

EAST HOATHLY with HALLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Full Council on **29th January, 2024 at 7.00pm.**
MEETING MINUTES

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

Please note that meetings are recorded. Recordings are destroyed following adoption of the meeting minutes.

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).

In response to a question from the floor, chair clarified the timings relating to possible public input to both the Parish Neighbourhood Plan and the District draft Local Plan and confirmed that two drop in sessions to respond to resident's questions relating to the Neighbourhood Plan consultation had been set for the 5th and 6th of February. Turning to the 'Circle of Oaks' planning application, chair encouraged comments to be submitted to District Council and confirmed that the site had been included in the draft Local Plan as being suitable for development.

2. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Cllr. Bennett explained that this had been a tough year and that the budget would be discussed at next week's meeting of the full County Council when it was expected that reserves would need to be dipped into for the first time ever to balance the budget.

In response to concerns raised by Cllr. Cole, County Cllr. Bennett offered to look into what might be done regarding the damage that had occurred to road surfaces around the Hollow Lane area. Clerk confirmed that nothing had been heard from Dist. Cllr. Draper.

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. and Cllr. Freezer regarding her membership of the Carnival Society.

4. APOLOGIES – to receive apologies for absence

Apologies received and reasons accepted from Cllr. Vaughan.

5. MINUTES

5.1 To resolve that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 27th November, 2023 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

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

0640 **RESOLVED** to approve that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday, 27th of November, 2023 be taken as read and be signed by the Chair.

5.1.1 Matters arising from minutes not otherwise covered by agenda items

5.1.1.1 High Street pavement cherry trees

- Members learnt from the clerk that costings had not been received. Members asked that metal tree guards and an assurance by way of at least a two-year guarantee be obtained. Carried forward.*
- 5.1.1.2 Website improvements
No progress. Updates on the website were being 'trickled' onto the existing website with the Crockstead substations having just gone on with the garden plots paper still in the pipeline. Carried forward.
- 5.1.1.3 Other items
Concern at the poor quality of the Church Marks Lane pavement work would be expressed to County and include the need to re-instate the dropped kerbs.

6. FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION

- 6.1 To approve/note payments payable/paid November/December, 2023
Following a proposal by Cllr. Butcher and seconding by Cllr. Cole
- 0641 RESOLVED** to approve/note payments payable/paid October, 2023 totalling £13,981.94 (See appendix A).
- 6.2 To note income/expenditure-vs-budget and approve, if necessary, overspends/under-receipts not previously approved
Clerk reminded members that overspends in the areas of village furniture, pavilion consumables, insurance and staff training had previously been reported with a new request that the budgeted amount for professional fees be increased by £23 and went on to report that because of the way that the War Memorial charity was being funded that the grants figure had been exceeded.
Following a proposal by Cllr. Pope and seconding by Cllr. Cole
- 0642 RESOLVED** to approve and note overspends/under-receipts not previously approved and further resolve that the F&GP committee review how the WM charity's costs be funded in future.
- 6.3 To note Bank Account Reconciliation
Clerk and RFO reported that not all of the account statements had been received and suggested delegation to the February meeting of the Finance and General Purpose committee meeting.
Following a proposal by Cllr. Freezer and seconding by Cllr. Pope
- 0643 RESOLVED** to approve that the F&GP committee have delegated authority to complete the bank account reconciliation.
- 6.4 New member co-option
Members were referred to Mr. Whitlock's co-option statement previously circulated and were given the opportunity to question Mr. Whitlock who was present.
Following a proposal by Cllr. Pope and seconding by Cllr. Magness
- 0644 RESOLVED** to unanimously approve the co-option, as member, of Mr. Whitlock to Council.
- 6.5 To consider adoption of 2022/23 Local Government Services Pay Agreement for Clerk and RFO
Clerk referred members to the previously circulated NALC proposal to adopt the 2022/23 Local Government Services Pay Agreement for Clerks and RFOs.
Following a proposal by Cllr. Butcher and seconding by Cllr. Pope
- 0645 RESOLVED** to adopt the NALC proposal to adopt the 2022/23 Local Government Services Pay Agreement for Clerks and RFOs with effect from 1st April, 2023.
- 6.6 Grant policy
Members noted the proposed changes to the Grant Policy and asked that further changes be made before adoption. Clerk asked that any additional requests for changes be emailed to him. Changes currently requested relate to avoiding possible financial damages and limiting any liability to the provision of the grant funding and not relating to the project itself. Elements of duplication are present and clarification of when grant applications would be considered are needed. Carried forward.
- 6.7 To consider grant applications received
Clerk reported that he had only just been able to forward the one grant application that had been received for the Halland Christmas tree costs and that as members

hadn't been given the required three days to consider the application, that it be dealt with by the Finance and General Purpose committee up to the requested amount.
Following a proposal by Cllr. Freezer and seconding by Cllr. Pope

0646 RESOLVED to approve that the F&GP committee have delegated authority to approve the grant application, if appropriate.

