

EAST HOATHLY with HALLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Full Council on **26th June, 2023 at 7.00pm.**
MEETING MINUTES

In attendance: Cllrs. Bradley, Cole, Freezer (chair), Magness, Partridge, Pope, Thatcher and Vaughan.
Also participating: County Councillor Nick Bennett, Malcolm Ramsden (clerk), Verne Heath (rfo) (via Zoom) and six members of the public.

AGENDA

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend. The first fifteen minutes of the meeting will be available for the public to express a view or ask a question on relevant matters on the agenda. The public and members of the press are also welcome to stay and observe the rest of the meeting (subject to any items considered as confidential within the terms of the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960).

Many Buttsfield Lane residents spoke very eloquently and patiently, consistently reinforcing that Council make representations regarding a response to Stacey Robins' request for information regarding Buttsfield Lane and include the following points:-

- *No vehicular access – by foot only*
- *Police involvement re. developer trespass*
- *Wealden District Council (WDC) references to being a 'civil matter' with a large amount of money having been spent by residents*
- *Parking in the lane and employment of 'bullying' tactics resulting in an assault*
- *Refusal of developer to requests for meetings*
- *Planning permission now expired and should not be extended*
- *Availability of emails between WDC and developer/agent following Freedom of Information request*
- *Details of three non-material amendments to the planning permission*
- *Quality of work that has been carried out is 'not fit for purpose' with reference to The Whitely Principle*
- *LDA applied for on 15th May at which time no meaningful work had been carried out which needed to be done before the 9th of June*
- *Restrictions regarding access to water, electricity and sewage connections*
- *Representations to WDC Enforcement Officers*
- *Damage to vegetation at site boundary*
- *Deception and questionable tactics employed by developer*
- *Lack of help from WDC Planning Department*

Chair thanked all present for their contribution and confirmed that the previously submitted paper supplied by the residents would be forwarded to Stacey Robins as suggested with the depths of resident's feeling being highlighted.

2. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Cllr. Bennett referred members to his previously circulated report and reminded members and recapped the details of his involvement with the early stages of the Buttsfield Lane access issues and went on to ask that members promote the recently introduced FlexiBus scheme. In response to Cllr. Cole's question regarding the height of vegetation in Puck Lane members heard that Council had elected for the standard rural cutting schedule but that any dangerously located vegetation be reported to ESCC Highways.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are invited to make any declaration of personal or prejudicial interests that they may have in relation to items on the agenda and are reminded to make any declarations at any stage during the meeting if it then becomes apparent that this may be required when a particular item or issue is to be considered

Cllr. Pope declared his continuing interest in matters relating to his association with Church Marks Green Management Co. Ltd. Cllr. Bradley declared her interest in matters relating to the Garden Plots and Cllr. Freezer declared her interests in respect of agenda items 8.1.1 as a family connection and 8.2.3 as a member of the Carnival Society.

4. **APOLOGIES** – to receive apologies for absence

No apologies received. Cllr. Magness in requesting promotion in the order of discussion of agenda item 6.1, due to his being unable to attend the AGM, announced that he hadn't accepted the nomination to be a member of the Planning Committee, going on to ask Councillors to note that the work of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had been completed and that Council should now take on the role of navigating the plan through to completion.

5. **FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION**

5.1 To approve/note payments payable/paid April/May, 2023

Following a proposal by Cllr. Cole and seconding by Cllr. Pope

0559 **RESOLVED** to approve/note payments payable/paid April/May, 2023 totalling £9,868.26 (See appendix A).

5.2 To note income/expenditure-vs-budget and approve, if necessary, overspends/under-receipts not previously approved

Members noted, in addition to items previously reported, an over-spend of £22 in respect of Pavilion Consumables (code 4315).

Following a proposal by Cllr. Bradley and seconding by Cllr. Pope

0560 **RESOLVED** to approve the over-spend in respect of cleaning items purchased.

5.3 To consider F&GP committee recommendation to replace Zoom with Teams for virtual meetings
Members noted that an annual saving of £160 could be achieved by converting from Zoom to Microsoft Teams for virtual meetings although some concerns were expressed regarding Microsoft.

Following a proposal by Cllr. Bradley and seconding by Cllr. Vaughan

0561 **RESOLVED** to change over from Zoom to Microsoft Teams for virtual meetings.

5.4 To consider F&GP committee recommendation regarding additional bank accounts
Members learnt that to retain protection under fscs, F&GP recommended opening new accounts with Cambridge Building Society and Redwood Bank. Our internal auditor has, without recommendation, confirmed he has knowledge of both of these from his work.

