

EAST HOATHLY with HALLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Members of East Hoathly with Halland Parish Council are summoned to attend an ordinary meeting of the **FULL COUNCIL** to be held at the Village Hall, East Hoathly on **29th April, 2024 at 7.00pm.**

Signed *Malcolm Ramsden* (23rd April, 2024)

AGENDA

Please note that meetings are recorded.

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).

2. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

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

4. APOLOGIES – to receive apologies for absence

5. MINUTES

5.1 To resolve that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 25th March, 2024 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

5.1.1 Matters arising from minutes not otherwise covered by agenda items

5.1.1.1 Website improvements

5.1.1.2 Church Marks Lane pavement

5.1.1.3 80th Dday anniversary events

5.1.1.4 Wildflower verge markers/licences

5.1.1.5 Community orchard

6. FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION

6.1 To approve/note payments payable/paid March, 2024

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

6.3 Account signatory update

6.4 To consider moving away from org.uk to gov.uk for website

6.5 Email policy

6.6 To consider funding clerk's SLCC membership subscription

6.7 To consider grant requests

6.8 East Hoathly and Halland War Memorial Sports Ground CC305212 – Council as Trustee. To approve change of contact details in the Charity Commissioner's records

6.9 Internal audit

7. PLANNING

7.1 Neighbourhood Plan

7.1.1 Update

7.2 Discharge of conditions 18 and 19 at Paddock Green

- 7.3 To consider Redrow offer re. Paddock Green 'play area'
- 7.4 To consider response to District draft Local Plan
- 7.5 To note District Council and Planning Inspector decisions to date

8. PROPOSALS/REPORTS FOR APPROVAL, DISCUSSION OR NOTING

- 8.1 Correspondence
- 8.2 Woodland footpath remedial action update
- 8.3 Annual village assembly update
- 8.4 Garden Plots update
- 8.5 King's portrait
- 8.6 Climate Change
- 8.7 Halland village sign
- 8.8 Halland street furniture
- 8.9 Clerk's progress report
- 8.10 Draft minutes of April WDALC meeting
- 8.11 Cluster meeting report

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Full Council will be held on Monday 20th May, 2024 at 7.00 pm at the Village Hall, East Hoathly

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/>*

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DRAFT ONLY – NOT YET APPROVED

EAST HOATHLY with HALLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Full Council on **25th March, 2024 at 7.00pm.**
(Draft) MEETING MINUTES

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

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

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).

Members heard from a resident how disappointed he was at the village outlook, specifically grass cutting, signage grown over and the disparity between 'free' parking signage relating to the 23 hour limited car park in Church Marks Lane. In responding to a 'missed opportunity' comment regarding soil being available for landraise at the War Memorial Sports Ground, Cllr. Pope reminded members of the professional advice received at the time this was last considered advising against a landraise option. In response to a challenge that Garden Plots costs were £145,000 and not 'in the region of £45,000' as stated in the February meeting minutes, chair read from the latest report regarding the Garden Plots (Appendix A) with the clerk asked to re-send the detailed breakdown of costs originally provided in 2019 showing costs to be less than £45,000.

In responding to a comment regarding the number of plots of land that had been put forward for potential development, Chair summarized progress regarding the 'Neighbourhood Plan' and that, separately, there was going to be a presentation in the parish by the District Council on the 22nd of April regarding their 'Local Plan' at which an opportunity would be available for residents to question and comment.

2. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Cllr. Bennett informed members that County were running a campaign to encourage fostering and provided poster that will be placed on the parish notice boards giving further details and invited questions relating to his previously circulated report.

In response to a question from Cllr. Cole, County Cllr. Bennett believed that passing places that had recently appeared around the areas being repaired would only be temporary but cautioned that if the Type 2 put in place as a temporary measure were to be replaced with a permanent fix then the consequences would become a different problem; increased traffic speed. All agreed that the weather would need to be better before the road issues would be improved.

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

None.

5. MINUTES

- 5.1 To resolve that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 26th February, 2024 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman
Following a proposal by Cllr. Butcher and seconding by Cllr. Pope
0667 RESOLVED to approve that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday, 26th of February, 2024, subject to the inclusion of the missing word 'contact' in section 1 and correction of two typos, 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
Clerk reported that he is still waiting for a response from the preferred supplier. Clerk to chase again and contact Balfour Beatty who have been suggested as an alternative supplier.
- 5.1.1.2 Website improvements
Chair reported that the urgency for this item is reduced as the option to opt out of the current annual contract has recently passed. Chair and Cllr. Thatcher to contact Netwise to see what improvements can be made now.
- 5.1.1.3 Church Marks Lane pavement
Clerk reported that he had informed Highways that their statement that the dropped kerb had been re-instated, the raised metal work problem cured and that the final (exact nature still to be determined) surface work had been completed, were not correct and was waiting for a further response. County Cllr. Bennett to be supplied with a copy of correspondence relating.
- 5.1.1.4 80th Dday anniversary events
Clerk reported that no requests for grants had been received. Chair understood that the Carnival Society would be lighting a beacon. Cllr. Butcher suggested the planting of another oak tree further along than the Preservation Society tree in the sports field. Members to consider where might be appropriate in Halland for marking the event. Clerk to arrange for quotes.
- 5.1.1.5 Wildflower verge markers/licences
Clerk reported that County were now asking for details of the signage, numbers of markers, positions proposed before proceeding. Kent County Council are still thought to provide wildflower markers. Clerk to investigate and supply details.

6. FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION

- 6.1 To approve/note payments payable/paid February, 2024
Following a proposal by Cllr. Thatcher and seconding by Cllr. Cole
0668 RESOLVED to approve/note payments payable/paid February, 2024 totalling £4,970.14 (See appendix B).
- 6.2 To note income/expenditure-vs-budget and approve, if necessary, overspends/under-receipts not previously approved
Noted. Last month's minutes, previously circulated, highlighted that overspends in the areas of village furniture, pavilion consumables, insurance, staff training, professional fees and grants had previously been reported and approved.
Following a proposal by Cllr. Freezer and seconding by Cllr. Thatcher
0669 RESOLVED to note the overspends to date and approve the increase in salary payments as a result of the clerk's increase in salary approved by Council during last year after the budget had been set.
- 6.3 To note Bank Account Reconciliation
Noted.
- 6.4 Account signatory update
RFO informed members that each banking provider had different requirements for cancelling and adding new signatories but that progress was being made. The internal auditor's suggestion that the RFO be approved as a signatory failed to achieve support.
- 6.5 To consider grant to the War Memorial Sports Ground Trust

- Following a proposal by Cllr. Pope and seconding by Cllr. Magness
- 0670 RESOLVED** to approve a new grant of £5,000 in the new financial year to the War Memorial Sports Ground Trust to meet commitments.
- 6.6 To consider authorizing clerk to allow dispensations
 Clerk referred members to the previously circulated paper pointing out the benefits in certain circumstances of granting the clerk the authority to provide dispensations relating to some members interests.
 Following a proposal by Cllr. Freezer and seconding by Cllr. Butcher
- 0671 RESOLVED** to approve granting the clerk the authority to provide dispensations under the Council's Code of Conduct.
- 6.7 To consider Planning Committee membership
 Following a proposal by Cllr. Freezer and seconding by Cllr. Thatcher
- 0672 RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr. Whitlock to the Planning Committee.
- 6.8 To consider moving away from org.uk to gov.uk for emails
 Members learnt from Cllr. Butcher that it would be more professional to switch from org.uk to gov.uk
 Following a proposal by Cllr. Butcher and seconding by Cllr. Freezer
- 0673 RESOLVED** to approve clerk making further enquiries.
- 6.9 Email policy
 Cllr. Butcher informed members that there was no formal email policy stated on the NALC, ESALC or SLCC websites. Chair reminded members how their personal emails could become public in the event of an FOI request being received when requested information was not held on members org.uk mailboxes. Clerk to chase request to Ashdown Services for advice.

7. PLANNING

- 7.1 Neighbourhood Plan
- 7.1.1 Update
 Members learnt from the chair that the examiner had stated that a hearing would not be required and that he planned to visit the parish shortly.
- 7.1.2 2021 census figures 'discrepancy'
 In responding to a notification of consensus figure discrepancies from the Steering Group, Cllr. Magness reminded members that various different departments would have been involved with compiling the figures with little overlap between them. Members agreed that little could be done. Noted.
- 7.2 WDC response to discharge of conditions 18 and 19 at Paddock Green
 Cllr. Pope referred members to the previously circulated WDC condition discharge correspondence regarding compliance with Southern Water's requirements and urged that Council continue to seek confirmation from Southern Water that the pumping station on site and specification for the real time controls meet with their requirements. Clerk reported that in a conversation with Stacey Robbins he was led to believe that an application was about to be received showing the site of the pumping station. Chair mentioned that she thought Redrow would continue to run with the development as a stand-alone member of Barratt Homes.
 Following a proposal by Cllr. Pope and seconding by Cllr. Freezer
- 0674 RESOLVED** to approve clerk seeking confirmation from Southern Water that their terms had been met and that Redrow be approached regarding the pumping station siting.
- 7.3 To consider Redrow offer re. Paddock Green 'play area'
 Chair reminded members that before full details had been received, they were of a mind not to take on the play area and green spaces. Redrow Planning department are arranging a three-way meeting, including WDC, to cover the offer in finest detail.
- 7.4 To consider response to District draft Local Plan
 Cllr. Magness stated that he couldn't see how District could make a case for a reduction in housing target numbers and justify the 'cross-border' elements in the Plan. Carried forward until after the District's presentation to the parish on 22nd April.
- 7.5 To note District Council and Planning Inspector decisions to date
 Noted.

