



RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held On 25th July 2023 8pm at Rodmell Village Hall

Present

Councillors: Sue Carroll (SC) Chair for this meeting, William Meyer (WM), Nicki Myers (NM) Lindy Smart (LS), Chrissie Toye (CT)

Lynette Kemp (LK) Parish Clerk and six members of the public were also present

1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

No apologies had been received. Cllr Dishington did not attend. There were no Declarations of Interest.

Public Questions

Gill Goldman asked the Council to consider seating benches to be placed in Mill Lane and the pathway leading to the river, enabling less able walkers to take rest. Various locations were suggested, LS will speak with Mr C Wettern, this will be an agenda item for the next meeting. Ali Walters informed members of the Wild Space Butterfly Conservation Scheme and suggested that perhaps areas of The Dicklands could be considered. Other potential areas in the parish were also suggested, particularly near the Millenium trees. Leaflets are available from the Butterfly Society. LS to liaise with Ms Walters regarding potential sites, this will be an agenda item for the next meeting. Ms Walters told the meeting that she had been in contact with SDNPA rangers regarding the permissive path, and this area would be cut later in the season because of the butterflies found there. The path was still passable.

Neville Harrison gave an update on the Egrets Way works, sadly the SDNPA officer working on this project has been seriously injured and will be away for some time. This has been a considerable setback for Section 6 of the project and the contractors have had to readjust their programme. Further information will be made available in August, whether the contractor can continue and if the project can cope with the overspend isn't yet known. It is still hoped that the section to Lewes can be completed by the end of the year. There have been no reports of problems in The Street with regard to lorries passing through.

2. Updates from County and District Councillors

District Councillor Spiteri was welcomed to the meeting. Councillor Spiteri was asked to provide an update on agenda item **14.11 Parking in Marten's Field**. Cllr Spiteri was aware that this has been a concern for some considerable time, and was currently checking on ownership of particular spaces. Cllr Spiteri will provide a written report on her findings. ESCC Councillor Sarah Osborne had asked the meeting be informed of the increased funding for the Community Match Scheme of £5.1 million, there was also increased funding of £5 million for Highways. It was noted that there has been a change in the bus timetable,

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

however it has been reported that there is a gap of 3 hours in the daytime provision. Timetables need to be updated at bus stops. It was stated that The Street road surface was in very poor condition. Council requested that this be highlighted again with East Sussex Highways, as potholed roads are particularly dangerous for cyclists. Poor Drainage in Mill Lane was also very concerning.

3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 16th May 2023

A correction to the minutes was noted, John Gillies produces the Parish Newsletter and not the Parish Magazine as had been minuted.

4. Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 20th June 2023

Minutes of the above meeting were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the meeting Chairman Cllr Sue Carroll.

The following item was moved on the Agenda:

Item 13 Website and Council Emails

John Gillies has received mostly complimentary remarks regarding the new website. LS reported that her email account had been hacked. CT suggested charging businesses to be included on the site. LS would like to see new photos on the site. John said that he frequently requested new photos, NM suggested photos of the summer flower show. LS will speak with Nikki Terry regarding photos and any other information. John was asked if the groups could be in alphabetical order. SC suggested interaction between the Facebook group page and the website.

5. Planning

SDNP/23/02770/HOUS The Old Rectory, The Street, Rodmell, East Sussex BN 7 3HF
SDNP/23/02750/LIS The Coach House, The Old Rectory, The Street, Rodmell, East Sussex BN7 3HF

Following discussions regarding these applications it was agreed that a site visit would be appropriate, WM and NM will attend and report back to Council.

6. Parish Priority Statement

SC explained the Parish Priority Statement to those attending. NM stated that a PPS was less onerous than a Neighbourhood Plan and there maybe an opportunity to extend the October deadline. It was felt that a light touch approach would not be too time consuming. It was important to consult with the entire village, across all age ranges. WM suggested members of the community could take this forward with the Council acting as an enabler. Droxford Parish Council was given as an example. NM will enquire if an extension until Christmas is possible. SC reported from her attendance at the last SDNPA parish workshop that PPS are not a SDNPA requirement, especially for small villages. However, it was suggested that the process of completing a PPS could be beneficial for the village itself. Suggestions were made regarding engagement with the community, including a questionnaire drop to every household and attendance at the summer show. NM will coordinate a meeting for councillors.