Following a proposal by Cllr. Bradley and seconding by Cllr. Cole

0562 **RESOLVED** to open the two new accounts with balances of £30,000 and £82,126.96 Signatories to remain the same as at present for existing accounts.

5.5 To consider F&GP committee recommendation regarding the 'Queen's' bench

Following a proposal by Cllr. Pope and seconding by Cllr. Freezer

0563 **RESOLVED** to utilize £1,262 of CIL funds for the 'Queen's' bench.

5.6 To elect chair of the planning Committee

Cllr. Magness gave his reasons, including regarding his style of chairing meetings, for no longer wishing to lead the Planning Committee. Chair asked that a huge vote of thanks be noted for Cllr. Magness' unstinting contribution to the work of the Planning Committee and Neighbourhood Steering Group over the years.

Following a proposal by Cllr. Freezer and seconding by Cllr. Thatcher

0564 **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr. Bradley as chair of the Planning Committee.

5.7 Use of Council org.uk addresses

Members noted Cllr. Vaughan's observation that the webmail system used for emails could be more secure and accounted for a sound reason to change and that an 'email forward' arrangement could be possible for members not wishing to use org.uk as a main Council account.

5.8 To note bank account reconciliations

Members noted the following bank account reconciliation balances as at 31st May, 2023: Current account - £7,631.13, Deposit account - £184,662.40, s106 - £10,436.77, 95day account - £80,000. Chair signed the reconciliation cash book record and matching bank statements.

- 5.9 To consider grant applications received
Chair referred members to the previously circulated application from Citizens Advice.
Following a proposal by Cllr. Vaughan and seconding by Cllr. Bradley

0565 **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £300 to Citizens Advice.

6. MINUTES

- 6.1 To resolve that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 30th May, 2023 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

Following a proposal by Cllr. Partridge and seconding by Cllr. Pope

0566 **RESOLVED** to approve that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday, 30th of May, 2023 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record, subject to correction of one typo, and be signed by the Chair.

- 6.1.1 Matters arising from minutes not otherwise covered by agenda items
None.

7. PLANNING

- 7.1 Neighbourhood Plan

- 7.1.1 Update

Members learnt from the Chair that the District Council had suggested amendments to the latest version. Cllr. Bradley to arrange a meeting to discuss, following the 17th of July, 2023.

- 7.2 To note District Council and Planning Inspector decisions to date
Noted.

- 7.3 To note Horam Neighbourhood Plan Reg. 14 consultation
Noted with no comments made.

8. WAR MEMORIAL SPORTS GROUND TRUST (COUNCIL AS TRUSTEE)

- 8.1 Pavilion

Chair left the meeting. Cllr. Vaughan now presiding.

- 8.1.1 Caretaker/bookings administrator vacancy

Members learnt from Cllr. Vaughan (who had interviewed the candidate together with Cllr. Bradley) that one applicant, Alex Freezer, had stood in for the interim caretaker for a week and was at college meaning he could cover the role during evenings and weekends which would be sufficient. IT literate and leaving for university in two years, he should be recommended for an initial trial period of three months. Cllr. Magness reminded members that promoting the use of the pavilion would be required and that concern might be raised as Alex is the son of our current Chair.

Following a proposal by Cllr. Vaughan and seconding by Cllr. Cole

0566 **RESOLVED** to approve the appointment of Alex Freezer as caretaker/bookings administrator subject to a probationary period of thirteen weeks.

Chair re-joined the meeting and now presiding.

- 8.1.2 To consider F&GP committee recommendation to meet roof asbestos survey from CIL monies

Following a proposal by Cllr. Magness and seconding by Cllr. Pope

0567 **RESOLVED** that the motion fail and funds be taken from the Maintenance budget.

- 8.1.3 Electricity supply contract

Members noted that electricity prices were still volatile but that if a significant reduction could be achieved from the current 74p per unit then it should be pursued.

Following a proposal by Cllr. Pope and seconding by Cllr. Magness

0568 **RESOLVED** that if a price of no more than 33p per unit could be obtained then it be contracted for a period of one year.

