



## RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held On 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7pm at Rodmell Village Hall

**Present:** Councillors – Lindy Smart (Chair) (LS), Sue Carroll (SC), Claire Dishington (CD), Nicki Myers (NM), Chrissie Toye (CT), Fred Wettern (FW).  
Lynette Kemp (LK) Parish Clerk

- 1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest** – There were no apologies. LS declared an interest in item 4, LS is related to a candidate.

#### Public Questions

No members of the public were in attendance.

- 2. To receive updates** from County Councillor Sarah Osborne, District Councillor Stella Spiteri and Maria Caulfield MP on matters affecting this Parish.

Apologies were received from Cllr Sarah Osborne and Cllr Stella Spiteri, reports were circulated prior to the meeting.

- Cllr Osborne – A public consultation has been launched regarding the draft Local Transport Plan, the closing date for comments is 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024.
- Cllr Spiteri – The Lewes District Council Draft Local Plan has been published, the consultation process closes on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024 (*The consultation period has been extended until Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024 since the date of this meeting.*)

Update on waste – Garden waste customers are being invited to renew their service for the coming year. There will be an increase in cost to £80.

A review on all collection rounds has now been completed and paper calendars are being prepared for circulation in February. Wheelie bins will be introduced across the district beginning in February.

Drainage works will commence in Wellgreen Lane, Kingston on 12<sup>th</sup> February and will be completed by 16<sup>th</sup> February, between the hours of 9.30am and 4pm. The road will be closed to through traffic while the work is undertaken.

- 3. Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023** - The minutes were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chairman.
- 4. Co-option** – two applications had been received for co-option to Rodmell Parish Council. Following careful consideration of the application forms and résumés on behalf of the candidates both candidates were co-opted to Rodmell Parish Council. Fred Wettern signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the meeting. Georgina Hickey was not present and will sign the declaration at the next meeting.

- 5. Planning – To comment on any planning applications received.**

#### SDNP/23/04887/TCA

Old Farm House, The Street, Rodmell, East Sussex. BN7 3HE

T1 – Copper Beech – Reduce crown by approximately 50% – to avoid breakage and encourage upright growth.

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T2 – Cherry – Reduce crown by approximately 50-75% and remove dead wood – to reduce the risk of damage to the tree and property.

**Rodmell Parish Council has no comment to make on this application.**

It was **agreed** to call an Extraordinary General Meeting to discuss the planning applications that had been received since the agenda for this meeting was published. It was **agreed** that the EGM should take place on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7pm in the village hall.

- 6. Parish Priority Statement** - NM gave a recap of the process, 45 residents had attended the first meeting, and 46 questionnaires were returned. The replies were ranked in a document that will be an appendix to the final report. The report will be provided for review at the RPC meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024. A Safer C7, the natural environment and planning issues, particularly regarding affordable housing in the village, were highlighted by many respondents. It is hoped that working groups could be formed, it should be noted that the Parish Council would not be able to deliver on all the issues identified.

**Following discussion it was agreed that the Parish Priority Statement would be on the agenda for the Parish Assembly on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024 with another meeting to discuss the issues in more detail at a later date. Other speakers at the Parish Assembly would be agreed by email.**

- 7. Agenda items deferred from the Full Council Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023.**

**7.1 Noticeboards/Parish Council Newsletter**

The noticeboards are looking much tidier, and the statutory documents are clearly displayed. It was noted that producing a regular newsletter would be very labour intensive. It was suggested that more use could be made of the website and social media, information in printed form could be delivered to those, identified by the PPS questionnaire, who prefer to receive information in hard copy.

- 8. Playground** – the recent playground inspection was discussed, some of the faults were very concerning. The shelter is also in a poor state of repair. The fence between the former school building and the playground needs replacing, the boundary has been identified as 1.5 metres from the building. The flint wall between the playground and the church is in a dangerous condition, this is the responsibility of the PCC. The flint wall to the rear of the of the playground also needs remedial work, the Parish Council is responsible for this. It was suggested that a working group could be formed to clear the vegetation. Following discussion:-

**It was agreed that the Clerk would obtain quotes for repair and, for comparison, cost of replacement of the play equipment. CD will write to the owner of The Old School, LS will write to the PCC.** The letters to be sent via the Clerk.

- 9. Civility and Respect Pledge** - The suggested Civility and Respect Pledge agenda item wording from NALC was distributed before the meeting, a councillor was concerned about the costs involved and its suitability for a small parish council. Following discussion it was **agreed** that Rodmell Parish Council should adopt the Civility and Respect Pledge. Proposed by LS and seconded by CD.

**The clerk will investigate costs of online training, formal agreement to adopt the Pledge will be an agenda item at the next meeting.**

- 10. Councillor Resignation** - Members were saddened by the resignation of William Meyer, William had worked hard during his time with Rodmell Parish Council.

**The resignation was noted and Councillors asked the Clerk to write to William Meyer to express their thanks.**

- 11. Representation on outside bodies**

It was noted that daytime meetings can be difficult to attend. It is important that information is fed back to Council by the member attending. Following discussion it was **agreed** that, for the time being, representation at SDNPA, LDALC and ESALC would be agreed by email for each meeting.

- 12. Southdown National Park Board Councillor Representation Vacancy**

It was **agreed** that Rodmell Parish Council would **not** be nominating a representative.

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**13. Weald to Waves** - NM gave an overview of the initiative to create a 100 mile nature recovery corridor across Sussex. Spearheaded by Knepp Rewilding, individuals, towns and villages can join. A representative of Knepp will be a speaker at the upcoming Rodmell Horticultural Society AGM. The benefits of less harsh gardening methods, even in rural areas such as Rodmell were explained together with the possibilities of regenerative farming. A speaker on rewilding at the Parish Assembly was suggested.