7. Maintenance Reviews

7.1 Defibrillator Report – CT carries out a monthly battery check and sends details to the clerk. It was noted that the pads expire February 2025. The defibrillator is registered with The Circuit, and is also on the Staying Alive portal.

7.2 General Village Maintenance – an overgrown footpath has been reported to ESCC Rights of Way team. The steps from the National Trust car park need attention, they are unstable, the clerk will write to the National Trust.

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

Nicki Myers, Chrissie Toye

- 8. Clerk's and/or Councillors' reports** not covered elsewhere on the agenda.
The clerk confirmed all new signatories, as agreed, have now been added to the bank mandate.

9. Finance Report

9.1 The following payments were authorised for payment:

EDF	Electricity supply	£ 47.00
Team 4	Payroll	£ 12.00
Mrs J Brown	Mowing	£600.00
LDC	Dog Bins	£ 93.60
Emerald Services	Mowing	£100.00
The Monday Group	Lenny's Path	£600.00
ESALC	Training	£ 96.00
ESALC	Training	£ 45.00
L Kemp	Clerk's Pay June	£345.93
HMRC	Tax and NI	£ 34.20
L Kemp	Expenses	£ 40.60

- 9.2 The May and June bank reconciliations were approved.
9.3 The budget report was noted.
9.4 The Financial Risk Assessment was reviewed and approved.
9.5 The Sports Field hire agreement – deferred until the next meeting. Costings and comparisons to be provided by the clerk.

10. The Dicklands

CT presented a report detailing quotations received for mowing, hedge trimming and tree works. Following discussion and comparisons of the quotations received it was **resolved** to appoint Countryman's to carry out mowing and hedge trimming and New Leaf for the tree works.

11. Village Illustrative Map

SC provided a detailed costed report to council. SC thanked NM for information regarding contacts at SDNPA, this had been extremely useful and detailed advice was given. It was noted that Advertising Consent would need to be applied for, and permission from the local authority will be required to install it on the side of the Abergavenny Arms because it is a listed building. There is a possibility of match funding from the SDNPA for the £337 we received from the pub. The council reserve held for this is £337. It was **resolved** to set an additional budget of £750 for this project. Councillors thanked SC for her report.

12. Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities and Openness and Transparency Guide on Personal Interests

The above documents had been circulated to Councillors and the information noted.

13. Moved forward on the agenda

14. Other Updates

14.1 Tree Warden (NM) – Rodmell Parish Council had no objection to the two tree works applications previously submitted.

- 14.2 Countryside, agriculture, allotments, sports field (LS) – a half plot had become vacant but has since been filled. Allotments are only available for parish residents. The bus shelters are superficially in reasonable repair, just sweeping and general tidying required. The sports field was mown last week. A section of hedge on the C7 is overgrown and walkers are forced into the road, LS will contact the owners.
- 14.3 The Street including Egret's Way work issues – no issues with the lorry movements have been reported.
- 14.4 Village Hall – LS will contact the village hall committee and ask for an update on the untidy areas outside.
- 14.5 Roads, Paths, Transport including Safer C7 (SC) – very pleased to announce the target for funding has been exceeded, and the group would now be selecting an inspired consultant to carry out the feasibility study. Kingston were inviting tenders for the feasibility study for Ashcombe Lane and the possibility of using the same consultant will be explored to provide a consistent approach to safer use of the C7. Congratulations were given to those involved with the Safer C7 project.
- 14.6 SDNPA (WM) – nothing to report. SC asked WM if he would investigate why there was not an SDNP 'Gateway' sign on the C7. POLO will request this information also.
- 14.7 POLO (SC) – The minutes of the last meeting had been circulated. Nothing new to report.
- 14.8 Signage (NM) – a new fingerpost is required in the area of the tennis court at the end of the path from Northease. LS and the clerk will liaise.
- 14.9 LDALC (WM) – WM has taken on the role of Chairman of LDALC. A meeting with Lewes District Council is to be arranged. SC asked that the date and agenda be circulated as other councillors may wish to attend.
- 14.10 ESALC (WM) – WM is now a director of ESALC – nothing to report at this stage.
- 14.11 Parking in Marten's Field – covered earlier in the meeting.

Attention was drawn to the anniversary of the D-Day landings on 6th June 2024, and events to commemorate this, an item for the January agenda.

The meeting closed at 10pm.

The next full council meeting will be held on **Tuesday 12th September 2023 at 8pm.** Items for the agenda should be submitted to the clerk by Friday 1st September 2023