

Clerk to the Council: Emma Fulham

Goods Yard House

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**Minutes to the Parish Council Meeting held in Goods Yard House at 7:30pm on 6th February 2023.**

Present: Cllrs Eastwood, Sanders, Nathan, Norman, Shaw, Smith, Colenutt and Bourne, Burnett-Dick, Reed, Gunn and Horner (Chair).

Absent: Cllr Beare.

In Attendance: Emma Fulham (Clerk).

Public: One member of the public.

**Public Meeting:**

One member of the public was in attendance. There were no questions.

**Cllr Taylor was absent.**

**Cllr Millward was absent.**

It was noted another community forum led by Cllr Millward was due in early March, date to be confirmed.

***Main Parish Council meeting commenced at 7:32pm***

1. To accept apologies for absence.

Cllr C Beare.

1. Declarations of pecuniary and disclosable interests in respect of matters to be discussed.
The Chair reminded Cllrs to declare interests when necessary.
2. To Approve Minutes from Parish Council meeting held on 6th December 2022

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

1. Matters Arising.

The Central Garage parking area/ verge purchase was still progressing but slowly. The Clerk had chased the matter up and would follow up again. ESCC has confirmed the verge replanting was not their responsibility, but the Clerk would continue to press this issue once the car park was resolved.
The planning application for industrial use for Perryhill Nurseries was still ongoing and not determined by WDC.
The pavement issues were reported to ESCC in the High Street. ESCC deemed these not serious enough for action. There was a further issue with a drain cover in the High Street that the Clerk had reported to ESCC. Problems with the bollards and planters at the pinch point were noted, probably due pothole avoidance from vehicles in the High Street**.
The Parish Council would remove the planters and the Clerk would contact ESCC re the bollards.**
Coronation plans were outlined. It would be a low key community led event on 8th May (Sunday) and a final proposal will be outlined for Parish Council permission on 6th March.

**The Clerk would outline the opportunity to showcase their groups when writing to the volunteer groups with their grant applications.**

1. Correspondence.
2. To receive list.

The list was duly received and noted.

The SLR cancelled meeting and the Clerks correspondence and resulting works in Upper Hartfield and Marsh Green were mainly resolved with a few exceptions. The pothole situation in the High Street was noted but some were not deep enough for ESCC to action however the whole situation was deeded totally unacceptable.
The Clerk was asked to chase ESCC again on the ongoing water leak and drain issue on Cat Street.
The Clerk reported on the WDC enforcement planning issues.

The Clerk reported on the ESCC reduced grass cutting wildlife corridor proposal. The Council were concerned over the current level of service so any reduction in service levels would not be welcomed.

1. Confirm any actions.
None.
2. Finance
3. To accept the account summary 2022/23

**Unanimously accepted.**

1. To approve expenditure as itemised on the schedule.

**The report for £6102.21 had been circulated and was unanimously approved.**

1. To ratify minutes of committees
2. Planning

**December and January minutes were unanimously ratified.**

1. To receive update and ratify tree report, actions and expenditure.

The Clerk summarised the tree report. The council’s view was that safety was the key concern given the location of the tree, albeit upsetting to remove an old large tree.

**The Council duly ratified the decision to remove the beech tree opposite playschool. The Council are dependent on Wealden District Council’s decision to allow removal and they may need to accept a further proposal from WDC. All costs and options were outlined and unanimously approved and now awaited WDC response which the Clerk would chase up.**

**The Clerk would also confirm proposed actions to Playschool and residents in due course.**

1. To consider green initiatives update.

The Clerk reported she would be meeting this week the car charger point supplier to finalise final information to progress the installation at Goods Yard House as previously agreed.

The Clerk had applied for a Gatwick Trust grant to aid the green initiatives going forward. She would report on progress in due course.

1. To consider cost of living initiatives update.

The Clerk reported that people were using the warm hub provided by the village hall and that this should continue to be publicised. It was also noted more volunteers were required.
**The Clerk would continue to highlight the facility and need for volunteers.**

1. To consider emergency plan and recent events.

Cllr Colenutt outlined progress on the emergency plan both logistics and the plan itself.

The recent snow and water supply issues had caused chaos and it was agreed the village hall was an excellent hub.

Cllr Colenutt requested funds for a grit bin for the hall and a contribution to the emergency box of supplies and blankets. Another idea was a small banner / sign to highlight the hub.

**Cllr Eastwood would provide a report for the next newsletter.**

**The Council agreed unanimously to provide up to £500 from the grant budget for the provisions outlined with the exception of a grit bin as it was felt bags of rock salt would suffice. Cllr Colenutt would liaise with the Village Hall re supplies and storage. The Clerk would confirm payment process to the hall administrator.**

1. To consider update and actions required for Neighbourhood Plan progress.

The plan was currently delayed by the WDC local plan progress .The Clerk outlined the possibility of a change from neighbourhood planning to a design code process in the medium term and the change to the planning regulations in the near future. The Clerk would update when further information was available.

1. Items for Reporting or Inclusion in Future Agendas.

For reporting:

* **Newsletter** – This was agreed to get out on 27th April and last submissions in by 13th March for printing

Emergency Plan

Fete

Honey Run

Coleman’s Hatch

WDC and ESCC updates

* **Annual Meeting**

The new PCSO and James Adler from the Conservators had already agreed attendance.

* Cllr Smith thanked all the volunteers for the Honey Run. A query on the signage for other members of the public would possibly be a good idea. 19th November 2023 was the date for this year.

For inclusion in Future Agendas:

* Coronation.
* Volunteer recruitment.

**Dates of Next Meetings:** 6th March 2023

Meeting closed at 9:05pm.