7. PLANNING

7.1 Neighbourhood Plan

7.1.1 Examiner selection

Chair referred members to the previously circulated list of potential examiners that had been provided by District and reported that Mr. Walker would like Council to consider his comments which he would email. A number of comments were heard relating to the proposed examiners.

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

0647 RESOLVED to approve that the clerk obtain the earliest availability of the proposed examiners and that, in the interest of reducing delays, the decision be delegated by providing nominations to clerk.

7.1.2 Drop-in sessions for parishioners

Drop-in sessions to answer any parishioner's questions had been arranged for the 5th and 6th of February in the Village Hall and Blacksmith's Arms. Cllrs. Freezer, Cole and Thatcher offered to be present and Cllr. Thatcher agreed to provide a promotional poster for the events.

7.1.3 District Council Local Plan update

Chair and Cllr. Thatcher provided a summary of the housing figures contained in the District's draft Local Plan which would be presented to an extraordinary meeting of the District Council to be held on the 8th of February, 2024. Cllr. Pope commented that perhaps a lack of understanding as to its impact may have resulted in the disappointing numbers attending tonight's meeting.

7.2 Response from Wealden District Council to Southern Water's response re. Paddock Green
Cllr. Pope expressed his concern that no progress appeared to have been made regarding the discharge of conditions 18 and 19 of the Paddock Green planning consent. Clerk confirmed that, in spite of chasers, no response had been received from District regarding the discharge of the conditions. Chair mentioned that an update might be provided at the next developer liaison group meeting.

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

0648 RESOLVED to escalate the request to District for a response to Council concerns regarding the discharging of the conditions.

7.3 Response from Southern Water regarding Paddock Green
Noted.

7.4 To note District Council and Planning Inspector decisions to date
Clerk reported the District Council's approval of applications relating to 30 Church Marks Lane and Nookfield Workshops and the refusal of the application relating to land north of 2 Estate Cottages.

8. PROPOSALS/REPORTS FOR APPROVAL, DISCUSSION OR NOTING

8.1 Correspondence

Noted. (See appendix B)

8.2 To agree County grass cutting options

Members discussed the three options provided by County with comments relating to how late in the year the two cuts were made with the clerk being instructed to obtain the costs for additional cuts above and beyond the two offered at no charge. Chair made reference to how the maps of the scheduled cutting areas may be found and that, following a mistake, the wildflower verge at Harrisons Field had been cut. Clerk to also obtain costs for licences relating to signing wildflower verge areas.

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

0649 RESOLVED to approve continuing with the County option involving two cuts at no cost.

- 8.3 To consider adoption of South Street bus shelters
Chair reported that an offer had been received relating to the potential adoption of two bus shelters at the Wheatlands development boundary. Failure to agree to adoption would result in there being no shelters but just two poles indicating where buses should stop. Adoption would involve an increased insurance premium and a commitment to ongoing maintenance.
Following a proposal by Cllr. Pope and seconding by Cllr. Thatcher
- 0650 RESOLVED** to approve adoption of the two bus shelters being provided at the Wheatlands development boundary.
- 8.4 To consider applying for 'listed' status for parish mile markers
Following a proposal by Cllr. Butcher and seconding by Cllr. Thatcher
- 0651 RESOLVED** that clerk be tasked with exploring the implications of obtaining such a 'listing'.
- 8.5 To consider 80th Dday anniversary event/s
Clerk to contact, offering consideration of possible grant funding for events, the Carnival Society, Royal British Legion, bell ringers and Preservation Society for possible event sponsorship.
- 8.6 To note Horam NP Reg.16 consultation
Noted.
- 8.7 To note County Local Transport Plan consultation
Cllrs. noted poor service locally with many changes affecting Ringmer school and Lewes buses. Chair noted Ringmer Parish Council's invitation for a joint response.
- 8.8 Woodland footpath remedial action update
Cllr. Pope expressed surprise at the one quote so far received for producing a specification being £1,500. One potential supplier still to quote. Clerk to contact District Tree officer to learn of their guidelines relating to the provision of boardwalks in protected woodlands, if planning permission might be required and to seek further suppliers that would quote.
- 8.9 Clerk's progress report
Noted.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Full Council will be held on Monday 26th February, 2024 at 7.00 pm at the Village Hall, East Hoathly
Noted.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm

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

*Background papers that are available can be found on the Parish Council website:
<https://easthoathlywithhalland.org.uk/>*

Appendix A

Date	Payee Name	£ Total Amount
30/11/2023	HMRC	£741.04
30/11/2023	Anthony Read	£1,033.00
30/11/2023	Ashdown Solutions Ltd	£155.54
30/11/2023	Rebuild cost assessment ltd	£267.00
30/11/2023	Stavertons nursery	£450.00
30/11/2023	Complete Health & Safety	£1,080.00
30/11/2023	Wood MJ Solutions ltd	£245.00
30/11/2023	Clark Jacqueline	£82.65
30/11/2023	Salaries	£3,356.03
30/11/2023	Expenses	£371.53
31/12/2023	Kings Head / Inn House	£25.00
31/12/2023	Surrey Hills Solicitors	£360.00
31/12/2023	Blacksmith's Arms	£240.00
31/12/2023	Chris Bartholomew	£434.60
31/12/2023	Ashdown Solutions Ltd	£92.76
31/12/2023	iHasco ltd	£660.00
31/12/2023	HMRC	£1,006.67
31/12/2023	Shaun Kasperuk	£100.00
31/12/2023	GeoXsphere Ltd	£120.00
31/12/2023	Salaries	£2,777.75
31/12/2023	Expenses	£383.37
	Total	£13,981.94