8. PROPOSALS/REPORTS FOR APPROVAL, DISCUSSION OR NOTING

8.1 Correspondence

(See appendix C) Cllr. Cole to provide clerk with a list of which items she'd like to see. Noted.

8.2 Woodland footpath remedial action update

Clerk reported that only the one quote had been received to date and that two more potential providers would be chased.

8.3 To consider May annual village assembly content

Although not a Parish Council meeting it was agreed to hold the event on the 13th of May. The format would be of an informal format with local groups 'selling' their wares at tables around the room. Clerk to investigate and meet with interested members to take forward.

8.4 To consider making Tree Protection Order (TPO) applications

In response to Cllr. Cole's requested consideration of seeking a TPO for a row of conifers along London Road, chair read out a response from the District Council Tree Officer stating that, as the trees in question were already the subject of a successful planning application, that it was not now possible to apply for a TPO.

8.5 Garden Plots update

Members learnt from Cllr. Magness that there been no meetings of the 'Plotters' since Council's last meeting. RFO explained the annual rent payment process and clerk agreed to contact the Garden Plots chair to learn how and when the rent demands would be sent.

8.6 King Charles III's portrait

Cllr. Butcher had learnt of an offer from the Society of Local Council Clerks of free portrait pictures of the King.

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

0675 RESOLVED *to approve that Cllr. Butcher obtain a copy together with a suitable frame.*

8.7 Clerk's progress report

Clerk read his previously circulated report. Noted.

8.8 District Council Conference update covering Civility and Respect training and Climate Change policy

Clerk reported that along with signing up to the Civility and Respect (C&R) Pledge came the commitment to attend training. Chair agreed to put together a draft policy for Climate Change to be considered at a future meeting.

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

0676 RESOLVED *to approve that clerk arrange for C&R training via. Zoom for Cllr. Thatcher.*

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Full Council will be held on Monday 29th April, 2024 at 7.00 pm at the Village Hall, East Hoathly

Noted. 'Apologies' noted from Cllrs. Butcher and Pope.

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East Hoathly with Halland Parish Council

Garden Plots

Why do we have Garden Plots?

Firstly, it is important to state that it is a statutory duty of Parish Councils to provide allotments if 6 or more council taxpayers request that the facility be made available. This is enshrined in an Act of Parliament that dates back to 1908. The Parish Council (PC) is expected to acquire suitable land and buy it using Parish funds, wherever possible. The PC was in receipt of a request to provide allotments and so had a statutory duty to source suitable land and provide this resource. We are also obliged to prepare the site and arrange the format of plots and basic facilities, ie. fencing, etc. Thereafter, the PC has to maintain the site and fund any ongoing repairs. These costs can be offset by charging an annual rent for the use of the plots.

Gardening has been proven to have a hugely beneficial impact on physical and mental health & wellbeing. It allows interaction with nature, provides exercise, helps with social isolation, reduces food miles and encourages people to produce their own fresh food, indeed some GPs now prescribe gardening as part of a treatment plan. During Covid the Garden Plots provided a huge resource to the plot holders and also to those who walked through the plots on a daily basis.

The History of the Garden Plots

East Hoathly village had allotments in the Church Marks Lane area, but these were lost when houses were built there in 1950-1960s.

An opportunity came about in 2012 to acquire a suitable site with an offer from the owners of Hesmonds Stud to exchange a part of Harrison's Field for the Long Pond area – land amounting to 3.9 acres. This was gratefully accepted and the PC agreed to pay the legal charges involved in the exchange of titles. The PC also paid for the setting-up costs of preparing the plots for use. Once ready, a Garden Plots Committee (GPC) was formed who have a constitution based on Terms of Reference issued by the PC. The use of the plots is available for a reasonable rent to Plotters, provided they follow the rules set up by the GPC.

Freedom of Information Request

In 2019, the Parish Council received a Freedom of Information request from a resident regarding the costs involved in setting up the GPs. Extensive research was done by the present Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) on the previous records kept by the PC. This resulted in an itemised list of invoices paid to complete the project, including all legal charges, which was sent to the resident in November of that year. The total cost was just under £42,000. This cost was met from the PC General Reserve Fund. With applications for new developments, the terms of S106 arrangements are set up between the developer and the Local Planning Authority (not the PC), in this case Wealden District Council, before final approval of the application. Hence, the developments on the Juziers and Nightingales estates, which pre-dated the GP by around 4 years or so, played no part in the funding. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) legislation only came into force in 2010, so is also not relevant to this situation.

In October 2023 Councillors, the Clerk and the RFO reviewed the figures submitted as part of the FOI on 2019. This included contacting historical parties that were involved in the land legal transfer and establishment of the plots. We can confirm that we have been informed by these parties that no payments were received from East Hoathly with Halland Parish Council at that time or since. Therefore, the figure of just under £42,000 was the cost to the Parish Council relating to the Garden Plots.

