de-silted.

Pete West suggested that the new trees in Charlton Road should have the area around them pruned before John Holt has his hedges cut this autumn.

John Holt said he had circulated the updated Winter Management Plan. Sarah Peirson suggested that the Parish Council set up a WhatsApp Group just for emergencies as well as the telephone tree.

Sarah Peirson said there had been a planning application at Pilley Green Lodge, Hat Hill and reminded councillors to send their comments.

8. Any Other Business

- **Power Cuts**

A member of the parish asked if there could be an action plan if there were power cuts in the village as a power cut recently made it very difficult for a parishioner to gain access into their house as it has an electric automated door lock and for her to use essential equipment in her home. After a general discussion it was decided to invite parishioners through an advert in the valley diary to inform the council if they felt it would be helpful to for them to be added to a register of vulnerable people. Neil also reminded us that we should be looking out for our vulnerable neighbours within our community.

- **Village Clear Up**

26th November 10.00 am to 12.00am. Alexia said she would put up posters and a notice on the WhatsApp.

Date of Next Meetings

16th January 2023 at 7.30pm

17th April 2023 AGM at 7.00pm and Meeting at 7.30pm

At East Dean Village Hall