Appendix B

Correspondence: 10th January, 2024 to 28th January, 2024

1. WDC: Agenda for Planning Committee North, Thursday, 18th January, 2024
2. WDC: Wealden District Parish Conference Thurs 14 March 2024 (already sent to all members)
3. WDC: Supplement: Officer Updates to the agenda for Planning Committee South, Thursday, 11th January, 2024
4. WDC: media release: Fund offers boost to rural businesses
5. Ashdown Solutions: Unlock Insights and Stay Cyber-Secure with Our Latest Tech Talk Newsletter!
6. Parish Online Newsletter #47 - 2commune special
7. Edukit: Up to £25k for making art available for public benefit
8. NALC: Chief Executives bulletin – 11Jan2024
9. WDC: Supplement: Presentation Slides for Applications Listed on the Agenda to the agenda for Planning Committee North, Thursday, 18th January, 2024
10. WDC: Agenda for Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Monday, 22nd January, 2024
11. Wealden Weekly Commencing 15 January
12. Edukit: Grants to support older people, community sport projects and more
13. The Rural Bulletin - 16 January 2024
14. NALC events - 16Jan2024
15. WDC: Wealden and Rother Rural Business Grants Programme - now live
16. WDC: Agenda for Audit, Finance and Governance Committee, Wednesday, 24th January, 2024
17. NALC newsletter – 17Jan2024
18. WDC: Supplement: Officer Updates to the agenda for Planning Committee North, Thursday, 18th January, 2024
19. WDC: Minutes for Planning Committee South, Thursday, 11th January, 2024
20. WDC: Agenda for Planning Committee South, Thursday, 25th January, 2024
21. Edukit: Up to £15k to work with young offenders & disadvantaged people
22. WDC: Supplement: Additional Appendices to the agenda for Audit, Finance and Governance Committee, Wednesday, 24th January, 2024
23. WDC: Supplement: Presentation Slides for Applications Listed on the Agenda to the agenda for Planning Committee South, Thursday, 25th January, 2024
24. NALC: Chief Executives bulletin – 18Jan2024
25. WDC: Minutes for Planning Committee North, Thursday, 7th December, 2023
26. Wealden Weekly Commencing 22 January
27. WDC: Agenda for Local Plan Sub-Committee, Monday, 29th January, 2024
28. NALC events - 23Jan2024
29. The Rural Bulletin - 23 January 2024
30. Edukit: Grants for homeless YP aged 16-25, adults lacking digital skills and more
31. WDC: media release: Wealden Community Lottery promotes 'refer a cause' scheme
32. WDC: Minutes for Planning Committee North, Thursday, 18th January, 2024
33. WDC: Supplement: Agenda Supplement: Appendix 1 Draft Local Plan and maps to the agenda for Local Plan Sub-Committee, Monday, 29th January, 2024
34. WDC: Supplement: Agenda Supplement: Appendices 3-6 to the agenda for Local Plan Sub-Committee, Monday, 29th January, 2024
35. January Meeting of the Wealden District Association of Local Councils (already sent to all members)
36. NALC newsletter – 24Jan2024
37. Edukit: Up to £60k for homeless YP facing discrimination
38. WDC: Agenda for Planning Committee North, Thursday, 1st February, 2024
39. CPRE: The results from our rooftop solar survey are in!
40. WDC: Supplement: Officer Updates to the agenda for Planning Committee South, Thursday, 25th January, 2024
41. WDC: Supplement: Agenda Supplement: Appendix 2 Initial Sustainability Appraisal to the agenda for Local Plan Sub-Committee, Monday, 29th January, 2024
42. Free Accredited Climate Literacy Training for Parish Councillors
43. NALC: Chief Executives bulletin – 25Jan2024
44. WDC: Supplement: Presentation Slides for Applications Listed on the Agenda to the agenda for Planning Committee North, Thursday, 1st February, 2024
45. WDC: Wealden Community Lottery 1st Year Celebration Event Invite
46. WDC: Media release: Councillors express disappointment after Southern Water declines invitation to watchdog committee (already forwarded to members)
47. WDC: Media release: Wealden Community Sports Hub given planning permission
48. CPRE: Our opportunity to make rooftop solar mandatory for new builds
49. WDC: Media release: Water regulator agrees to partnership working after criticisms in relation to Southern Water (already forwarded to members)
50. WDC: media release: Eat Well, Move More in 2024 campaign launched by Wealden District Council
51. Wealden Weekly Commencing 29 January