Clerk to the Council: Emma Fulham

Goods Yard House

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Present: Cllrs Colenutt, Norman, Nathan, Gunn, Eastwood, Burnett-Dick, and Shaw.

Absent: Cllrs Horner, Sanders, Smith, Beare, Reed and Higgins.

In Attendance: Gail Finney (Locum Clerk to the Council)

Minutes to the Parish Council Meeting held in Goods Yard House at 7:30pm on 7th March 2022.  
Public: There were apologies from the County and District Cllrs who submitted the following reports

via email.

Cllr Millward (District) reported the following:

1. Cllr Millward had contacted the officer regarding the proposed development by Nick the Butcher. The officer had not read the proposal but was aware Cllr Millward wished to discuss the development as soon as possible and advised he would contact her during the week.
2. Cllr Millward advised she lost the election for Commoner Conservator for the Forest by 2 votes. She would continue to work with James Adler and his team.
3. Cllr Millward connected with Wealden Tourism Team. She was made aware of various partners regarding Pooh Centenary and was already considering ways to make the impact a positive one for land and communities. She would provide ongoing updates.
4. Cllr Millward advised she had a seat on the Planning Committee North. The first meeting was held last week. Cllr Millward reported that, at the full Council Meeting held 10 days ago, Cllr Paterson Vanegas proposed Wealden Council lead a group of councils nationally to request government lose the housing targets etc. This was amended to business as usual. The Council would continue to lobby ministers but not join forces with other councils.

Cllr Taylor (County) reported the following:

1. The County Council had approved the budget for 2022/2023. This would be published shortly. There was an underspend of around £5m as more funds came from central government than expected. Because of this, opposition groups suggested allocating these funds sooner rather than later. Ideas for allocation of these funds and some investment funds to be brought forward included: road safety measures such as more crossings, vehicle activated speed signs and pavements and dopped curbs; a pilot housing retrofit scheme to stimulate the retrofit market and link in with skills development activities; funding for local biodiversity and habitat initiatives; funds to pump prime community energy sector and by doing this leveraging significant community funds for green energy; bring forward the cycling and walking infrastructure plans.
2. The ESCC Community Match Fund had been under-used and there was quite a large underspend which had been carried forward for a couple of years. It would be re-allocated to smallish road safety investment this year. There would still be a Community Match Fund, so parishes could still apply for match funding for road safety schemes.
3. The storm brought down 150 trees on the roads, and the Highways teams were clearing continuously.  She had a councillors training for Emergency Planning during Storm Eunice, which was timely and very useful. Though there are good systems in place at County Level, she would like to know how the Parish Councils felt they were connected with these structures.

**The Parish Council agreed that an informal meeting to review the Emergency Plan would be held. Cllr Eastwood would lead the Emergency Plan review, with the first meeting held on Monday, 14th March, at 6.30pm at Good Yards House. Cllr Shaw would be involved with the planning.**

**The Parish Council formal meeting commenced at 7.40pm.**

1. To accept apologies for absence.

**Cllrs Horner, Sanders, Smith, Beare, Reed** **and Higgins.**

1. Declarations of pecuniary and disclosable interests in respect of matters to be discussed.

**The Chair reminded Cllrs to declare when necessary.**

1. To Approve Minutes from Parish Council meeting held on 7th February 2022.

**Unanimously accepted and signed as a true record.**

1. Matters Arising.

The Parish Council thanked the Clerk for organising the installation of the noticeboards at Upper Hartfield and Holtye.

1. Correspondence.

The correspondence list was reviewed by the Council.

The following were highlighted:

* Holmesley House – logs response. Cllr Taylor had reported to ESCC Highways. ESCC Highways passed the issue to the Enforcement Team requesting logs be removed as it was on adopted highways land. She would confirm once the logs are removed.
* Storm damage – the Clerk had reported damage of tiles, flag pole, lamp post and roof to the insurers. She was awaiting confirmation of costs for the flag pole and lamp post. **The Clerk would confirm when received.** Cllr Burnett-Dick advised new flag pole circumference be the same size as the damaged pole, to avoid additional groundworks.
* Queens Green Canopy – the Clerk confirmed trees had been ordered. There would be one for the Chair to plant on 11th March and one for Earl De La Warr to plant. **The Clerk would contact Cllr Horner when they are available for collection.**

1. Finance
2. To accept the account summary.

**Unanimously accepted.**

1. To approve expenditure as itemised on the schedule.

**The list had been circulated amounting to £8,937.29.**

**Unanimously accepted.**

1. To consider planting and licensing project for Upper Hartfield verge.

The Clerk reported the costs so far included 10 planters, soil and excavation licenses. This was approximately £1300-£1500. The Clerk reported she was waiting on the contractor for concrete costs. **The Clerk** **would forward for final sign off once received.** The Clerk expected the overall cost to be £2000.

Cllr Norman suggested that installation of the planters should be delayed until Central Garage had completed their work, in order to prevent the Parish Council incurring future costs should the planters be damaged.

1. To consider annual meeting arrangements for 25th April 2022.

The Clerk reported she had sent out grant invites and invites to present to the meeting to local groups and she had invited the PCSO.

Cllr Eastwood suggested inviting a representative from the local GP practice and James Adler, new Chief Executive of Ashdown Forest. **The Clerk would send invites.**

Cllr Eastwood proposed discussing future celebrations for 100th Anniversary of Pooh to inform residents in advance of the events and to address any concerns raised.

Cllr Nathan reiterated that signage should be the same size as the previous year.

1. To consider future Fun Run.

Cllr Smith reported that a meeting would be organised for next week due to cancellation of a prior meeting. It was proposed the Fun Run would be held at the end of Summer or early Autumn and would ensure it does not clash with other local events. **Cllr Smith would provide a definite date by the next meeting.**

1. To consider a village clean initiative – date to be confirmed.

Cllr Colenutt advised the village clean initiative would be held on Sunday, 3rd April, at 9am. All participants would meet at the pavilion on the Croft. **Cllr Colenutt would obtain plastic sacks from WDC and arrange for collection of the sacks from the pavilion. The Clerk would add to Hartfield Parish Council Facebook page.**

1. To receive any updates on future community events – Fete, 100th Anniversary of Pooh and Jubilee.

* Fete – Cllr Burnett-Dick confirmed another meeting would be held on 18th March. Invites

had been sent to various organisations.

* 100th Anniversary of Pooh – the Parish Council proposed having their own Parish Council representative on the Disney Planning Committee to be kept informed of decisions. The Parish Council to request clarification from Conservators of the Forest regarding management of parking on the forest.
* Jubilee – Cllr Burnett-Dick advised all preparations where in hand. He was awaiting response from the Cricket Club with regards to requirements for the barbecue. The celebration would

start at 6.30pm on Thursday, 2nd June. The beacon would be lit at 9.45pm. There would be small marquees on the Croft with gazebos being placed around the field .

1. To ratify planning decisions and review planning applications.

**The planning minutes from 7th March 2022 were duly ratified.**

**No further applications to consider.**

1. Items for Reporting or Inclusion in Future Agendas.

* Emergency Plan.
* Neighbourhood Plan.
* Verge parking on the forest.
* Cllr Colenutt reported there had been a complaint from a resident regarding water leaking from 2 man-hole covers on Newton’s Hill which posed a danger. **The Clerk would report to ESCC Highways.**
* Cllr Burnett-Dick asked if the sign at Jib Jacks Hill advertising the school was permanent. If the land was owned by the Parish Council, could the sign be removed. **The Clerk would clarify ownership of the land on the corner of Jib Jack’s Hill.**

**Dates of Next Meetings:** 11th April 2022.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm.