

Minutes of the meeting of East Dean Parish Council
16th January 2024 at 7.30pm
Held at East Dean Village Hall

Present: Neil Georges-Chair, Sarah Peirson –Vice Chair, John Holt, Peter West

Apologies Sam Hook, Josh Collins and Beanie Allison

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

Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on 16th October 2023 were reviewed and approved.

1. Matters arising from Minutes

- Neil Georges asked the Parish Council if they had any further thoughts about having a similar information board placed in East Dean to those which have been installed in Singleton and Charlton .Sarah Peirson said she still had reservations about spending monies in times of financial hardship. Peter West said he thought that he would be able to make them for less than the approximate cost that had been suggested.
- Neil thanked the Team for all their hard work to create a splendid bonfire and firework display in the village. He also thanked Max Davies for supplying the fireworks.
- Neil said that the clear up day on the 18th November had been postponed due to bad weather but some of the work had been completed by the EDPC subgroup beforehand.

2. Update from District and County Councillors

Jeremy Hunt sent his report by email to Alexia who circulated it to the Parish Council. Jeremy's report included information on the budget for 24/25, Here to Help –cost of living and that the booking system for the Westhampnett Amenity site goes live on 12th February 2024. He also said that work on the culvert from Chapel Row to Pond Green would be undertaken by Balfour Beatty when it can be accessed.

Jeremy's full report with links for further information can be seen on the web page.

<http://www.eastdeanhall.co.uk/minutes/>

Henry Potter sent his report by email which was circulated to the Parish Council before the meeting.

District Councillors Report

First of all I wish you all a happy and fortuitous New Year.

The recent reaction by National Highways with regard to the traffic impact of development in the south of the District on the A27 has at least allowed further progress towards submission of the District Local Plan for inspection by the Planning Inspectorate. This is most welcome news unlike a recommendation by the Cabinet, on January 9th, to full Council to increase Car Parking charges by 6.7% in line with a ONS September '23 inflation figure which we now know has fallen dramatically. Also, charging is recommended on Sundays at the Council owned Rural Car Parks. Considering the current climate in our High Streets at present, I consider this to be a bad proposal. On my fairly frequent visits to East Pallant House, that Car Park is now so underused that increased charges will cause yet more folk to boycott the City. Also, in the proposal is to extend the chargeable period from 6 pm til 8 pm in the evenings in Council owned car parks! Again, a hit against the nighttime economy. The debate of these measures will be interesting at the Council Meeting as many of the current Members are very 'green' orientated and

would like to see everybody riding bicycles and houses built on our car parks. Quite how maybe a 70-year-old would manage their shopping bags on a bike is beyond me.

The next meeting, on 16th January, of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is promised the attendance of Katy Bourne the Sussex PCC to answer questions about her Police Force. Many questions have been tendered in advance, but I hope there will be ample time to question her with impromptu questions. It is a fact, but we would all like to know 'where are our Policemen'?? Cybercrime is said to occupy 30% of Police resources but surely there must be sufficient Officers for some presence on our streets.

The ongoing issue with sewage escaping from the system in The Valley seems to have worsened with tankers attending the inspection cover adjacent to Bankside. This is something new, I don't ever remember this being necessary in the past and the lack of relief measures in Charlton suggest that something must have changed. It is a confounded nuisance to residents and traffic.

Adrian Moss, the Leader of the Council had a meeting with senior Officers of Southern Water on Friday last week 12th and he asked all Members to highlight issues in our Wards. I trust you received copy of my response, and I even sent him photos of all the situations in The Valley. Hopefully I may hear back from him before your Meeting and I'll report subsequently the reaction of SW. If there was a reaction!!

As I write this I haven't received anything from Adrian Moss regarding the SW situation, but if I do I will report verbally to your Meeting.

Cllr. Henry Potter

CDC Member for the Goodwood Ward.

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3. Financial Report

Alexia Ward said that the balance of the Lloyds Current account on 16th January 2024 was £4,307.18. Alexia said she had made a payment of £204.00 to Tim Calloway for fuel to mow Pond Green, £120.00 to Keith Goacher to mow the bank opposite The Old Vicarage and £194.50 to Chichester District Council for the uncontested election in May 2023. The Helen West Legacy account balance was £20,065.03 which included £83.99 interest.

4. Correspondence

The Parish Council consulted with each other and agreed to keep the precept for 2024/2025 at a similar rate as last year and it has therefore been set at £1,143.00.

5. Update on flooding , Sewerage and Highways

Neil said he had continued to lobby Southern Water for sound barriers to be placed around the pumps and generators on Pond Green without any success. He will continue to monitor the situation.

