

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 3rd July 2023.**

Present: Cllrs Sanders, Colenutt, Eastwood (Chair) , Norman. Nathan, Smith, Cllr Burnett-Dick.

Absent: Cllrs Shaw, Horner and Reed.

In Attendance: Emma Fulham (Clerk).

Public: No members of the public.

**Public Questions and Comments.**There were no members of the public present.

**Reports from District and County Councillors.**

**Cllr Rachael Millward (Wealden District Councillor) had sent her apologies and aa report which is minuted as supplied:**

Sorry I can’t make this meeting. I’ll be at the Local Government Association conference with the Chief Executive of Wealden District Council. Apparently a very useful conference and I look forward to reporting back where relevant.
**South East Water / Water Supply Crisis**Fortunately Hartfield wasn’t impacted by the water supply crisis in June, but it was an extremely difficult experience for many nearby. For the first time in decades, an Extraordinary Full Council Meeting was held at Wealden DC. The debate revealed very strong cross party dissatisfaction at the performance of South East Water, highlighting the failure of this private company to serve residents needs whilst £millions of profits for its 3 international shareholder investors. You can watch the full meeting here (and flick through the index to see what different members said!) <https://council.wealden.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=299&MId=5496&Ver=4>

Press release: <https://www.wealden.gov.uk/news/motion-passed-unanimously-over-water-supply-issues/>

The motion:

*To consider the following motion as set out in the requisition notice for the extraordinary meeting, proposed by Councillor D White and signed by Councillors Benton, Cleaver, Collins, Gadd, Lunn, Millward, Reed and Shaw.*

*1. “The Council is extremely concerned at the recent failures on the part of South East Water to maintain an adequate supply of water to parts of the District. The Council asks the Leader and the Chief Executive to write to South East Water asking for:*

*a. a full explanation of the causes of the recent failures;*

*b. full details of the actions taken to address them and to mitigate the effects to local residents including details of when the company first became aware of the problems and the timing of its response; and*

*c. confirmation of the steps being taken to ensure that there is no recurrence of the failures.*

*2. Given the impact of climate change and the increasing demand for new housing in an area of acknowledged water stress, the Council also asks the Leader and Chief Executive to notify OFWAT and the Government of this Council’s considerable concerns at the failures on the part of South East Water to maintain an adequate supply of water to our existing residents and the effect of this upon their health and well being and to ask the Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government to support a reduction in housing numbers for the District until there is a long term solution to the water shortage.”***Potholes**At the first Full Council a motion was passed to invite relevant members and officers from ESCC to Wealden’s Overview & Scrutiny to discuss the pothole situation. They declined the invite, but have invited members to a workshop - I hope to be able to attend and report back further.
**Perryhill Nursery**There is a new officer dealing with both change of use and residential development application and she has been off due to ill health so these are significantly delayed. Residents are still upset that there has been no movement on the change of use planning application, and the industrial use is still causing disturbance. We know the law is not on their side here - but all pollution (noise or otherwise) should be reported to environmental health.

Re application for residential development - I was informed today that it is unlikely to receive WDC support on heritage grounds and landscape impact.
**Constituency Boundaries**The constituency boundaries have changed ahead of the next General Election. Hartfield will sit within Sussex Weald. Danehill & Fletching, Buxted, Forest Row will sit within East Grinstead and Uckfield.  **Next Hartfield Community Forum**I’ll be holding another Community Forum in September. Date tbc.

**Cllr Georgia Taylor (ESCC County Cllr)**

Cllr Taylor reported on the improvements using the new contractor and the poor quality repairs should have stopped and proper quality assurance has been agreed.
She also confirmed ESCC are reviewing the criteria for road safety measures.
More money has been diverted to the highways budget but repairs remain a major issue.

She also reported on the flexi-bus scheme and any potential clashes with Wealdlink initiatives.

**Public Questions and Comments.**

None.

 ***Parish Council Meeting commenced at 7:40pm***

1. To accept apologies for absence.

Cllr Reed, Shaw and Horner.

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 12th June 2023.
**Unanimously approved and signed as a true record.**

1. Matters Arising.
The electric charging points were being reviewed still with Cllr Horner. The Clerk had had no response from Forest Row PC.
Planning permission for the beech tree removal had been approved by WDC works had been publicised via Facebook and the Chronicle. Playschool has also been informed.
The laurel hedging had been queried as not being an eco-diverse response to the hedging need on the verge near Central Garage. The Clerk confirmed the licence application had been submitted to ESCC but the plants could be swopped for native hedging and the Council could consider final options once the application had been agreed.
2. To consider co-option to the Council.
No applicants had come forward. Further work was needed on Cllr recruitment especially from Holtye and Coleman’s Hatch.
3. Correspondence.
All correspondence had been circulated.

The request for a representative from the Parish Council to join the Village Hall Committee was noted.

1. Finance
2. To accept the account summary 2023/24

**Unanimously approved.**

1. To approve expenditure as itemised on the schedule.
**Unanimously approved the list totalling £4433.11**
2. To consider the grant schedule.
The schedule had been circulated. Some amendments were made. The grant request from the School was noted but as an educational item it was not within the remit of the Parish Council.

**The following grants was agreed unanimously:**

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| --- | --- |
| Hartfield PCC  | 500 |
| Cricket Club  | 500 |
| Colemans Hatch W1  | 100 |
| Guides and Brownies  | 150 |
| 1st Hartfield Scout Group and Cubs and Beavers  | 500 |
| Hartfield Medway WI | 100 |
| Hartfield Village Hall  | 500 |
| Community Transport  | 600 |
| British Legion  | 70 |
| Hatch  | 150 |
| Little Stars toddler group  | 200 |
| Conservators  | 500 |
| Stoolball | 200 |
| Open Spaces  | 50 |
| Wealden CAB | 200 |
| Almshouses - Newbridge  | 450 |
| **Total** | **4770** |
|  |  |

1. To ratify Committee Minutes
2. Planning - **Unanimously ratified.**
3. TCPA - **Unanimously ratified. The item of the concrete plinth was noted as requiring a quote for a future meeting.**

*Cllr Nathan left the meeting 8:25pm*

1. To receive Fete Update.
Cllr Burnett-Dick reported the fete committee had approval to use the village green from the Buckhurst Estate for parking.

Lack of volunteers remains an issue.
The Clerk provided information on the TENS license for Cllr Burnett-Dick and Cllr Smith.

1. Items for Reporting or Inclusion in Future Agendas.

Croft Barn concrete improvements to entrance.

Grass cutting.

Bins – Biffa strike was noted.

**Dates of Next Meetings: 4th September** 2022.

The meeting closed at 8:40pm