

EAST HOATHLY with HALLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Full Council on 28th October, 2024 at 7.00pm.

MEETING MINUTES

In attendance: Cllrs. Butcher, Cole, Freezer (chair), Magness, Pope, Thatcher and Whitlock.

Also participating: Malcolm Ramsden (clerk), Verne Heath (RFO) – via 'Zoom', County Cllr. Bennett and three members of the public.

Please note that meetings are recorded.

Cllr. Freezer opened the meeting, noting the resignation of Cllr. Partridge and asking that thanks be noted for his valuable contributions over the years.

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).

The representative of the Garden Plots committee thanked Council for providing them with a proposed replacement Licence and reminded members that she had circulated a proposed new Constitution.

A representative of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Steering Group suggested that:-

- o The Steering Group not be disbanded but will need extra members*
- o A response be sent to the District NP team thanking them for their work.*
- o The future of the NP website needs discussing*
- o A Policy incorporating the NP requirements re. responses to future planning applications might be considered.*
- o The requirements of the District Local Plan (when adopted) will need to be incorporated into the NP.*
- o The NP will need updating as the 2021 census figures weren't incorporated.*

Also raised was the poor state of drainage, verges and road edges along Waldron Road which had been reported several times and when details of the 'Playing field/pavilion project' might be available.

Chair mentioned, in response to a question regarding the brick sets near the village pump, that she has been informed that they had been securely stored and would be made good when the road works had been settled.

2. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Cllr. Bennett highlighted the parlous state of finances with there being little control of the Adult Social Care and Children's Services element which made up 75% of the budget and went on to comment that a recent reference to East Hoathly being a 'City of Sanctuary' had no validity without having been determined by an authority, such as the Parish Council.

In response to a question from Cllr. Cole regarding the lorry movements around Hollow Lane, County Cllr. Bennett asked that he be given details of any addresses where deliveries were being made to in order that he could make enquiries.

Chair queried who employed the Highways Steward as there had been comments that, if employed by the contractor, it would give rise to them 'marking their own homework'. County Cllr. Bennett explained that they were working with the County Highways team with oversight by managers at County 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., and that his wife is a member of the Village Hall committee. Cllr. Thatcher declared her personal interest in agenda item 8.3.

4. APOLOGIES – to receive apologies for absence

None.

5. MINUTES

5.1 To resolve that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 30th September, 2024 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

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

0742 **RESOLVED** to approve that the minutes, subject to correction of two 'typos', of the Council Meeting held on Monday, 30th of September, 2024 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 Church Marks Lane pavement

Clerk reported that a site meeting was being arranged with County Highways to clarify the position regarding the outstanding 'snagging' item.

5.1.1.4 Amendments suggested by Garden Plotters to existing naming, Terms of Reference, Licence and possible Association rules

Chair referred members to the previously circulated paper, outlining the minor changes including a suggested adoption of the description as being 'Allotment Gardens', replacing 'Garden Plots'.

Standing Orders suspended by agreement.

The Allotment Garden representative asked that her proposed Constitution be circulated to members and that the proposed updated Licence be forwarded for discussion and comment at their next meeting.

Standing Orders re-instated by agreement.

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

0743 **RESOLVED** to approve the change of name and circulate the proposed Constitution and Licence.

5.1.1.2 Streetlight maintenance and energy supply

Carried forward in view of the ongoing outstanding representations being made to County Highways by Town and Parish Councils regarding streetlights.

5.1.1.3 East Hoathly and Halland War Memorial Sports Ground governance

Awaiting response. Carried forward.

5.1.1.5 Bleed kits

Awaiting response from potential Halland site. Carried forward.

5.1.1.6 Additional Notice Boards

Clerk referred members to the previously circulated response from the Chapel owner highlighting that a larger notice board could not be used. Other proposed sites to be explored. Carried forward.

5.1.1.7 High Street cherry trees

Clerk outlined the costs relating to planting/replacing different numbers of trees in the High Street.

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

0744 **RESOLVED** to approve the purchase of two trees for now at a cost of up to £1,200 to replace the missing cherry trees.

5.1.1.8 Hire of Village Hall for meetings

Clerk explained that the Village Hall had asked that Council wait until their next committee meeting before responding to Council's offer to pay hire charges. In the meantime, clerk to provide Hallmaster renewal costs to Village Hall as they wish to pay one half.

5.1.1.9 Moat Wood boardwalk section
Agenda item transferred to Finance & General Purpose committee for consideration.

5.1.1.10 To approve Investment Policy
Members were referred to Cllr. Magness's previously circulated paper. Cllr. Magness summarized his reasoning behind his proposal to invest in gold sovereigns and Rolls Royce shares. Members expressed their views including concerns regarding the speculative nature, need for prudent investments, investment term (long/short), FCSC compensation exclusions and gambling.

