



EWHURST PARISH COUNCIL

WITH ELLENS GREEN

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EWHURST PARISH COUNCIL WITH ELLENS GREEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.

Minutes of a **REMOTE MEETING** of the Parish Council held at 8.00 pm on **Monday 18th January 2021**.

Present: Cllr V Henry (in the chair), Cllrs J Bloomfield, N Clowes, J Mitchell, X Riley, M White
Cllr K Deanus
Two members of the public

In attendance: The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

- 001 (2021) **WELCOME:** The Chairman welcomed all present to the first meeting of 2021. The Council had continued as normal in 2020, despite the pandemic and, in addition to routine business, had taken forward various projects, including the Neighbourhood Plan and Traffic Calming.
- 002 (2021) **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** were received from Cllr J Lilley. Cllr Bloomfield joined the meeting intermittently, due to poor internet access.
- 003 (2021) **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16TH NOVEMBER 2020:** Members approved the minutes as a correct record of the previous meeting, Proposed by Cllr Henry, Seconded by Cllr Clowes, all in favour.
- 004 (2021) **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.** Cllr Clowes declared a pecuniary interest in planning application WA/2020/2017 and took no part in the discussion.
Cllr Mitchell declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 013 (2021) as he is seeking to use their services.
- 005 (2021) **ADJOURNMENT:** - No matters were raised.
Cllr Henry shared the news that Alice Leaman has now left Ewhurst to live with family. She will be very much missed, having been an incredibly good neighbour and very supportive of the Church and the residents at the Old Rectory.
- 006 (2021) **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**
Cllr Henry reminded members that, at the previous meeting, a small steering committee had been approved to take the NP forward, and had been given authority to make decisions on behalf of the Council. They had met with WBC officers and with two consultants.
Cllr Clowes reported that new consultants had been appointed and a report had been received back from the WBC officers. At present, the current status of the draft NP is being reviewed, ensuring that the work done by the working team is included, and noting that some legislation has changed. More information will be posted on the website in the next two weeks and there will be an update at the February meeting.
- 007 (2021) **THE PLANNING COMMITTEE :**
Decisions on planning applications received since last full Council meeting were noted.

Members considered the following applications:

WA/2020/1976

Pollingfold Farm, Horsham Road, Ellens Green

Change of use of (Use Class B8) storage and distribution warehouse to a flexible use as (Use class E (g) Uses which can be carried out in a residential area without detriment to its amenity: (E(g)(i) Offices to carry out any operational or administrative functions; E(g)(ii) Research and development of products or processes; and E(g)(iii) industrial processes) and B8 storage or distribution with associated improvement and extension to the existing building

Due to the complexity of this application, it was agreed that Cllr Clowes would seek clarification from the owners regarding their plans.

WA/2020/1961 **Coxlands, Somersbury Lane**
Construction of tennis court and associated fencing

No objection

WA/2020/2017 **Old Barn Cottage, Furzen Lane, , Ellens Green, Rh12 3aw**
Erection of extension.

No objection.

008 (2021)

FINANCIAL REPORT:

- a) *Receipts and payments* to end of December 2020: expenditure for the period of £1`0,242.62 was noted and approved
- b) *expenditure against budget statement to end of 2020:* noted and approved.
- c) *Budget and precept request for financial year 1/4/21 to 31/3/22:* the Clerk reported that the Parish Council had met in early December to consider the current financial position of the Council and plans for the next financial year. Our budget for this year and next are seen in the context of the current pandemic.

In the current financial year, the Parish Council had met all obligations, continued with contracts with staff and contractors and managed unexpected expenditure, such as a considerable amount of work on parish trees, at the same time as facing a much reduced income from premises. Allocated reserves have been retained, despite the extra challenges, and the Council faces the next financial year in a healthy position.

The Parish Council have given the budget for 2021/22 a considerable amount of thought and planning. At the same time as continuing with grants to local organisations and fulfilling the usual obligations, it has been possible to budget a sum of money to take the neighbourhood plan forward, funding for projects such as the proposed traffic calming, and money for additional administration time. The Parish Council is pleased to report that this has been achieved with a zero increase in its share of residents's Council Tax.

The proposed precept request for 2021/22 is £100338. Last year it was £98960. An increase of £1378, but as there is a greater number of Band D equivalent properties in the parish, the cost per household remains the same.

The budget and precept request for 2021/22 was agreed. Proposed by Cllr White, Seconded by Cllr Mitchell, all in favour,

009 (2021)

REPORTS :

Planning – Val Henry: Cllr Henry expressed concern regarding works at Lemans Barn Farm and the Barn at Yard Farm, both of which need to be kept an eye on.

Finance – James Mitchell and Mike White: Nothing further to report.

Communications and Technology – James Mitchell And Xavier Riley: Cllr Riley advised that efforts were still being made to resolve the old website. There had been no response to the 'right to be forgotten' request, or from the hosting company. It was hard to understand why someone had paid to renew the domain name.

Ellens Green – Nigel Clowes, Julia Lilley:

- a) Cllr Clowes thanked Cllr Bloomfield for reporting the fly-tipped mattress, which has been removed.
- b) The reported hole in the pavement has been protected by cones.
- c) Cllr Clowes and Cllr White will meet to reinstate the broken Coronavirus help line sign.