- 8.2 Sports ground
- 8.2.1 Sports ground access
Awaiting quotes. Carried forward.
- 8.2.2 Football goalposts and nets
Clerk reported that one net certainly needed replacement and that the posts were rusty. Nets costing £80-£100 each and £120-£140 a pair. Posts £1,300 to £1,500 a pair. Looking at feasibility and pricing for treating and repainting the existing posts.
Following a proposal by Cllr. Vaughan and seconding by Cllr. Pope
- 0569** **RESOLVED** that costs of up to £140 for new nets and up to £300 to sand, rust treat and re-paint the goalposts be approved from CIL funds.
- 8.2.3 Carnival Society request
Members learnt that the Carnival Society had concerns regarding safety because of the effective barrier caused by the new fence at the pavilion car park and had offered to remove and then replace the fence around the time of the bonfire. Discussion concluded that details should be obtained of how this year's risk assessment would differ from last year's when there had been barrier fencing in place.
- 8.2.4 To note play area safety report
Noted. None of the items inspected had an associated risk higher the 'Low'. Clerk to obtain quotes for maintenance issues raised.
- 8.3 General
- 8.3.1 Constitution
Clerk confirmed that the Charity Commission had no record of a constitution for the Trust. Cllr. Vaughan suggested that as no representations had been received that this item be deferred.
- 8.3.2 Use of car park
Members learnt from the Clerk that there were insufficient car parking spaces when cycle events were being held at the same time as tennis matches. Clerk to investigate the possibility of other areas being used for overflow parking and to contact cycle clubs.
Following a proposal by Cllr. Bradley and seconding by Cllr. Magness
- 0570** **RESOLVED** that notices to the effect that the car park was private be put up with cycle clubs being told that the car park could only be used if the pavilion had been booked.

9. PROPOSALS/REPORTS FOR APPROVAL, DISCUSSION OR NOTING

- 9.1 Correspondence
Noted.
- 9.2 To consider F&GP committee recommendation regarding structures at the Garden Plots
Members learnt from the clerk that an application had been submitted regarding structures but that a great deal of further information and plans were required. The architect that had drawn up the original plans at the time of the land swap had suggested a pre-app approach to Wealden District Council. Carried forward with architect to be approached once final requirements had been agreed.
- 9.3 To consider F&GP committee recommendation regarding fingerpost maintenance
Members learnt from the clerk that last year's schedule of maintenance had been half completed with the benefit of an ESCC grant for 50% of the costs relating to two of the fingerposts. The contractor has held prices at last year's level and a further grant might be forthcoming from ESCC.
Following a proposal by Cllr. Vaughan and seconding by Cllr. Pope
- 0571** **RESOLVED** that costs of £1,432.20 be approved to commission completion of last year's schedule of maintenance.
- 9.4 To consider F&GP committee recommendation regarding tree safety survey
Recommendations as to the suggested frequency of tree safety surveys from our existing contractor, Wealden District Council and the Woodland Trust had resulted in a range from six months to five years. Clerk asked that members note part of the parish woodland

bordered the Wealdway and was included within regular walk by inspections following severe weather conditions.

Following a proposal by Cllr. Pope and seconding by Cllr. Vaughan

0572 **RESOLVED** that tree safety surveys be carried out at three and a half yearly intervals with the next inspection being due summer 2024.

9.5 To consider exploring Garden Plots status as being that of an allotment

Members learnt from Cllr. Bradley that conversion to allotments would result in a higher protection in law from change of use than the existing status of the Garden Plots. The SWCAA are a useful source of information and Cllr. Pope reminded members of the conditions imposed at the time of the land swap which would need to be observed. Chair recalled that the then clerk advised against styling the Garden Plots as allotments. Members tasked Cllr. Bradley and the clerk to learn more and report back at a future meeting.

9.6 High Street pavement cherry trees

Chair reported that questions as to why Council had allowed the High Street pavement trees to deteriorate were being asked. Cllr. Pope reminded members that some years ago road salt was believed to be the culprit and that efforts to replace them with a more hardy variety had stalled in view of the complexities of arranging for surveys from the various statutory bodies that needed to be consulted when disturbing and digging up parts of the pavement.

Following a proposal by Cllr. Freezer and seconding by Cllr Bradley

0573 **RESOLVED** that the clerk be tasked with investigating the possible options.

9.7 Clerk's progress report

Clerk highlighted progress regarding the following items from his previously circulated report:-

- o 48 mile mile-marker*
- o Halland bus shelter maintenance*
- o Sports Ground wildflower area*

Cllr. Pope queried progress with the Buffalo Bills shelter mural and Cllr. Magness offered to forward details of a new District Council survey.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Full Council will be held on Monday 31st July, 2023 at 7.00 pm at the Village Hall, East Hoathly

Noted with members asked to note the Chair's apologies.

