



RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held On 14th November 2023 at Rodmell Village Hall

Present: Councillors – Lindy Smart (Chair) (LS), Sue Carroll (SC), Claire Dishington (CD), William Meyer (WM), Nicki Myers (NM), Chrissie Toye (CT)
Lynette Kemp (LK) Parish Clerk and seven members of the public were also present.

- 1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest** – There were no apologies. LS declared an interest in item 8, LS is related to the landowner.

Public Questions

Agenda Item 13.7 Village Illustrative Map - SC thanked Roger Ford for his work on the Illustrative Map, on display at this meeting, Caroline Archer will now colourise, and then captions will be added. The initial funding was donated by the pub. It was originally intended that the map would be erected outside the pub, planning permission will be required and the pub is a listed building. Other sites around the village had been investigated but this was proving difficult. Various sites in the village were discussed. SC will meet with the Manager at Monks House. SC would welcome any other suggestions for the siting of the map.

Agenda Item 13.2 Wildflower Planting – The SDNPA funding application has proved difficult and it had not been possible to submit the bid within the timescale allowed. Concerns had been raised by a resident close to The Dicklands that the area would be “a vermin infested wasteland”. LS explained this was far from the truth and a consultation with residents would have been carried out. LS has looked at various sites in the village and a suitable site by the church perimeter wall on the south side was favoured and the landowner has given permission. The area will be maintained, and it has been suggested that Northease Manor School would assist as part of their horticulture programme and to study the wildlife attracted to the planted area. This would be used as a test area. Rodmell Parish Council had recently received a donation of £ 200.

Proposed by LS and seconded by NM -

It was resolved that £200 would be earmarked for wildflower planting.

- 2. To receive updates** from County Councillor Sarah Osborne, District Councillor Stella Spiteri and Maria Caulfield MP on matters affecting this Parish.
An update from Maria Caulfield MP was circulated before the meeting, no other updates were received.
- 3. Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 12th September 2023** - The minutes were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chairman.
- 4. Planning – To comment on any planning applications received.**
SDNPA/23/03857/HOUSE & SDNPA/23/04292/LIS – following review of the documentation, a site visit and meeting with the applicant, Rodmell Parish Council **resolved to support** the applications.

- 5. Urban Grass Cutting Option for 2024** – details of the cutting options were circulated prior to the meeting the information was reviewed.
It was resolved to request four extra cuts per year, as carried out in 2023.
- 6. Introduction of a 20mph speed restriction in Mill Lane and The Street** – following investigation it was agreed the process is very expensive, the first stage being a feasibility study at a cost of £500. The restriction would be difficult to police. Various methods of increasing speed awareness were discussed, including car stickers and Facebook posts. Proposed by NM and seconded by LS -
It was resolved to review again in the Spring.
- 7. Parish Emergency Plan** – NM and CD will begin updating the plan in December.
- 8. Rights of Way Issues** – a Ramblers Association Warden attended the recent Parish Priority Statement meeting, a possible old right of way to Southease was brought to the attention of the meeting. Following discussion and with regard to this being private land, no recollections of there being a right of way and the other routes available it was agreed that this would be deferred until the Spring after the PPS questionnaires have been analysed.
- 9. Agenda items deferred from the last meeting**
9.1 Noticeboards/Parish Council Newsletter – deferred until the next meeting.
- 10. Maintenance Reviews**
10.1 Defibrillator Report and First Aid Training – the battery is satisfactory, the pads will need replacing in 2025. The registration with The Circuit has been updated. First Aid Training – to be offered at a discounted rate to those not members of the Parish Council or Village Hall Committee, the cost of the Basic Life Support Course is £200 for up to twelve attendees. Proposed by LS and seconded by NM –
It was resolved that the Basic Life Support Course should be offered in the New Year
- 10.2 General Village Maintenance** – nothing to report.
- 10.3 Poor Drainage in The Street and Mill Lane** – despite being vacuum pumped the drains were still overflowing. CT will contact ESH again in the Spring.
- 10.4 Hedge Cutting on the C7** – the hedge has now been cut.
- 10.5 Playground** – the annual playground report has not been received, the Clerk was advised the inspection would be carried out by mid-November. CD confirmed the playground is frequently used and more families are moving into the area. CD will investigate funding opportunities. CD will establish the whereabouts of the boundary to the rear of the school early in the New Year as the fence is in the incorrect position, CD will provide the key to the locked area so that a spare can be cut.
- 11. Clerk's and/or Councillors' reports** on any items from the last meeting not otherwise covered on this Agenda, and other items for **noting** and **information** purposes.
Parish Priority Statement - NM informed the meeting that forty-seven responses have so far been received. SC told the meeting this had been a useful exercise to identify those who do not receive information digitally. SC and NM will analyse the responses.
- 12. Finance Report**
12.1 The payments attached to these minutes were **approved**.
12.2 The bank reconciliations for September and October were **approved**.
12.3 Following careful consideration and extensive discussion of the draft budget the precept was **agreed** at £16548. This equates to an approximate increase of 42p per month for a Band D taxpayer.
12.4 Fiona Roberts has been the Council's auditor for six of the last seven audits, Fiona felt that it was time that another auditor should be appointed. Sandra Webb has kindly offered to undertake the role. Fiona was thanked for her work.
It was **resolved** to appoint Sandra Webb as auditor to Rodmell Parish Council for the year ending March 2024.
- 13. Other updates**
13.1 Tree Warden (NM) – nothing to report.

