



## **DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD**

on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023 at 8.00pm  
at Rodmell Village Hall

### 1. Present

Councillors John Gillies (JG: Chairman), Lesley Prosser (LP), Sue Carroll (SC), Claire Dishington (CD), David Smart (DS) and Nikki Terry (NT).

Alison Stevens (Parish Clerk), Lyn Kemp and three members of the public were also present.

### 2. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Sarah Osborne and District Councillor William Meyer.

### 3. Public Questions

Mr Harrison said there have been some exciting new developments on the Egrets Way. A copy of his report is attached to these minutes.

### 4. Updates from the County Councillor and District Councillor

There was no report from either the County Councillor or District Councillor on this occasion.

### 5. Disclosures of Interests

There were no declarations of interests or changes to the Register of Interests.

### 6. Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023, were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chairman.

### 7. Planning

7.1: Planning Applications – There were no planning applications for commenting on at this meeting.

7.2: Parish Priority Statements – Councillor Carroll suggested the new Parish Council might like to produce a Parish Priority Statement. They are not mandatory but the South Downs National Park Authority finds them helpful when they compile the Local Plan. It was agreed that this should be a matter for the incoming council.

## 8. Maintenance Reviews

- 8.1: Defibrillator Report – The defibrillator is registered with the Circuit who flagged up that it might have been used recently. Councillor Prosser checked the battery and found it was sound. The pads were unused and still in date.
- 8.2: Maintenance Works Play Park/Pavilion – It was noted that;
- There is some fencing which needs removing at the play park. Councillor Dishington will ask the landowner.
  - The fire extinguishers in the Pavilion will need replacing in August.
  - The Pavilion needs a new First Aid box. The Clerk will organise one.

Councillor Dishington suggested the Parish Council should keep a list of those who hold keys for the Pavilion.

## 9. Clerk's and Councillor's Reports

9.1: Legal Matters - The new owner of the former school has confirmed they will release a press statement on what its future use will be in due course. Councillor Dishington will ask if it is possible to have it in time for the Parish Assembly.

### 9.2: Other updates

- Website and Email Problems – Work has begun to upgrade the website. The new website should be much easier to work with.
- Tree Warden – The Parish Council has received one application for tree works since its last meeting, namely SDNP/23/01043/TCA for Bransby House. Councillor Smart carried out a site visit and Councillors agreed there was no need for the Parish Council to comment.
- Countryside, agriculture and allotments – The latest allotment agreements have been signed and returned to the Clerk. Councillor Smart has forwarded their cheques to the landowner, Mr Wettern. There is still one name on the waiting list. It was noted that there will be a Ploughing Match at South Farm this September.
- Repairs to the Street – There was nothing new to report.
- Sports Field, mowing and hedge trimming – The 2023 mowing season has started. Councillor Smart reminded everyone the new Parish Council will need to liaise with Mr Wettern to arrange future cuts.
- Communication with Northease residents – Councillor Carroll said the C7 Clean Up was a huge success. She also confirmed she is to stand again at the forthcoming elections.
- Safer C7 Report – Councillor Carroll said that Kingston is now pledging its financial support to the Project. Piddinghoe Parish Council and Iford Parish Meeting will be considering the request to make a financial contribution to the project at their next meetings. The Project's organisers are now onto their next phase of funding, which is crowdfunding, and are producing leaflets to help generate donations.
- Signs for Lenny's Path – Councillors resolved to buy three more permanent signs for the path and agreed the wording. Mr Harrison is to source the signs. Councillor Smart asked that estimates are attached to the contract for the path so the new council knows what its responsibilities are.
- Egrets Way – This was covered in the public session.

## 10. Brief Report from the Clerk and/or Councillors

- Update from the latest POLO Meeting – Councillor Carroll circulated the draft minutes from the POLO Meeting before the meeting. There were no further comments.
- Update on the latest meeting of the Lewes District Association of Local Councils (LDALC) – A meeting had been due to take place on 15<sup>th</sup> February but it was postponed.
- Village Hall Committee Meeting – The minutes of the latest Village Hall Committee Meeting had been previously circulated by Councillor Dishington.