Meeting closed at 9:30pm

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE E-MAILED COPIES OF THIS AND FUTURE AGENDAS
PLEASE CONTACT THE CLERK (07948 496760) and/or
clerk@easthoathlywithhalland.org.uk

Appendix A

	Payee Name	Amount	Transaction Detail
01/04/2023	Castle Water	£53.85	Garden plot water.
01/04/2023	Satswana Ltd	£150.00	Data Protection annual fee
01/04/2023	Anthony Read	£165.00	March weekly maintenance check
01/04/2023	Ashdown Solutions Ltd	£68.30	Business and cloud fee April
01/04/2023	HMRC	£308.36	March tax and NI
01/04/2023	Verne Heath	£296.27	Salary
		£26.00	wfh allowance
		£0.75	Postage
01/04/2023	ESALC Limited	£4.87	Adjust to inv 1340 membership
01/04/2023	Malcolm Ramsden	£1,352.64	Salary
		£26.00	wfh allowance
		£52.50	Caretaker's salary
		£208.88	Mileage
		£12.99	zoom
		£10.41	phone
		£1.59	100 gb storage
		£30.00	Digdat manhole cover map
		£200.00	Superior glazing door work
		£11.67	Office cost - h&s book
		£9.65	postage
		£4.16	stationery staples
		£102.81	pav keys, air fresh, cleaning
01/04/2023	HMRC	£530.64	April tax and NI
01/04/2023	John Tarry	£23.00	plots hard core
01/04/2023	Chris Bartholomew	£289.36	Hand dryer and trace heating
01/04/2023	Castle Water	£53.85	Garden plot water
01/04/2023	Anthony Read	£1,013.00	Grass cut maint check to april
01/04/2023	Superior glass ltd	£700.00	New interior partition door
01/04/2023	Ashdown Solutions Ltd	£68.30	May storage and cloud support
01/04/2023	Core Surveys Ltd	£250.00	Asbestos survey pavilion
01/04/2023	Mulberry and Co		Mulberry and Co
01/04/2023	Mulberry and Co	£120.00	Internal audit.
01/04/2023	Verne Heath	£393.85	Salary May
		£3.10	postage
01/04/2023	Malcolm Ramsden	£1,554.76	Salary

		£26.00	wfh allowance
		£47.50	Caretaker salary
		£105.00	Mileage
		£12.99	zoom
		£10.41	phone
		£1.59	storage gb
		£41.66	stationery
		£83.15	1st aid kit, bin liners etc
01/04/2023	Rachel Walton	£50.00	Refund of g plot given up.
01/04/2023	Shaun Kasperuk	£335.00	Tile repairs lagging
		£190.00	3rd keysafe fix
01/04/2023	Rialtas Business Solutions	£148.85	rbs software support and maint
	East Hoathly Hal Carnival Soc		
01/04/2023		£685.00	Grant -coronation celebrations
01/04/2023	Castle Water	£34.55	Garden plot water
	TOTAL	£9,868.26	

Appendix B

Correspondence: 19th April, 2023 to 20th June, 2023

1. Urban Grass Cutting-Countrymans Contractors Ltd
2. WDC: Media release: Wealden in line for £838K boost for rural businesses
3. WDC: Wealden Funding Opportunities - April 2023
4. Wealden Weekly Commencing 24th April
5. News from South East Water - Register now to take part in our 'Your water, your say' virtual meeting
6. WDC: Change of date for meeting 07/06/2023, 10:00, Cabinet
7. WDC: Media release: Reusable Nappy Week 2023
8. The Rural Bulletin - 25 April 2023
9. NALC events
10. Healthwatch East Sussex - April 2023 Newsletter
11. WDALC: Deers (already forwarded to members)
12. NALC newsletter
13. NALC Chief executive's bulletin
14. Wealden Weekly Commencing 1st May
15. WDC: Media release: Everything residents need to know about polling day
16. NALC events
17. NALC newsletter
18. The Rural Bulletin - 3 May 2023
19. WDC: Press release: National Dementia Action Week 2023
20. RSN Rural Funding Digest - May 2023 Edition
21. NALC Chief executive's bulletin
22. ERTA Newsletter May-June 2023 3 and save the Travelcard
23. NALC Chief executive's bulletin – May 5th
24. Wealden Weekly Commencing 8th May
25. The Rural Bulletin - 10 May 2023
26. Wealden Weekly Commencing 15th May
27. Vanguard Way Association AGM : Saturday 10 June
28. ESALC: Resilience Plan
29. from Village Concerns (already forwarded to members)
30. Memorial bench East Hoathly
31. The Rural Bulletin - 16 May 2023
32. WDC: Agenda for Full Council, Wednesday, 24th May, 2023
33. Healthwatch East Sussex - Read our latest insight on health and care issues
34. NALC newsletter 17th May, 2023
35. WDC: Media release: New administration gets to work at Wealden District Council
36. EDC: NALC and ESALC Training Dates
37. NALC Chief executive's bulletin – May 18th
38. St Peter & St James Hospice
39. NALC: Star Council awards
40. Vanguard Way Association - members litter-pick - Sunday 2nd July
41. WDC: Wealden Weekly Commencing 22nd May
42. Healthwatch East Sussex: We'd like to hear about your experiences of NHS health and care in Sussex
43. Active Places: Newsletter May 2023
44. WDC: Meeting cancelled - 14/06/2023, 10:00, Cabinet
45. The Rural Bulletin - 23 May 2023
46. WDC: Agenda for Planning Committee South, Thursday, 1st June, 2023
47. WDC: Media release - Wealden Community Lottery winner
48. WDC: Chairman/Vice-Chairman Bulletin
49. WDC: Tree Preservation Order 2010/0010 (East Hoathly with Halland)
50. NALC newsletter 24th May, 2023
51. National Grid: Update: National Grid's Little Horsted electricity supply point project (already forwarded to members)