Continued Funding and the Contribution that the GPs make to the Parish

The GP rent is reviewed annually so that operation does not run at a loss, if at all possible. Over the period from 2014, when the GP became fully operational, a small profit has been returned to the PC of, on average, about £1000/pa after maintenance and water supply costs are deducted. It was always the intention that the cost of establishing the Garden Plots would be recovered over time and, in order to facilitate this and set the plot rental at an affordable rate, on this basis it will take until around 2056 to repay the initial investment in simple terms.

The Parish Council are pleased that we are able to provide this valuable facility as part of our overall responsibility to the Parish and one that has brought interest, enjoyment and community involvement to many. The GPs also sit as an appreciating asset for the Parish as we own the land outright with no borrowing.

If you are interested in having a Garden Plot, please contact the Clerk who will forward your details to the Garden Plots Committee.

Appendix B

Date	Payee Name	£	Transaction Detail
29/02/2024	HMRC	£602.93	Tax and NI
29/02/2024	Ashdown Solutions Ltd	£92.76	Storage/support for Feb
29/02/2024	East Sussex County Council	£240.00	Streetlights
29/02/2024	Gamma Inns	£92.00	Christmas tree lights
29/02/2024	Salaries/expenses	£3,942.45	
	Total Payments	£4,970.14	

Appendix C

Correspondence: 22nd February, 2024 to 19th March, 2024

1. CPRE: Government announces changes to planning rules
2. WDC: Supplement: Presentation Slides for Applications Listed on the Agenda to the agenda for Planning Committee South, Thursday, 29th February, 2024
3. Wealden Weekly Commencing 26 February
4. WDC: cc'd response from Planning to Halland resident RE: Stavertons Nursery Re: WD/2022/3294/FR
5. VWA members walk - 17 March
6. Gatwick In Touch - February 2024
7. Parish Online Newsletter #48
8. The Rural Bulletin - 27 February 2024
9. NALC events – 27 February
10. WDC: Media release: Draft Local Plan consultation dates released
11. ESCC: Calling all Tree Wardens - Submit a 'Spring In Your Step' walk 2024
12. WDC: Agenda for Standards Committee, Wednesday, 6th March, 2024
13. NALC newsletter: 28 February
14. Hallmaster Newsletter | February 2024
15. NALC: Chief executive's bulletin – 29 February
16. WDC: Media release: Council Tax Reduction Scheme
17. cc'd letters between South Street residents re. fence and tree
18. Open this to spring into the Applause monthly update
19. Wealden Weekly Commencing 4 March
20. The Rural Bulletin - 5 March 2024
21. NALC events – 05 March
22. Edukit: Grants to support refugees & asylum seekers, work with YP from ethnic minorities and more
23. WDC: Agenda for Cabinet, Wednesday, 13th March, 2024
24. WDC: media release: A new contractor appointed for Streatfeild House in Uckfield
25. BRTA Newsletter 3
26. BRTA Newsletter 4
27. NALC newsletter: 06 March
28. RSN Rural Funding Digest - March 2024 Edition
29. ESALC: Breakthrough Communications Training
30. WDC: Newly published decision: Awaab's Law: Consultation on timescales for repairs in the social rented sector
31. East Hoathly resident: Church Marks Lane pavement and sports field daffodils
32. NALC: Chief executive's bulletin – 7 March
33. WDC: Agenda for Licensing Committee, Friday, 15th March, 2024
34. WDC: Newly published decision: Armed Forces Covenant
35. WDC: Newly published decision: Wadhurst Parish Council Neighbourhood Development Plan
36. WDC: Newly published decision: Housing Allocations Policy Review
37. WDC: Newly published decision: Changes to Outside Bodies March 2024
38. WDC: Agenda for Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Monday, 18th March, 2024
39. Wealden Weekly Commencing 11 March
40. Wealden CA: Digital Fairness Survey
41. WDC: Media release: New medical centre plan for Wealden moves forward
42. WDC: Wealden Community Lottery 1st Year Celebration Event
43. WDC: Media release: Business support programmes launched in East Sussex
44. WDC: media release: Wealden council provides residents with Southern Water watchdog group updates
45. WDC: media release: New free courses released for residents in Wealden and Eastbourne
46. Edukit: Grants for the advancement of education, social welfare, improving quality of life and more
47. WDC: media release: Keep Britain Tidy celebrates platinum anniversary

48. Edukit: Up to £30k of funding for people who are disabled or disadvantaged
49. The Rural Bulletin - 12 March 2024
50. NALC events – 12th March, 2024
51. WDC: Agenda for Audit, Finance and Governance Committee, Wednesday, 20th March, 2024
52. NALC newsletter: 13March
53. WDC: Minutes for Planning Committee South, Thursday, 29th February, 2024
54. WDC: Decision sheet for Cabinet, Wednesday, 13th March, 2024
55. WDC: Agenda for Planning Committee South, Thursday, 21st March, 2024 (already forwarded to members)
56. SDNP Elections 2024 - Statement List & Full Election Statements
57. WDC: Media release: Housing development completed in Heathfield
58. NALC: Chief executive's bulletin – 14 March
59. Healthwatch East Sussex - Read our latest insight on health and care issues
60. WDC: Supplement: Presentation Slides for Applications Listed on the Agenda to the agenda for Planning Committee South, Thursday, 21st March, 2024
61. Wealden Weekly Commencing 18 March
62. Edukit: Grants for children with SEND, people facing inequality and more
63. ESALC: Wealden PCSO's (already forwarded to members)
64. NALC events – 19th March, 2024
65. The Rural Bulletin - 19 March 2024
66. WDC: Newly published decision: Consultation on Reforms to Social Housing Allocations
67. CPRE: Fw: verne, join our call for a countryside everyone can afford to live in
68. NALC newsletter: 20March
69. Edukit: Up to £10k of funding to assist with the care of children, YP & adults with learning disabilities