0745 Following a proposal by Cllr. Butcher and seconding by Cllr. Thatcher **RESOLVED** to approve that the Policy restrict investments to "banks/building societies and not shares" and to continue to carry the item forward and that, in the meantime, the item be included in the agenda for further discussion at the next meeting of the Finance & General Purpose committee.

6. FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION

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

Following a proposal by Cllr. Butcher and seconding by Cllr. Whitlock
0746 RESOLVED to approve/note payments payable/paid September, 2024 totalling £4,117.04 (See appendix A).

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

Clerk explained the apparent overspend in Open Spaces non-routine maintenance (4290) relating to the boardwalk specification having been paid using s.106 funds which are accounted for separately and confirmed that, apart from previously approved overspends, there were no new ones. Noted.

6.3 Account signatory update

RFO updated members with progress.

6.4 To approve transfer of £54.21 between Earmarked Reserves relating to Woodland expenditure approved at September's meeting of the Full Council

Following a proposal by Cllr. Pope and seconding by Cllr. Cole
0747 RESOLVED to approve the transfer out of £54.21 from Woodland Earmarked Reserves.

6.5 To consider application for new member co-option

Members heard from Mr. Brian Slaughter of his links already established within the community and details of the skills and experience he could offer to Council.

Following a proposal by Cllr. Thatcher and seconding by Cllr. Magness
0748 RESOLVED to approve the co-option to Council of Mr. Brian Slaughter.

6.6 To review Standing Orders

Following a proposal by Cllr. Thatcher and seconding by Cllr. Freezer
0749 RESOLVED to approve the continued adoption of Standing Orders as previously circulated.

6.7 To review Financial Regulations

Following a proposal by Cllr. Pope and seconding by Cllr. Thatcher
0750 RESOLVED to approve the continued adoption of Financial Regulations as previously circulated.

6.8 To review Code of Conduct

Following a proposal by Cllr. Thatcher and seconding by Cllr. Whitlock
0751 RESOLVED to approve the continued adoption of the Code of Conduct as previously circulated.

7. PLANNING

7.1 Neighbourhood Plan

Chair explained the timeline and process relating to the adoption by Wealden District Council of our Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr. Pope expressed his wish for details of the

Community Infrastructure Levy to feature clearly on Council's website with members agreeing to initially publish a Q&A style explanation. Chair took the opportunity to again ask that thanks to the members of the steering group and District Council be noted.

- 7.2 To note District Council and Planning Inspector decisions to date
Noted. Cllr. Pope asked if details of the CIL could be obtained relating to the 55 dwelling application at South Street (WD/2019/1674).

8. PROPOSALS/REPORTS FOR APPROVAL, DISCUSSION OR NOTING

- 8.1 Correspondence
Noted (See appendix B).
- 8.2 K6 'phone box painting update
Two quotes received to date. Carried forward.
- 8.3 Halland village sign update
Two quotes received to date. Carried forward.
- 8.4 Grass and verge cutting around the Parish
*Two quotes received to date. Clerk asked that members note that the previously circulated price quotes from County had been based on an old map which was being updated and that, in view of the specialized nature of the works to be undertaken, on this occasion, that a third quote need not be sought or obtained.
Following a proposal by Cllr. Pope and seconding by Cllr. Whitlock*
- 0752 RESOLVED** *to approve the cost of £1,640.82 from County for six cuts during the 2025 season and that the requirement for seeking a third quote, in view of the specialized nature of the works, would be waived on this occasion. Any increase in cost, resulting from the County remapping would be considered at the time, if it were to be received.*
- 8.5 Accessibility and Visibility
Members agreed that future newsletters would be circulated to members prior to publication.
- 8.6 'City of Sanctuary' review
*Clerk reported that no mention in the minutes could be found relating to 'City of Sanctuary'. However, the most recent mention in Council minutes was in November of 2015 when a resident presented a case for making the village of East Hoathly a 'Village of Sanctuary'. This is not the same organization as 'City of Sanctuary'. Council agreed at the time to wait and see what further information would be forthcoming and if other villages were doing similar campaigns. As there are no mentions of 'City of Sanctuary' members took no further action.
Following a proposal by Cllr. Pope and seconding by Cllr. Butcher*
- 0753 RESOLVED** *to publish a disclaimer relating to Council's involvement or support with 'City of Sanctuary'.*
- 8.7 Member laptops and support
*Members discussed provision of laptops, and associated support, for members, agreeing that a policy to cover the issue would be needed. Not all members agreed to use laptops that might be provided.
Following a proposal by Cllr. Freezer and seconding by Cllr. Magness*
- 0754 RESOLVED** *to approve the purchase (using General Reserve funds) of nine laptops, with associated items, from Council's existing supplier, if the hardware costs could be more closely aligned to the Currys/PC World hardware prices.*
- 8.8 Climate Change
Further to his previously circulated paper, Cllr. Magness highlighted possible use of Small Modular Reactors for energy provision to help achieve COP and carbon footprint requirements. Cllr. Freezer wished to highlight, rather than high level savings, how Council might look to make changes to reduce the impact of global warming. Cllrs. Freezer and Magness will be attending District Council's Climate Change event and agree to report back. Carried forward.
- 8.9 Possible electricity shortages
Members were reminded by Cllr. Magness that in the event of electricity supply failures most warm spaces and similar initiatives having been put in place would fail

to achieve their objectives. Noted, with ideas welcomed for further discussion at a future meeting. Carried forward.

