



## RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 at 8.00pm in Rodmell Village Hall

Present: Councillors: John Gillies – Chairman (JG), Sue Carroll (SC), Sarah Last (SL), Lesley Prosser (LP), Richard Sellick (RS), David Smart (DS) and Nikki Terry (NT) and Alison Stevens (AS: Clerk). District Councillor William Meyer was also in attendance.

There were no members of the public in attendance.

County Councillor Sarah Osborne sent apologies for her absence.

| Item No: |  | Action |
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| 1        | <p><u>Apologies for absence</u></p> <p>There were no apologies for absence from any Parish Councillors nor were there any requests to consider any dispensations.</p> <p><u>Public Questions.</u></p> <p>There were no questions from the public.</p>  |        |
| 2        | <p><u>District and County Reports.</u></p> <p>The County Councillor sent a written report which was distributed to Councillors before the meeting and had been put on the website.</p> <p>District Councillor Meyer introduced himself and said;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He was elected in May and has five Parish Councils in his ward.</li> <li>• The make-up of the Cabinet at Lewes has changed recently but is working well.</li> <li>• He is now the Lewes District Council representative on the South Downs National Park Authority and is on several committees. He is the Cabinet Minister for Housing where he is keen to pursue rural housing ideas and Community Land Trust issues.</li> </ul> |        |

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| 3 | <p><u>Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019.</u></p> <p>The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019 were read, approved by all and signed by the Chairman.</p>  |  |
| 4 | <p><u>To receive Register of Interest Forms and agree to abide by the Code of Conduct.</u></p> <p>Councillors duly completed the latest Register of Interest Forms and the Clerk would send them to Lewes District Council. The Clerk had asked for the latest Code of Conduct from Lewes District Council for Councillors to consider adopting at the next meeting.</p>  |  |
| 5 | <p><u>Planning</u></p> <p>5.1 There were no planning applications for comment at this meeting.</p> <p>5.2 Planning regulations applying to farms –Councillor Carroll (SC) had been seeking information about the planning regulations which apply to farms within the SDNP, particularly with regard to changes of use from agricultural to commercial purposes, which was recognised to be necessary for farmers to bring in additional income but could have significant implications for neighbouring residents. The response to a previous query from the PC related to a permission granted to Northease Farm in 2005, although there have been many subsequent and more recent developments affecting different buildings. SC wished to know whether permissions for changes of use on farms were covered by a blanket agricultural policy and related to all the buildings on a specific farm or whether there needed to be specific applications for each building and each change of use.</p> <p>Councillor Meyer reported that this issue was arising in a number of areas within the district and that he would raise the matter with the SDNP Liaison Officer. He also suggested that the officer could be invited to attend a meeting to provide clarification about the regulations and to discuss the issues.</p> <p>5.3 It was noted that the application previously submitted for Admirals Knock had been refused and the application relating to land adjacent to Ash Tree Cottage had been approved by the Planning Authority.</p> |  |
| 5 | <p><u>Maintenance Reviews</u></p> <p>5.1 The Dicklands – Parking remains an issue on the green at The Dicklands and it was now reported to be more extensive than ever. The Parish Council had considered the problem on a number of occasions in the past but had never felt inclined to impose a total ban because, although there are drives alongside the houses, and although there is some scope for parking on the tarmac, it was felt that some extra room was needed for multiple-</p>   |  |

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|   | <p>car families and visitors. A few years ago, following another Parish Council discussion, Councillors Smart and Sellick smoothed over the muddied rutted area of grass at the very top of the green and re-seeded it. The area was then cordoned off for the seeds to germinate and grow. Unfortunately when the cordon was removed parking on that part of the green resumed.</p> <p>Councillors considered various options, namely;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fencing off the green, but they felt this would be both expensive and unpopular.</li> <li>• Allowing one car width of parking on the green only - perhaps marked off by a delivery of big rocks to form a curved inner cordon. A possible but costly addition to this would be laying concrete blocks with holes in them to allow the grass to grow through.</li> <li>• Allocating short stretches of the edge of the green to individual houses, following the extended line of the boundaries between the houses.</li> <li>• Writing a letter to each of the residents asking them to always use their own drives in the first instance, then the tarmac, and then only park on the green as a last option. It was felt this might work for a while, but something firmer would still probably be needed long term.</li> </ul> <p>Councillors resolved that the Clerk would draft a letter to the residents and Lewes District Council to ask them if they had any other suggestions.</p> <p>5.2 Sports Field – This was covered later on in the meeting.</p> <p>It was noted that the footpath that runs around the edge of the field behind The Street leading up to the C7 had now been cut back by ESCC Rights of Way.</p> <p>5.3 Annual Fire Inspection Report – The Annual Fire Inspection took place on the 19<sup>th</sup> August. Engineers approved the fire extinguishers for another year.</p> |  |
| 6 | <p><u>6.1 Legal Matters</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillors Terry and Last attended a meeting held by the Collective, which was attended by 20 people. The speaker from the Community Shares Project had explained how the system works, in that individuals buy Community Shares to the value of their investment. Should the scheme fail they still own a share of the property. More details of this can be found on <a href="http://www.rodmeல்லoldschool.org">www.rodmeல்லoldschool.org</a>. Action in Rural Sussex (AiRS) was now understood to be considering buying the old school and leasing part of it out to the Rodmell and Ouse Valley Collective. Ms Rogers had researched the setting up of a Community Shop and explained her findings. It was also noted that parking would be an issue.</li> </ul>  |  |

Councillors discussed the Parish Council's position on the proposed acquisition and agreed to support it in principle but had reservations about some aspects and did not feel that it was something with which the Parish Council should become directly involved.