Rodmell Parish Council: Lindy Smart (*Chairman*), Sue Carroll (*Deputy Chair*), Claire Dishington, William Meyer,

Nicki Myers, Chrissie Toye

13.2 Countryside, agriculture, allotments, playing field, (wildflower planting covered during Public Questions) All allotments are taken, the Sports Field has been mown for the last time this year, it is now too wet to cut the hedge. LS has looked at many options for benches and will look at other funding sources. CD will investigate fund raising events.

13.3 The Street including Egret's Way works issues – CD unable to provide an update on The Street currently, CD will circulate a report as soon as possible. The Egret's Way works are on hold due to the weather. Damage to The Street has been caused by contractors' vehicles. A survey must be carried out before works recommence.

13.4 Village Hall – The minutes of the AGM on 10th October were circulated before this meeting, and there has been a further meeting. The first work will be the patio at the rear of the Village Hall, this will provide an entrance suitable for all. There will be a "Newcomers Drinks Evening" on Friday 8th December 2023.

13.5 The Dicklands and Mill Lane – covered earlier in the meeting.

13.6 Roads, Paths and Transport – covered earlier in the meeting.

13.7 Village Illustrative Map – covered earlier in the meeting.

13.8 SDNPA – The meeting was informed of planning issues locally and reminded that the South Downs Local Plan Review Parishes Workshop will take place on 28th November, SC and NM will attend.

13.9 POLO – The C7 Clean-up will take place on 24th and 25th February 2024. Volunteers are very welcome.

13.10 The Safer C7 Project – the project also includes the C324, eight tenders have been received, two have been shortlisted with one in reserve. A meeting will be held on 21st November 2024 with SDNP, Highways, Local Council representative and other stakeholders.

13.11 LDALC – WM is currently Chair, another meeting will be held before Christmas.

13.12 ESALC – The AGM and conference was held earlier in the day, a particularly interesting meeting with presentations from Action in Rural Sussex, planning updates from Steve Tilbury, ESCC Highways and Sussex Police.

13.13 Parking in Martens's Field – LS gave an update on the information received to date, Cllr Spiteri is investigating further.

13.14 Playing Field and Pavilion Hire agreement and protocol – this will be an agenda item at the January meeting.

13.15 Website and Email issues – the Clerk has met with John Gillies and now has log-on information to upload Council documents. Any email issues should still be addressed to John Gillies. Email issues were discussed and it was hoped that all Councillors would be able to use their rodmell.net email accounts before the next meeting.

The next meeting Full Council Meeting will be held on 16th January 2024, items for the agenda to the Clerk by Friday 5th January 2024 please.

Dates for meetings in 2024: 16th January, 19th March, 21st May, 16th July, 17th September and 19th November.

Payments Approved at the FC Meeting on 14th November 2023			
Agenda Item 12.1			
55	L Kemp	Clerk Salary	£ 351.13
	EDF	Electricity	£ 47.00
56	S Carroll	Printing	£ 174.50
57	HMRC	Tax & NI	£ 29.00
	PWLB	Loan	£ 888.96
58	Lewes District Council	Dog bins	£ 93.60
59	Emerald Services	Mowing Playground	£ 150.00
60	L Kemp	Clerk Salary	£ 347.93
61	Business Stream	Waste Water	£ 48.26
62	Countrymans	Mowing The Dicklands	£ 66.00
63	Team 4 Solutions	Payroll	£ 12.00
64	Team 4 Solutions	Payroll	£ 12.00
65	Emerald Services	Mowing The Playground	£ 100.00
66	Countrymans	Hedge cutting The Dicklands	£ 144.00
67	Countrymans	Mowing The Dicklands	£ 66.00
68	HMRC	Tax & NI	£ 28.20
69	Rodmell Village Hall	Hall Hire	£ 96.00
70	L Kemp	Clerk Salary	£ 347.93
71	HMRC	Tax and NI	£ 28.20
72	Roger Ford	Illustrative Map Honorarium	£ 50.00
73	Le Bureau	Printing	£ 15.00
			£ 3,095.71