

Clerk to the Council: Emma Fulham

Goods Yard House

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**Minutes to the Annual Parish Council Meeting held in Goods Yard House at 7:30pm on 15th May 2023.**

Present: Cllrs Eastwood, , Norman, Reed, Sanders, Nathan, Shaw, Smith, , Colenutt, and Horner (Chair).

Absent: Cllr Burnett-Dick

In Attendance: Emma Fulham (Clerk).

Public: One member of the public.

1. To appoint Chairman 2023/24.

**Cllr Colenutt proposed Cllr Horner, seconded by Cllr Nathan and he was unanimously appointed as Chairman for 2023/24.**

1. Receive Declaration of Acceptance of Office from Chairman

**Duly signed and witnessed by the Clerk to the Council.**

1. Election of Vice Chairman for year 2023/24

**Cllr Colenutt proposed Cllr Eastwood, seconded by Cllr Norman and he was unanimously appointed as Vice Chairman for 2023/24.**

***The Chair suspended the Parish Council meeting to commence the Public Meeting.***

**Cllr G Taylor Report –** She had sent her apologies. Whilst there was no report was available, the Clerk reported on the updates received from Cllr Taylor on the Central Garage verge purchase progress and the ESCC A264 road resurfacing schedule.

**Cllr Millward Report –** She reported on the election changes at Wealden District Council and her new role as leader of the Green Group. More information on this would be forthcoming.

**Public Questions and Comments.**

There were concerns raised about visual impact and the noise pollution from the new stage at the Anchor. There were concerns over licensing, planning and noise pollution.

Cllr Sanders declared an interest as a neighbour.
**The Clerk confirmed she had contacted Wealden District Council enforcement already and advised that WDC would advise on planning rules in due course. Noise complaints should also be made to WDC. The Parish Council considered the pub a local asset and it should be encouraged but not at the detriment of the neighbouring residents. The Clerk was asked to write to the Anchor to express the concerns raised by the members of the public.**

 ***Parish Council Meeting then re-commenced at 8:10pm***

1. To accept apologies for absence.

Cllr Burnett-Dick – Fete meeting.

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 3rd April 2023.

 **Unanimously approved and signed as a true record. One duplication was noted on attendance and amended.**

1. Matters Arising.

The Clerk had followed up with WDC re caravans at the Golf Club and needed to provide further location information to WDC.
The Clerk had forwarded the Holtye common land / planning enquiry to Wealden to decide on as it was outside the planning committee and Parish Council’s remit.

1. To consider co-option to the Council.

**No applications had been received this item would be deferred to the next meeting.**

1. Appointment of Committees and Representatives to other Authorised Bodies
**All of the following appointments as below were confirmed and agreed unanimously.**

Planning – Cllrs Eastwood, Norman, Reed, Shaw and Sanders.
Finance – Cllrs Eastwood, Horner, Shaw and Smith.

**The Clerk was asked to contact Cllr Burnett–Dick to consider re-joining this committee.**
TCPA – Cllrs Norman, Nathan, Horner, Sanders, Smith, Colenutt and Shaw.
ESALC – Cllr Eastwood.
WDALC – Cllr Horner.
Wealdlink / Highways – Cllr Colenutt
Fete – Cllr Reed
Ashdown Forest – Cllr Sanders

1. To approve the following Council documents:
2. Council Standing Orders.
3. Council Financial Regulations.
4. Code of Conduct.
5. Council published policies.
6. Power of General Competence

Part 1 of the Localism Act 2011 applies a general power of competence to local authorities in England.

Section 1 (1) of the Act provides that “a local authority has power to do anything that individuals

generally may do”. The power extends to ‘eligible’ parish councils. Under the *Parish Councils (General*

*Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012* (SI 2012/965), an ‘eligible’ parish council is one in which at least two-thirds of the members have been elected (i.e. not co-opted), and in which the clerk has completed one of a specified range of training courses.

Recommendations:-

(a) To confirm that Hartfield Parish Council has a Clerk with a Certificate in Local Council Administration including the General Power of Competence and that two thirds of the Council has been elected.

(b). To adopt the Power of General Competence.

**All of the above actions were unanimously approved.**

1. Correspondence.

All correspondence had been circulated.

The hall shed issue raised by the Fete Committee was not owned by the Parish Council so the Fete request should be directed at the Village Hall to repair / replace as they wish.

The Cricket Club had requested some drainage and fencing improvements.

TCPA meeting to review storage on site at the Croft Barn would happen on site in June prior to the next meeting date and time to be confirmed.

1. Finance
2. To receive and approve the internal audit report

**Unanimously approved.**

1. To approve the AGAR – Governance Statements.
**These statements were read by the Chair and unanimously approved.**
2. To approve the AGAR – Accounting Statements 2022/23

**Unanimously approved.**

1. To approve the bank reconciliation for 2022/23.

**Unanimously approved by the Council and signed by the Chair as a true record.**

1. To approve regular payment schedule and direct debits for 2023/24
Southern Electric

Biffa

BT

Castle Water

Business Stream

PWLB

**All unanimously approved.**

1. To approve signatories and banking arrangements for 2023/24

**Unanimously approved current signatories of Cllrs Eastwood, Horner, Reed and Smith. Cllr Gunn to be removed from the mandate Cllr Sanders to be added.
Further training to be provided for Cllrs Smith, Horner, Sanders and Reed.**

1. To accept the account summary 2023/24

**Unanimously approved.**

1. To approve expenditure as itemised on the schedule.

**Unanimously approved the list totalling £23480.34**

1. To ratify Committee Minutes
2. Planning **Unanimously ratified.**
3. Town Croft **Unanimously ratified.**
4. Finance **Unanimously ratified.**
5. Items for Reporting or Inclusion in Future Agendas.

Co-option.
Memorial bench – Hatton.

Anchor Pub update.

**Dates of Next Meetings:**

12th June 2023.

The meeting closed at 9:10pm