5-1-1-5

Wealden Community Orchard Grants Programme

Share Wealden Community Orchard Grants Programme on Facebook Share Wealden Community Orchard Grants Programme on Twitter Share Wealden Community Orchard Grants Programme on LinkedIn Email Wealden Community Orchard Grants Programme link

CORONATION LIVING HERITAGE FUND



Funded by
UK Government

We're excited to share we have been awarded £27,756 from the Nature for Climate Fund: Coronation Living Heritage to support the development of Community Orchards in the district. We are asking schools, residents' associations, village hall trusts, parish and town councils, businesses, community and voluntary groups, charities, not for profit organisations, and landowners with publicly accessible land to apply for between £1,000 and £3,500 to bring fruit and nut trees to life, creating vibrant community orchards that benefit everyone.

Why Orchards Matter: A Green Legacy for Future Generations

The urgency to plant and restore orchards cannot be overstated. Shockingly, 90% of traditional orchards have vanished since the 1950s due to neglect or development. Orchards, recognized as 'priority habitats' by Natural England and Defra, form a crucial part of the UK's Biodiversity Action Plan.

Contribute to a Greener Future!

Planting more trees in Wealden is not just about aesthetics; it's a commitment to carbon sequestration, a key step toward achieving our net-zero goals. Orchards act as havens for wildlife, supporting vital pollinators like bees and butterflies. Creating new community orchards transforms underused green spaces into thriving hubs for local communities.

Grow, Learn, and Celebrate Together!

Community orchards are more than just a collection of trees; they're spaces for education, growth, and unity. They offer valuable training opportunities for locals in fruit cultivation and

tree care. Plus, they become the perfect backdrop for community events like Apple Day, wassailing, and work parties, fostering connections within our vibrant community.

The Coronation Living Heritage Fund (CLHF): Planting Seeds for Tomorrow

The UK Government, through The Coronation Living Heritage Fund, has generously allocated £2.5 million to local governments. This fund, celebrating the coronation of King Charles III, supports tree planting projects nationwide. Our aim is to create community orchards that stand as a lasting tribute to the Coronation year, honouring the King's dedication to preserving our natural environment.

Join us in this green journey! Together, we'll make Wealden blossom and create a legacy of sustainability for generations to come.

How to apply

First please read through the guidance document and check you are one of the eligible organisations who can apply. The guidance document can be found attached to this page, along with the contact form, template cost table and contract signature form. When you have read through and gathered all the relevant information needed, please find the application form below.

Applications are open for 8 weeks and will close Friday 10th May 2024 at 5pm.

Any questions please email the Climate Change team at sustainability@wealden.gov.uk

6.4

Hi Malcolm

We are an approved supplier of .gov.uk domains and are currently working with the cabinet office on an initiative for which the government is encouraging all parish councils to adopt .gov.uk domains.

There is currently a government grant available available of £100 + VAT towards the initial costs of a .gov.uk domain.

As we charge £60 p/a plus a one off setup fee of £50 for .gov.uk domains, this £100 grant can be applied which will offset the majority of the first years fee.

If you are interested in this, we can provide a link to the government website where you can apply for the .gov.uk domain. Once approved, we would then apply a £100 + VAT discount to your order with us leaving a balance of £10 for the first year.

Adam

NetWise UK

24April2024

7.5

Approvals

Application No. WD/2023/3155/F RENOVATION AND EXTENSION TO EXISTING DWELLING. DEMOLITION OF EXISTING BARN AND ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES AND ERECTION OF THREE DWELLINGS. LAND AT AND ADJACENT TO 117 SOUTH STREET, EAST HOATHLY, BN8 6DT You recently commented on the above proposal and I now write to advise you that, after considering all the representations received, the Council has decided to APPROVE the above application on 11 April 2024.

Application No. WD/2024/0414/F PROPOSED GARAGE CONVERSION AND REAR EXTENSION FORGE COTTAGE, HEATHFIELD ROAD, HALLAND, BN8 6PW You recently commented on the above proposal and I now write to advise you that, after considering all the representations received, the Council has decided to APPROVE the above application on 10 April 2024.