Sarah Peirson said that the flow of water onto Pond Green from possibly the road drain between Fallow Field and Long Meadow presented a safety risk as it was not known what damage had been done by the water scouring out below the surface potentially leading to a collapse and making a large sink hole. The Parish Council asked Alexia to notify Zurich the insurers and letter drop each house in the Parish with a warning not to go on Pond Green and Neil said he would also put a notice on the two WhatsApp Groups. Jeremy said he would try and contact West Sussex Highways to come and assess, but he added that highways were very busy and it was difficult to reach anyone.

6. Update from Parish Councillors

- Sarah Peirson said that there had been no further information on the retrospective planning at 1 Droke Lane, PO18 0JH but she would follow it up at CDC.
- Nothing else to report from the other councillors.

7. Any Other Business

- Sarah Peirson asked if Peter West had done the quote for the Church notice board. He said it had been sent to the PCC and he would forward a copy to Alexia for circulation to the Parish Council.
- Neil suggested another Village Clear up on 2nd March 2024. Alexia said she will do notices for help from parishioners.
- Neil confirmed that the Parish Council would be meeting on 20th January 2024 to update the Village Plan with help from the parish at the East Dean Village Hall.

Date of Next Meetings

15th April 2024 AGM 7.00pm and Meeting 7.30pm

15th July 2024 at 7.30pm

At East Dean Village Hall

Jeremy Hunt's Report

First of all - may I wish you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Apologies that my report was a little late, but I have been flat out finalising our budget for 2024/25 - which as I am sure you can imagine is quite challenging. Anyway, we are just about there and we will be publishing the proposed budget next Wednesday ready for it to go to our Performance & Finance scrutiny committee on 24th. It then goes for signing off at Public Cabinet on 30th January, before going to full council for final approval on Friday February 16th. All these meetings are webcast live as well as being recorded so that they can be accessed whenever you want.

For 2024/25 our gross spend will be in the region of £2.0bn and our net revenue budget will be just over £761M. Of that, 63% goes on both adults and children's services. £47m of that revenue expenditure goes on highways, plus of course £60m of capital expenditure, - nearly half of which is additional funding - over and above government grants - that we are putting into highways.

I think the key point is that the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement provided us with very little additional funding to address the continuing pressures, particularly for social care - both children and adults. They have announced an overall increase to LA's of around 6.5%, but of course nearly 4.5% of that is predicated on the assumption that we raise CT by the maximum allowed, which is 4.99% (2.99% for core services plus 2% for adult social care). Unfortunately, therefore we are proposing to raise CT by that amount, which equates to a rise of £81.54 - or £1.57 per week - for an average Band D taxpayer.

As I said, the papers will be published for the first-time next Wednesday ahead of the P&F Scrutiny website.

Here to help - cost of living

I know I mentioned this in October, but just as a reminder - especially with this very cold weather - WSCC has dedicated web pages to provide people with the latest help, advice and practical support if they are facing cost of living pressures. Please go to [Advice and information pages](#) for more info - and please spread the word. Often those in need are too proud to ask for help, so if you know or even suspect anyone who might be struggling perhaps you could point them in our direction. Our Community Hub is still running - there to help and support people.

Westhampnett Amenity site - just a reminder that the booking system for the site goes live on 12th February. The website is www.westsussex.gov.uk/land-waste-and-housing/waste-and-recycling/recycling-and-waste-prevention/recycling-centres/book-to-recycle-booking-system/ - or more simply just google 'West Sussex book to recycle'.

Local Matters:

Binderton Speed Limit reduction - Just to update you that West Dean PC have successfully applied for a Communities Highways TRO to reduce the speed limit between WD and Lavant to 50mph, with the section through Binderton reduced to 40mph. The design is now with our contractor who has programmed the work during February - subject to weather and other possible highway emergencies.

Culvert running from Butchers Lane to the Village Green

As I updated you at the last meeting, I had reported that both the culvert and the sump need cleaning out and I am awaiting a response. Well on Friday I received the following:

We have inspected the structure and it does meet the requirements to be adopted into the Structures team stock. Unfortunately, there are cases like this across the county where we just aren't aware we have/should have an asset logged in our records. I have also raised a job for Balfour Beatty to remove as much silt as possible from the structure. I am awaiting a start date for these works. Furthermore, this structure will now be added to our routine inspection regime meaning it will be inspected on a 2 yearly cycle.

So, a very positive result.

Dropped Kerb opposite the pub.

We have a dedicated webpage which sets out how communities can apply for dropped kerbs for accessibility. Could I suggest that you review this website and put in an application. The website can be accessed at: www.westsussex.gov.uk/leisure-recreation-and-community/supporting-local-communities/pedestrian-dropped-crossings-and-footway-accessibility-improvements/

20mph Scheme

I have heard nothing further since your discussions at the last meeting. Just as a reminder, details of our Community TRO application process can be found at: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/traffic-regulation-orders/about-tros/apply-for-a-permanent-tro/>

Finally, please don't forget to keep an eye on our website, especially our news and campaigns page where you can keep up to date with all our latest news. <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/about-the-council/news-and-campaigns/>

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