Parish Buildings – Mike White:

- a) It appeared that the heating in the hall is currently on 24 hours a day. Cllr White has consulted with CJB and requested a quotation to replace the controllers on the radiators and advice on how to set up the boiler so that the heating is timed.

- b) The landlords check at the Glebe had found that one of the heaters is faulty, and it has been disconnected. Cllr White had requested a quotation from CJB for a new heating system, acknowledging that this would not be pursued until the Parish Council had made a decision on renewing the lease on the Glebe in two years time.
- c) Pavements in the Glebe: the pavement on the corner is badly broken down by lorries, and is now a hazard. It was noted that a resolution would involve both WBC and SCC and that parking would also need to be addressed, as the road is not wide enough for lorries because of the parked cars. Cllrs Henry and White will discuss this further.

Environment – James Broomfield:

- a) Fly tipping at Ellens Green – this had been cleared up by WBC.
- b) The Clerk had arranged for the fly tipping at the Bowls Club to be cleared up.

Waverley Update – Val Henry:

- a) the Local Plan Part 2 is still underway, at a slow pace.
- b) A Covid test centre has been opened up at Cranleigh Golf Club.

Clerk – parish update:

- i. Grant to Ewhurst Village Society: the Village Society had kindly returned the Parish Council annual grant for this year, given to support the publishing costs of their newsletter, as none had been published this last year due to covid.
- ii. The Festive Market in December had been very successful, with 15 stalls of mainly local artisans. £1000 was raised for the Cranleigh food bank. The organisers have been asked to make it an annual event, and are considering this. Members recorded thanks to them for arranging this happy event at a very difficult time.
- iii. The dog bag dispenser at the Glebe has been temporarily discontinued as the facility was being abused.

010 (2021) **TRAFFIC CALMING IN THE PARISH**
The draft proposals were noted.

011 (2021) **WATER POLLUTION COBBLERS BROOK**
Cllr Henry reported that Thames Water, WBC and the Environment Agency are all involved in tracking and resolving this pollution. It is not a simple problem, with more than one site involved in creating the problem. WBC had done a series of tests and found a number of misconnections on both private and WBC property. It was hoped to put together a definitive map of the drains in that area, for future reference. Cllr Riley was concerned about potential future problems for wildlife in the Brook, and would like to see some ongoing testing. Leap would be asked if they could help.

012 (2021) **BULLS HEAD PUBLIC HOUSE**
The Clerk reported that the sale of the Public House to a private buyer had been completed the previous Friday. The buyer intends to turn the pub into a thriving pub, restaurant and hotel. There is a great deal of work to do to achieve this, and they plan to open the pub in the summer.

013 (2021) **BOX BROADBAND**
Cllr Mitchell reported that Box Broadband had, in the past, agreed to install fibre to the building to the EYSC and the village hall, and possibly the Glebe, but there was nothing in writing. Chris Box, who had made the verbal agreement with the Parish Council, had now left the company.

He and the Clerk had met with Graham Sargood, Chief Executive of Box Broadband Ltd, on the 5th January. Mr Sargood has accepted their commitment to install broadband in the hall and EYSC and has subsequently undertaken a site visit and confirmed that the EYSC will not cause any problems, as the cables and wires are already in place. The installation should be done in the early spring.

Cllr White advised that Box had also agreed a connection to the Bowls Club and that their cables run through the Bowls Club car park. He will provide a sketch.

It is unlikely that a connection to the Glebe will be possible, as it is too far from the Box installations.

Cllr Mitchell asked for members permission to take on the first stage of negotiating with Box Broadband. As he is no longer a practicing solicitor, he recommended that the Parish Council consider engaging an independent solicitor to look at the final document. This was agreed, and Cllr Mitchell thanked for his help.

014 (2021)

PARISH BUSINESS

- a) *Footpath/Cycle path to Cranleigh*: Cllr White reported that he walks this path every day. It is covered with leaves and the drains are blocked and the gutters full up. He intended to obtain a quotation to get the work done, and suggested that Cranleigh paid for road maintenance rather than relying on SCC. Cllr Deanus advised that if the Parish Council took on this work, they would also take on the liability.
- b) *Ellens Green Memorial Hall – defibrillator*: In response to a question from Cllr Clowes, Cllr Henry advised that funding had been obtained for a defibrillator, and the Clerk had made an application to the Mission Hall fund for a heated cabinet.
- c) *Village Gates*: the Clerk will discuss their upkeep and repair with the village handyman.
- d) *Cricket Club*: The Club Secretary had written to the Chairman to advise her of the plans for the Club. They wish to apply for CIL monies to enhance their facilities, in particular new nets and an artificial cricket pitch, and seek the support of the Parish Council. **Agenda item**: February meeting.

015 (2021)

NEXT FULL MEETING ON THE PARISH COUNCIL: Monday 15th February 2021, BY CONFERENCE CALL.

016 (2021)

EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Motion: "In accordance with the provisions of section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and public be excluded from the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted: staff matters. Proposed by Cllr Henry, Seconded by Cllr Clowes, all in favour.

The meeting closed at 21.45hrs.