Refusals

Application No. WD/2024/0204/FR PART RETROSPECTIVE APPLICATION FOR CHANGE OF USE OF PART OF CLOSED HOTEL INTO HMO ACCOMMODATION. CROCKSTEAD FARM HOTEL, EASTBOURNE ROAD, HALLAND, BN8 6PT You recently commented on the above proposal and I now write to advise you that, after considering all the representations received, the Council has decided to REFUSE the above application on 19 April 2024.

8.1

Correspondence: 20th March, 2024 to 24th April, 2024

1. WDC Increase in dog and litter bin charges
2. ESALC: Home Phone Switchover to Digital Voice (already forwarded to members)
3. WDC: media release: New Changing Places facility opens in Polegate
4. WDC: media release: Wealden to partner with University of Brighton to deliver Net Zero business support
5. WDC: media release: Changes to rubbish and recycling collection days for residents
6. WDC: Media release: Wealden Community Lottery is a huge success for communities
7. WDC: Media release: Wealden council supports English Tourism Week
8. Hailsham Active CIC: local sport, health, facilities support and funding
9. WDC: Media release: Wealden Volunteering and 3VA receive financial support from Wealden District Council
10. WDC: Supplement: Officer Updates to the agenda for Planning Committee South, Thursday, 21st March, 2024
11. WDC: Climate Change Resident and Organisation Surveys- Wealden District Council
12. WDC: Community Orchards Funding- now open for applications
13. NALC: Chief Executives bulletin 21March
14. ESCC: Scallows Wish Bridge, Scallows Lane, East Hoathly-26 March
15. WDC: Wealden Weekly Commencing 25 March
16. BRTA: Horsham Public Meeting 1 (already forwarded to members)
17. WDC: Newly published decision: Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy
18. WDC: Wealden Funding Opportunities - March 2024
19. Edukit: Grants to support YP from ethnic backgrounds, opportunities to counter racism and more
20. WDC: Changes to Rubbish and Recycling Collection Days
21. WDC: Media release: Funding awarded to support community orchards
22. WDC: Up to £10k of funding to support people of all ages who are socially disadvantaged
23. ESALC: The TfSE Podcast, Women in Transport, and our Transport Strategy Manager James Gleave
24. WDC: Media release: Surveys released to capture residents' opinions on climate change in Wealden
25. Healthwatch East Sussex Newsletter - March 2024
26. The Rural Bulletin - 26 March 2024
27. NALC: Events 26 March
28. WDC: Newly published decision: Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Fees
29. WDC: Newly published decision: Competence and conduct standard for social housing consultation
30. NALC: Newsletter: 27 March
31. Ashdown Solutions: Enhance your businesses password security!
32. WDC: Media release: Cliff collapses prompt renewed safety warnings
33. NALC: Chief Executive's bulletin 28 March
34. Wealden Weekly Commencing 1 April
35. East Grinstead resident: Speed camera signage
36. Edukit: Grants to improve and activate spaces in London, address health inequalities and more
37. Celebrating #VillageHallsWeek With Hallmaster | March 2024
38. NALC: Events 02 April
39. Edukit: Up to £25k of funding to make art available for public benefit & emerging talent throughout the UK
40. WDC: Media release: Wealden District Council celebrates Golden Anniversary
41. The Rural Bulletin - 3 April 2024
42. WDC: Agenda for Planning Committee South, Thursday, 11th April, 2024
43. WDC: Minutes for Licensing Committee, Friday, 15th March, 2024
44. NALC Newsletter 03Apr
45. WDC: Change of date for meeting 03/07/2024, 10:00, Cabinet
46. NALC: Chief Executive's bulletin 04 April
47. RSN Rural Funding Digest - April 2024 Edition
48. WDC: Newly published decision: Housing Ombudsman Service Business Plan Consultation 24-25
49. Wealden Weekly Commencing 8 April