52. WDC: Media release: 99.9% of Wealden electors brought correct voter ID
53. WDC: Notification of industrial action by GMB members in Wealden
54. WDC: Media release: New Wealden civic leaders appointed
55. WDC: Supplement: Supplement pack - Documents tabled at the meeting to the agenda for Full Council, Wednesday, 24th May, 2023
56. WDC: Wealden Weekly Commencing 29th May
57. Halland resident: Neighbourhood Plan
58. WDC: Supplement: Presentation Slides for Applications Listed on the Agenda to the agenda for Planning Committee South, Thursday, 1st June, 2023
59. WDC: Media release: Benefits drop in day comes to Hellingly
60. WDC: Supplement: Statements from Interested Parties on Applications Listed on the Agenda to the agenda for Planning Committee South, Thursday, 1st June, 2023
61. WDC: Supplement: WD/2023/0636/F - Lavender Cottage, Cross in Hand, Heathfield TN21 0SN - Statement from the Local Ward Member - Cllr Newton (item 11) to the agenda for Planning Committee South,
62. ESCC: FlexiBus is here!
63. The Rural Bulletin - 31 May 2023
64. WDC: Supplement: Officer Updates to the agenda for Planning Committee South, Thursday, 1st June, 2023
65. WDC: Supplement: Supplement pack - Documents tabled at the meeting to the agenda for Full Council, Wednesday, 24th May, 2023
66. ESALC: Transport for South East
67. Applause: Welcome to the June Newsletter
68. Wealden Weekly Commencing 5th June
69. Healthwatch East Sussex - Annual Event 2023
70. Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner #TalkSussex Survey
71. ESALC: Dissertation Research
72. ESCC: A new flexible way to travel in East Sussex, £5,000 funding available for projects that make a positive change in our county
73. The Rural Bulletin - 6 June 2023
74. WDC: media release: Motion passed at Full Council in relation to Uckfield Leisure Centre
75. RSN Rural Funding Digest - June 2023 Edition
76. NALC newsletter 7 June 2023
77. NALC: Chief executive's bulletin – 8 June 2023
78. WDC: Wealden Weekly Commencing 12 June
79. WDC: media release: Wealden resident fined after successful prosecution
80. South East Water: Please use water for essential uses only for the next few days
81. The Rural Bulletin - 13 June 2023
82. WDC: Minutes for Planning Committee South, Thursday, 1st June, 2023
83. WDC: Agenda for Planning Committee South, Thursday, 22nd June, 2023,
84. South East Water: Update on water supply problems
85. WDC: media release: Charities and organisations benefit from Service Level Agreements
86. NALC: Chief executive's bulletin – 15 June 2023
87. WDC: Media release: Raystede charity moves into Vicarage Field Shopping Centre
88. South East Water: Update on water supply problems
89. South East Water: Temporary Use Ban
90. WDC: Open letter written to residents from council leader (already forwarded to members)
91. WDC: Agenda for Full Council, Wednesday, 28th June, 2023
92. Healthwatch East Sussex - What we heard through enquiries in 2022-23
93. WDC: Wealden Weekly Commencing 19th June
94. WDC: Supplement: Presentation Slides for Applications Listed on the Agenda to the agenda for Planning Committee South, Thursday, 22nd June, 2023
95. South East Water: Update on water supply problems
96. WDC: media release: English Wine Week
97. The Rural Bulletin - 20 June 2023
98. WDC: media release: Pledge made over pothole problem in Wealden (already forwarded to members)