- Councillors agreed the existing Emergency Plan needed updating and JG and DS agreed to update it. The Plan would be circulated to all councillors for their suggestions first.

#### 6.2 Other Updates

- Website and Council Emails – Some councillors reported having problems opening up some of the attachments in some of the emails. The Clerk will ask senders to send the attachments in a different format when this is the case. There were a few minor problems with the website but these are being dealt with by the Chairman.
- Joint Action with Monk's House – The Chairman forwarded the letter written jointly by the Parish Council and the National Trust which pointed out the state of The Street to County Councillor Sarah Osborne asking her to forward it to the appropriate person with authority at ESCC. County Councillor Osborne has since replied to say the case is now with the Highways Steward.
- Tree Warden – There was nothing new to report on this occasion.
- Countryside, agriculture and allotments – One and a half allotments were currently available.
- Repairs to the flint wall between the car park and Martens Field – Sections of the wall alongside the path outside numbers 5 and 6 and 11 Martens Field had fallen down. It was understood Clarion Housing were advised by their surveyor to put a fence behind the section of the wall they own but they have yet to do so. The wall is understood to be owned by different owners at different stages. The Clerk will see if she can find out who owns what and report back.
- Sports Field, Mowing and Hedge Trimming – Councillors previously asked whether the patch of grass needs cutting at the playground. Councillor Gillies had looked and confirmed it has been cut at some stage. The Clerk previously asked the Parish Council's insurers if they would insure a volunteer and his mowing equipment when he cuts the grass on the Sports Field. The insurers confirmed that as a volunteer he is automatically covered when undertaking tasks on behalf of the Parish Council but a risk assessment would need to be carried out to help reduce the risk of injury or damage. He would also need to include his mower on his own home insurance policy for this use. The Chairman, Councillor

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|                              | <p>Sellick and the Clerk will meet the volunteer and see if they can find a way forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication with Northease residents – SC had produced a flyer to introduce herself as the representative for Northease on Rodmell PC and to explain the function of the council. She was also setting up an on-line group for Northease as a means of communication between those who live and work there, including matters relating to the PC.</li> <li>• Village Hall Committee – The Harvest Supper would be held on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October.</li> </ul>   |                              |          |                              |          |  |
| 7                            | <p><u>Brief Report from the Clerk and/or Councillors on external contacts and meetings attended since the last Parish Council Meeting.</u></p> <p>POLO Meeting – Councillor Carroll attended the POLO Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> August. The objectives of POLO were reviewed, and members were updated on;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the C7 whole road strategy</li> <li>• the Egrets Way cycle path strategy</li> <li>• the Iford to Rise Farm Bridleway.</li> </ul> <p>There were also updates from the SDNP, Kingston Parish Council, Rodmell Parish Council and Piddinghoe Parish Council. The minutes of this meeting are expected to follow in due course.</p> <p>It was also suggested that someone from Piddinghoe might be invited to the Parish Assembly to talk about its renewable energy initiative.</p> |                              |          |                              |          |  |
| 8                            | <p><u>Finance Report</u></p> <p>8.1 – Councillors resolved to accept the accounts to 27<sup>th</sup> August 2019.</p> <p>8.2 – The following invoices were approved for payment;</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>Alison Stevens – Locum Clerk</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 425.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alison Stevens – Locum Clerk</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 575.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>8.3 – The Clerk confirmed the Parish Council had now received the £1200 grant which had been due from Lewes District Council.</p>  | Alison Stevens – Locum Clerk | £ 425.00 | Alison Stevens – Locum Clerk | £ 575.00 |  |
| Alison Stevens – Locum Clerk | £ 425.00   |                              |          |                              |          |  |
| Alison Stevens – Locum Clerk | £ 575.00   |                              |          |                              |          |  |
| 9                            | <p><u>Appointment of New Clerk</u></p> <p>Councillors discussed all the options in full and resolved to offer Alison Stevens the role of Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer. It was noted that Mrs Stevens’ remuneration would be higher than that of the previous Clerk, but that against this there would also be some savings, for example in the Payroll, which would be handled by an Independent Payroll Bureau, and that any</p>  |                              |          |                              |          |  |

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|    | increase was justifiable in terms of her extra experience.<br>Alison Stevens duly accepted the role.   |  |
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| 10 | The meeting closed at 9.40pm.<br>The next meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> November 2019. Please send any items for the agenda to the Clerk by Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October. |  |