50. WDC: Supplement: Presentation Slides for Applications Listed on the Agenda to the agenda for Planning Committee South, Thursday, 11th April, 2024
51. WDC: Agenda for Licensing Sub-Committee, Tuesday, 16th April, 2024
52. The Rural Bulletin - 9 April 2024
53. Edukit: Grants to support migrants & refugees, reduce isolation among those at risk of suicide and more
54. WDC: Minutes for Audit, Finance and Governance Committee, Wednesday, 20th March, 2024
55. NALC: Events 09 April
56. Zoom: Transform the way you work with AI by your side
57. WDC: Supplement: Agenda Pack to the agenda for Licensing Sub-Committee, Tuesday, 16th April, 2024
58. WDC: Newly published decision: Pay Gap Report 2022/23
59. WDC: Newly published decision: (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2015 (Amendment No. 5) (April 2024)
60. Edukit: Over £1M of funding to deliver talking therapies to C&YP who are at risk of being involved in crime
61. WGOD on Ashdown Radio (already forwarded to members)
62. NALC Newsletter 10Apr
63. WDC: Supplement: Officer Updates to the agenda for Planning Committee South, Thursday, 11th April, 2024
64. WDC: Newly published decision: Timetable of Meetings 2025
65. NALC: Chief Executive's bulletin 04 April
66. VGW News : April 2024
67. Wealden Weekly Commencing 15 April
68. Email of thanks re. Church Marks Lane pavement.
69. ESCC: FW: Introduction to Lightrock Power's proposals for Stable Green Energy (already forwarded to members)
70. Introduction to Lightrock Power's proposals for Stable Green Energy (already forwarded to members)
71. Edukit: Grants for people who faced inequality, to improve lives of YP and more
72. ESALC: Breakthrough Communications - MORE TRAINING DATES (already forwarded to members)
73. Edukit: Up to £200k of core funding for YP experiencing homelessness
74. WDC: Wealden Community Infrastructure and Spaces Fund 2024 - now open
75. ESALC: Ducks in a row - Training in May/June sessions
76. ESALC: New Accredited Playground Courses
77. ESALC: Designated Powers Project - PCSO Powers
78. NALC: Events 16 April
79. WDC: Minutes for Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Monday, 18th March, 2024
80. NALC Newsletter 17Apr
81. NALC: Chief Executive's bulletin 18 April
82. WDC: Minutes for Licensing Sub-Committee, Tuesday, 16th April, 2024
83. WDC: Media release: New funding available to help community spaces and facilities in Wealden
84. Mulberry Local Authority Services
85. A Round Up Of Safeguarding News March 2024
86. Wealden Weekly Commencing 22 April
87. WDC: Supplement: ANNEX - Decision Notice - Pilgrims to the minutes for Licensing Sub-Committee, Tuesday, 16th April, 2024
88. Grey Matters Newsletter #61
89. WDC: Minutes for Planning Committee South, Thursday, 21st March, 2024
90. WDC: Minutes for Planning Committee South, Thursday, 11th April, 2024
91. ESCC: Resource Pack from TTC - National Hedgerow Week (NHW) Monday 6 May – Sunday 12 May 2024
92. NALC: Events 23 April
93. Playdale: Discover Fun with Nature-Inspired Play

Please let me know if you would like copies.

8.10

Wealden District Association of Local Councils

DRAFT

Minutes of the Meeting of the Wealden District Association of Local Councils held at the Civic Community Hall in Hailsham on Wednesday 3rd April 2024 at 7.00pm

1. Present: Councillors Keith Stevens (Chairman, Wartling), Patrick Coffey (Heathfield and Waldron), Martyn Garrett (Crowborough), Martin Cooper (Willingdon and Jevington), John Castle (Hellingly), Christine Payne (Willingdon and Jevington), Douglas Murray (Polegate), Shirley MacKinnon (Pevensey), Deveda Redman (Mayfield and Five Ashes) and Chris Magness (East Hoathly with Halland).

Also in attendance; Councillor James Partridge (Leader of Wealden District Council), David Plank (Director of Community, Wealden District Council), Chris Bone (Head of Waste, Assets and the Crematorium, Wealden District Council) and Alison Stevens (Honorary Secretary).

2. Apologies for Absence: Apologies for absence were received from: Geoff Sambrook (Isfield Parish Council and the Wealden Group Against Over-Development), Beryl Smith (Berwick), Sally Carnie (Berwick), Graham Knight (Horam), Martin Craddock (Maresfield), Kay Moss (Crowborough), Penny Lawne (Withyham), Lolita Reeves (Maresfield), Andy Watkins (Willingdon and Jevington), Long Man Parish Council and Warbleton Parish Council.

3. Draft Minutes of the Association Meeting held on the 17th January 2024 – Councillor Cooper said that at the last meeting it was agreed that councillors would discuss how the District Council can improve sports facilities in the District in more detail at this meeting, but it is not on the agenda. It was discussed later under ‘Wealden Updates’.

The minutes of the Association Meeting held on the 17th January 2024 were read, approved by all and signed by the Chairman.

4. Updates from Wealden District Council

District Councillor Partridge said the key points from Wealden are:

- The Wealden Local Plan is out for consultation and they would like everyone to respond to it.
- The Climate Change Strategy is also out for consultation.
- The annual budget has been agreed and is in line with previous budgets.
- Wealden has been through a Local Government Association peer review and whilst the results have not yet been issued it is thought it was found to be performing well.
- Wealden has been awarded an additional £1.4m to spend on social housing decarbonisation.

He also confirmed the recent problems with the website have now been fixed and responses to the Local Plan consultation can be submitted via the website again.

Councillor McKinnon asked why tourism, which is a key issue for Pevensey, is not included as a separate subject in the Plan. Councillor Partridge said it is covered throughout the plan, but is not separate because the Plan is not there to drive economical development. Any issues parishes have with tourism need to be included in their responses.

Councillor Castle asked for a response to a question he raised at the last meeting about the new Sports Hub at Hellingly and was promised it for the next Association Meeting.

Councillor Murray said there are a lack of green and leisure spaces in Willingdon and Polegate and developers are dividing up plots so they don't have to provide any. Councillor Partridge said he has been talking to the Town Clerk at Polegate Town Council and has asked her to suggest land that might be available.

Mr David Plank introduced himself and said his responsibilities include:

The Contact Centre

The Contact Centre receives approximately 100,000 calls a year and has an abandonment rate of less than 5%.

The Reception Area

The Reception Area is open to the public. The Department of Work and Pensions is also present on Mondays to provide employment advice.

Council Tax Bills and Housing Benefit claims.

His team sent out over 74,000 bills over the course of one weekend. The numbers of housing benefit claims remains challenging.

Information Technology (IT)

IT, which includes the Council's website. Cyber security is a top risk and Wealden experiences over 300 attacks daily, none of which have been successful.

All its laptops have been geo locked which means they only work in the UK and can't be hacked by other countries. He warned everyone to be vigilant with emails and not open up any strange links.

Predicting the future

One example of this was the Covid situation where the District Council was ahead of the game and donated 400 laptops with the right software in 48 hours.

Housing Services

Wealden is building more affordable houses, one example of which is Cart Barn Place.

Other

Wealden also promotes energy efficiency and has recently given Citizen's Advice a grant to enable it to provide debt advice.

In answer to Councillor's questions, he:

- Confirmed Wealden is providing more affordable housing than it has targeted for, His team inputs into the Local Plan and planners are still encouraging developers to mix affordable housing within their developments (pepper potting).
- Said the right to buy still exists and he will let the Honorary Secretary know how many tenants have taken up the option recently.
- The numbers of homeless people in the district has risen from 21 in 2018 to 75 now but the numbers are low compared to other districts and boroughs.
- Confirmed that at Full Council on the 21st February it was agreed that properties that have been empty for between one and five years will be subject to a 100% premium on top of the council tax charge. The aim is to bring more properties back onto the market but exceptions can be made.

Mr Bone said he has been Head of Waste, Assets and the Crematorium for eighteen months and as such is responsible for:

Waste bin services

Residents should now have received notice of changes being made to their refuse and recycling collections. The changes will take place from the 15th April and are needed to help balance out the number of new developments.

Waste Performance

The District Council now has a 50% recycling rate (which is up from 45%), missed bin collections are now only 25 per 100,000 and less than 0.5% of our waste goes to landfill. From 2026 Wealden has a statutory duty to collect food waste and will need to buy more lorries and containers for which the Government is providing some but not all of the funding.

Talks are also taking place with Biffa to extend its waste contract to 2033 and the Street Scene Team has just been awarded £20,000 to help them run a campaign which aims to reduce the amount of fly tipping in the District.

The District Council's Assets

These include the Council's offices, car parks, green spaces and leisure centre buildings.

The car park at Pevensey Bay has recently been resurfaced and the toilet block has been refurbished.

Sport England has just donated £70,000 towards the maintenance of the swimming pool at Freedom Leisure in Hailsham. It rejected the bids made for other areas in the District but those pools are to remain part of Wealden's business plan. Freedom Leisure is also investing £300,000 in the facilities at Uckfield.

Energy performance surveys are being undertaken in council owned properties to help reduce costs and the Council has produced a Cuckoo Trail Masterplan for which it has been given money from the Shared Prosperity Fund to spend on signage, benches, exercise equipment and a new hub.

The Crematorium opened in 2019 and is now a favourite amongst funeral directors. Solar panels have been installed on its roof and another Open Day is planned on the 31st July from 11am to 3pm, to which everyone is invited.

In answer to Councillor's questions, he also confirmed:

- Residents who use unlicensed contractors to collect their rubbish will ultimately be fined.
- There is CCTV in the lay by in Back Lane but it is not there all the time.
- Wealden does not have a specific policy for land transfers but if a Parish or Town Council would like to purchase any land from it they should contact him in the first instance.
- He is working with Highways to try and co-ordinate litter picking with verge cutting.
- He will consider offering longer leases to Parish Councils who rent land from them because it will enable them to apply for more grants.
- Wealden would like more health centres in the District and is doing all it can to make that happen, but ultimately they are the responsibility of the NHS who are notoriously slow when it comes to dealing with such matters.
- The District Council will consider increasing the number of/extending its car parks if it is asked to but its priority is to encourage other means of transport, such as cycling. It also wants to increase residents to use the Cuckoo Trail more.

5. Overdevelopment in Wealden

Councillor Sambrook (Chair of Wealden Against Over Development Group) and Mr Daines from the group are to be interviewed next week on Uckfield Radio.

6. Reports from Outside Meetings

Councillor Stevens said Action in Rural Sussex has set up Sussex Rural Affordable Housing and is working with Wealden to find solutions that help meet local housing need. The first meeting has already taken place and he will provide regular updates at future WDALC meetings.

7. Next Association Meeting: The next Association Meeting will be held on the on 10th July 2024 at 7pm in the Green Room, Uckfield Civic Centre TN22 1AE.

There were no further questions and this meeting ended at 8.25pm.