- 8.10 2025 Meeting dates
Noted.
- 8.11 To note National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) meeting report
Noted.
- 8.12 To note Wealden and District Association of Local Councils (WDALC) draft minutes of July, 2024 meeting
Noted with comment that minute heading should show September and not July.
- 8.13 To note East Sussex/West Sussex Association of Local Councils (ESALC and WSALC) AGM and Conference
Noted.
- 8.14 Clerk's progress report
Noted, with clerk updating members regarding details of the District Open Spaces strategy.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Full Council will be held on Monday 25th November, 2024 at 7.00 pm at the Village Hall, East Hoathly

Noted.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

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

	Payee Name	Amount	Transaction Detail
30/09/2024	Salary/expenses	£1,916.06	
30/09/2024	Salary/expenses	£255.00	
30/09/2024	Salary/expenses	£329.45	
30/09/2024	Chaser Pest Control	£120.00	mole prevention
30/09/2024	Ashdown Solutions	£128.04	support/software
30/09/2024	City Escapes Ltd	£611.28	mowing
30/09/2024	BioRegional Forestry	£720.00	tree safety inspections
30/09/2024	Castle Water	£37.21	Alltmnt gardens water
	Total	£4,117.04	

Appendix B

Correspondence: 27th September, 2024 to 25th October, 2024

1. Hallmaster Newsletter | September 2024
2. Gatwick Airport FASI South Airspace Change Proposal Update Slide Deck
3. NALC events – 01Oct2024
4. WDC: Newly published decision: Wealden Community Grant Programme
5. WDC: Newly published decision: Horam Neighbourhood Plan: Adoption (Recommendation to Full Council)
6. NALC – website – 01Oct2024
7. WDC: Agenda for Cabinet, Wednesday, 9th October, 2024
8. NALC – newsletter 02Oct2024
9. NALC – website – 02Oct2024
10. NALC – Chief Executive’s bulletin – 03Oct2024
11. ESALC: SAVE THE DATE - AGM & Conference
12. 3VA: micro grants for warm welcome spaces
13. Wealden Weekly Commencing 7 October
14. WDC: Agenda for Planning Committee South, Thursday, 10th October, 2024
15. ESCC: Defibrillator fund now open
16. NALC – website – 08Oct2024
17. WDC: Supplement: Presentation Slides for Applications Listed on the Agenda to the agenda for Planning Committee South, Thursday, 10th October, 2024
18. Ashdown Solutions - Our latest newsletter
19. A message from Battle Tree Warden Andrew Barton
20. Gatwick Airport FASI South Airspace Change Proposal Update Invitation
21. NALC events – 08Oct2024
22. WDC: Newly published decision: Wealden's Tenancy Strategy and Tenancy Policy (already forwarded to members)
23. WDC: Supplement: Statements from Interested Parties on Applications Listed on the Agenda to the agenda for Planning Committee South, Thursday, 10th October, 2024
24. WDC: Agenda for Full Council, Wednesday, 16th October, 2024
25. WDC: Supplement: Officer Updates to the agenda for Planning Committee South, Thursday, 10th October, 2024
26. WDC: Decision sheet for Cabinet, Wednesday, 9th October, 2024
27. Wealden Weekly Commencing 14 October
28. VGW News #12 October 2024
29. WDC: Minutes for Audit, Finance and Governance Committee, Wednesday, 18th September, 2024
30. WDC: Minutes for Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Monday, 9th September, 2024
31. WDC: Change of date for meeting 04/12/2024, 10:00, Cabinet
32. Wealden Weekly Commencing 21 October
33. Wealden Citizens Advice: Heartfelt Thanks for Your Support
34. WDC: Minutes for Standards Committee, Wednesday, 25th September, 2024
35. NALC: Upcoming events 22Oct2024
36. WDC: Minutes for Planning Committee South, Thursday, 10th October, 2024
37. Response to ESCC re. Church Marks Lane ‘weeds
38. NALC: Chief Executives briefing 24Oct2024
39. WDC: You are Invited to Wealden DC's Climate Change Event- The Big Conversation on 3rd December 2024
40. NALC: Chief Executives special briefing 24Oct2024
41. Wealden Weekly Commencing 28 October