It was **agreed** that NM would attend the RHS meeting and report back to Council.

#### **14. Maintenance Reviews**

**14.1 Defibrillator Report** – CT confirmed the battery state is checked every month, new pads would be required in February 2025, the defibrillator has not been used.

**14.2 General Village Maintenance** – Blocked drains are still an issue, Mill Lane is a particular concern, despite being pumped in the autumn. Potholes in The Street are getting worse, an inspection of the road must take place before the works commence again on Egret's Way.

**CD will report the potholes to East Sussex Highways.**

**15. Clerk's and/or Councillors' reports** on progress on any items from the last meeting not otherwise covered on this Agenda, and other items for noting and information purposes.

**15.1 First Aid Course** – this will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

#### **16. Finance Report**

**16.1** The list of payments, attached to these minutes, were **approved**.

**16.2** The bank reconciliations for November and December were **approved**.

**16.3** The LGA pay agreement and back pay relating to the Clerk were **agreed**.

#### **17. Other updates**

**17.1 Tree warden (NM)** – an application has been received since the publication of this agenda and this will be dealt with at the EGM on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

**17.2 Countryside, agriculture, allotments, playing field, wildflower planting (LS)** – all allotments are taken and one name is on the waiting list. A report was circulated regarding wildflower planting and collaboration with Northease Manor School, it was **agreed** that this would now be sent to the school. It was **noted** that permission has been granted by the landowner.

**17.3 Village Benches – (LS/CD)** CD had circulated a report prior to the meeting with suggested sites and types of benches, which would need to be placed on plinths. A number of residents have shown an interest in helping with the project. Maintenance costs must also be considered. CD has approached the Monday Group. Planning permission may also be a consideration.

It was **agreed** that LS would provide a **report**, to be shared with CD, for consideration at the next meeting.

**17.4 The Street (CD)** – potholes, as discussed previously, to be reported. CD will contact the Clerk. Photos need to be taken and CD will report the potholes to East Sussex Highways.

**17.5 Village Hall (CD)** – Nothing to report.

**17.6 Emergency Plan (CD/NM)** – The draft Plan has been circulated. NM has removed names of people no longer residing in the village but has not contacted everyone on the plan. Neighbouring Parishes' contact details have been checked. Vulnerable residents could be identified by contacting members of the Good Neighbour Scheme. The document would remain with Councillors and was not for general circulation. It was suggested using Facebook to ask for more volunteers to add to the Plan. First aiders already on the list should be contacted again. It was **agreed** that CD will post on Facebook.

**17.7 The Dicklands and Mill Lane (CT)** – a planning application has been received for a property at The Dicklands. This will be discussed at the EGM on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

**17.8 Roads, Paths, Transport** – Nothing to report.

**17.9 Village Illustrative Map (SC)** - various sites were discussed, the landowner of the site suggested at the bottom of the village would need to be approached. Planning permission would be required, and possibly listed building permission. NM will assist regarding permissions. Sites in the area of the pub were discussed.

**17.10 SDNPA** – Nothing to report.

**17.11 POLO (SC)** – SC gave a brief explanation on the purpose of POLO and her role as Secretary. It was suggested that NM’s experience, particularly with regard to funding, would be beneficial to POLO.

It was **agreed** that SC would ask POLO if RPC could have two representatives.

**17.12 The Safer C7 Project (SC)** – The inception meeting with the project consultants is to take place the following day. The consultants will spend a day looking at the C7 on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024. They will be asked to pay particular attention to junctions on the C7 and the dangers encountered emerging from the junctions. The report is due by the end of April, there will be community and stakeholder engagement.

**17.13 Parking in Marten’s Field (LS)**– Lewes District Council have provided considerable information and a further update is expected. LS gave details of the information supplied to date. It has been suggested that Lewes District Council contact residents. Cllr Spiteri will contact officers at LDC again.

**17.14 Sports Field and Pavilion Hire (LS)** – LS confirmed the hedges have been cut. Costs continue to increase with regard to the Sports Field and Pavilion, but no income has been generated. The possibility of donations from regular users was discussed. It was suggested that a working group could be formed, particularly in light of comments made at the PPS meeting. Formation of a working group could be discussed at the Parish Assembly.

**17.15 Website and Email issues (Clerk)** – SC asked that more mailbox capacity is provided. Other options to reduce emails were discussed, including a central server for newsletters etc. It was **agreed** that SC will contact John Gillies to increase mailbox capacity.

**The meeting closed at 9.20pm**

**The next meeting Full Council Meeting will be held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024, items for the agenda to the Clerk by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024 please.**

**Payments approved at the FC Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024  
Agenda Item 16.1**

Date	To Whom	Description	Amount
30.11.23	74 Team4	Payroll	£ 12.00
27.11.23	75 EDF	Electricity	£ 47.00
31.12.23	76 L Kemp	Salary Dec	£ 347.93
06.1.24	77 HMRC	PAYE	£ 28.20
10.12.23	78 National Trust	Wayleave	£ 1.00
01.01.24	79 LDC	Dog bin	£ 93.60
31.12.23	80 Team4	Payroll	£ 12.00
04.01.24	81 South Farm	Sports Field Rental	£ 350.00
04.01.24	82 South Farm	Sports Field Mowing	£ 780.00
08.01.24	83 C Toye	Reimbursement (Keys)	£ 13.50
27.12.23	84 EDF	Electricity	£ 47.00
			£ 1,732.23

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