## 11. Finance Report

Councillors resolved;

11.1: To approve the accounts to the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

11.2: To approve the following payments;

		£:
Barcombe Landscapes	Outside Maintenance	240.00
Castle Water	Pavilion	218.33
Lewes DC	Bin Emptying	78.00
A Stevens	Jan/Feb/March Salary	1194.59
HMRC	PAYE	287.80
N Terry	Photos – Lenny’s Path	18.00

Councillor Smart asked why there is a bill from Castle Water when the Pavilion has been ‘winterised’. The latest bill is understood to be an estimate which should rectify itself later on in the year.

11.3: Councillor Gillies updated everyone on the progress on the illustrated information sign. Caroline Archer, a local artist, has agreed to get costings to take it to the next stage. Mr Harrison will also find out who the South Downs National Park use for theirs.

12. State of the roads letter from Hadlow Down Parish Council - Councillors resolved that whilst they agreed with Hadlow Down Parish Council about the state of the roads, they felt its approach was not the right one. The Clerk will let them know.
13. Councillor Recruitment – The drive to recruit more councillors is proving to be successful. The date of the elections is the 4<sup>th</sup> May.
14. This Year’s Parish Assembly – Two speakers have been booked for this year’s Assembly. They are Jim Redwood from the Monday Group and Geraldine Hoban from Foundry Healthcare. This year’s Parish Assembly is to be held on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April.
15. Newsletter Content and Distribution – Councillor Gillies asked for and received suggestions for the Annual Newsletter. He also asked for volunteers to help distribute it. Councillors Carroll, Dishington, Terry and Prosser all agreed to help.
16. The next Full Council Meeting is the AGM and it is planned for Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023, items for the agenda need to be with the Clerk by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

IN VIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM ON THIS AGENDA, THE PRESS AND PUBLIC WERE EXCLUDED FROM THE NEXT ITEM UNDER THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS) ACT.

17. Recruitment of a new Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

It was resolved to appoint Lyn Kemp as the new Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer on Salary Point 24.

Councillors expressed their gratitude to Alison Stevens for her valued assistance to the Parish Council and the village during her time of office, and presented her with a bouquet and a voucher. They welcomed Lynette Kemp, the new Clerk, and looked forward to starting to work with her at the Village Assembly.

There was no further business and the meeting finished at 9.15pm.

## **EW UPDATE FOR RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL 21 March 2023**

There have been some exciting new developments to report after a rather fallow period.

- **Phase 5** Construction of the Newhaven to Piddinghoe has been completed and is open. It has been welcomed by many Piddinghoe residents giving them safe walking and cycling access to Newhaven. A celebration event is being planned for later in the year.
- **Phase 6** Ham Lane to Rodmell. You will recall that the Contractors had call a temporary halt to construction as the ground had collapsed at a pinch point preventing their vehicles from further access. Then last October the Environment Agency (EA) announced they needed to carry out urgent repairs to the riverbank north of Rodmell close to the unstable section. The EA's sudden and unexpected decision threatened to stop further construction of Phase 6 for a long time and perhaps halting the project altogether. Following lengthy discussions between the SDNPA and the EA it now seems that 'urgent' could mean up to 6 years. The SDNPA at senior executive level has determined that construction of Phase 6 of the EW should continue. Once the pinch point has been stabilised construction of the path will resume in the summer and should be completed this year. Those Rodmell residents who were anticipating cycling to Lewes to do their Christmas shopping last year can hope to do so this year.
- **Phase 7** is the section from Chapel Barn to the entrance to Piddinghoe village. It also has its challenges because the width of the carriageway will require some realignment of the highway. We are also progress here with positive discussions involving East Sussex Highways and Piddinghoe Parish council.

Very recently the landowner of Riverbanks has agreed for the EW to be constructed along side the road on land within his ownership which will bring the path another 200m closer to the 'pinch point'. We now working to see how this section can be joined to the already agreed path through Riverside Farm.

- Much of the detailed work here and on Phase 6, is carried out by Alister Linton -Crook, the SDNPA Cycling Officer, who acts as our contract manager and I want to acknowledge his invaluable patient, skillful and dedicated work.

Neville Harrison  
Chair Egrets Way Project