

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 March 2023.**

Present: Cllrs Eastwood, , Norman, Shaw, Smith, Beare, Colenutt, Burnett-Dick, Gunn and Horner (Chair).

Absent: Cllrs Sanders, Nathan and Reed.

In Attendance: Emma Fulham (Clerk).

Public: Two members of the public.

**Public Meeting.**

**Cllr G Taylor Report.**

She reported on her recently submitted reports including updates on grit bins and ESCC information gained in response to a speeding concern in Castlefields. No further action was going to be taken by ESCC.   
Cllr Taylor would follow up on the progress of the land sale at ESCC for the garage car park as it was delayed and the parking issues continued near the proposed car park.  
A question was raised over tidying up and road clearance as the verges were full of litter. The Clerk noted that she had already reported this to WDC as this was a District issue.

Cllr Colenutt reported on the scheduled village clean 10-1 on 26th March 2023.   
**The Clerk would contact the School and youth Groups and add to Facebook etc to encourage participation.**

**Cllr Millward Report**

She reported on possible future changes in the planning system and change to ecology rules which may negatively impact planning and protection for the Ashdown Forest.   
She also reported on the concerns over e-coli found in the River Medway and was looking at expanding the testing programme. Volunteers were needed. The Council pointed her in the direction of the Parish Council grants programme if financial assistance was going to be sought.   
  
**Public Questions and Comments.**

There were concerns raised about the quality of the river by a member of the public who stated part of the increased nitrate levels were down to farming but was also concerned over the issues with private sewage. Cllr Millward would provide further information in due course on locations of concern.

**Parish Council Meeting commenced at 8:05pm**

1. To accept apologies for absence.

Cllrs Sanders, Reed and Nathan.

1. Declarations of pecuniary and disclosable interests in respect of matters to be discussed.  
   The Chair reminded Cllrs to declare when necessary.
2. To Approve Minutes from Parish Council meeting held on 6th February 2023.

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

1. Matters Arising.  
   The Clerk provided an update on the warm hub and ESCC highways issues.
2. Correspondence.

To receive list and confirm any actions:

The list had been circulated.

* The resignation of Claire Bourne was noted and had been actioned by the Clerk.
* Advertising and applications for the Honey Run were noted.
* The possibility of a youth capital grant was outlined and it was agreed Cllr Gunn and the Clerk would continue to pursue it and explore the various options to then revert back to the Council.
* The improved signage for Pooh Car Park planned by ESCC was noted. ESCC confirmed it would be installed in the near future. There were still concerns over tourist pedestrians visiting Pooh Bridge and there was a brief discussion on how footpath maps could be made more accessible.
* It was noted that there was no Parish Council representation on the committee organising the 100th anniversary celebrations of Pooh. With the increased numbers of tourists next year, there were concerns that the Parish Council should be involved. The Clerk would write to request Parish Council involvement.
* The coffee van request was noted.
* The request to support a Newbridge sign to denote the hamlet was supported and the Clerk would reply to the resident accordingly.

1. Finance
2. To accept the account summary 2022/23

The summary was noted and unanimously accepted.

1. To approve expenditure as itemised on the schedule.

**The list had been circulated and was unanimously approved with a total of £6609.44.**

1. To ratify minutes of committees
2. Planning

**Unanimously ratified.**

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

WDC were minded to approve the tree removal and had noted this to the tree surgeon. A formal application had been submitted and costs approved. The Clerk would report when the works were approved and a date was set.

1. To consider volunteer recruitment initiative.

The Clerk had requested more input from groups at the annual meeting.

The Clerk would advertise for this and elections in the newsletter and on Facebook.

1. To consider possible grant application for the Town Croft.

This had been discussed under correspondence.

1. Items for Reporting or Inclusion in Future Agendas.

**For Reporting:**

* A coronation update was given by Cllr Burnett-Dick outlining possible financial support to the pub.

**The Council agreed that the Council would not support a commercial event.**

* The Fete is confirmed for 2nd September and the Committee has reformed and the AGM was well attended.

**For inclusion in the Future Agendas:**

* Winnie the Pooh centenary celebrations.
* Grant application – Pavilion future.

**Dates of Next Meetings:** 3rd April 2023

The meeting closed at 9:25pm