

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 5th February 2024.**

Present: Cllrs Horner, Reed Nathan, Sanders, Norman, Eastwood, Smith, Colenutt and Burnett-Dick.

Absent: Cllr Firman.

In Attendance: Emma Fulham (Clerk).

Public: There were three members of the public present for the meeting. There were no questions.

**Reports from District and County Councillors.**

**Cllr Georgia Taylor (East Sussex County Councillor)**
Cllr Taylor reported on the budget challenges for ESCC. She noted that the council will need to use reserves to balance the budget. The increase in the precept would be 4.99% including the social care element. The budget for highways has been reduced which is likely to impact repairs in 2024/25.

A report on potholes was commissioned to understand lessons learned and to improve dealing with potholes.
She reminded the Council and residents to respond the consultation on the local transport plan [Local Transport Plan 4 (2024-2050) - East Sussex - Citizen Space](https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/economy-transport-environment/local-transport-plan-4-2024-2050/)

**Cllr Rachael Millward (Wealden District Councillor)**

Cllr Millward reported on her recent community forum and the focus on the Local Plan. This would be open for public consultation, if approved at the Council meeting on 8th February. There are some environmental and community enhancements being suggested with smaller sized new builds and environmental targets, though she noted that these will require planning inspector approval. The housing numbers of 950 a year over the 15 year plan term and sites were now publicly available. The Ashdown Forest 400 metre buffer zone would be increased to the curtilage not the dwelling in the proposed plan. The housing sites planned for Hartfield were small and there were no new surprises.

Cllr Nathan thanked Cllr Millward for her help with a parishioner recently.

 ***Parish Council Meeting commenced at 7:50pm***

1. To accept apologies for absence.
Cllr Firman.
2. 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 6th November 2023.
 **Unanimously approved and signed as a true record.**

98. . Matters Arising.

PCSO presence – nothing further had been completed.
Playground fencing were being completed this week

1. Correspondence.

The list had been circulated the following items were highlighted:

* Rev Julie reported drug use and vandalism near the Church. The Clerk had suggested CCTV, calling 101 and PCSO to prevent further issues. It was noted that the Church would be putting in a request for youth group funding. Anti-social behaviour and drug use were noted as an increasing problem. The Council would keep a watching brief on it and could consider future options, including CCTV.
* There had been a request to add an extra section to the Croft gate and a sign.

**The Council decided to not add an extra section but to add signage asking people to close the gate.**

* The ESCC grass cutting option – **The Council asked the Clerk to respond to not reduce grass cutting in rural areas in the Parish.**
* The A264 improvements were noted. **The Clerk was asked to ask for clarification on the area covered.**
* The streetlighting repairs were noted and the Clerk had been told the issues were now resolved but would check to make sure.
* The correspondence on the Kidds Hill cycle event was noted. The excessive time for the event was noted. **The Clerk was asked to write to oppose the plans.**

*Cllr Nathan left the meeting 8:30pm.*

1. Finance
2. To accept the account summary 2023/24
**This was duly approved.**

**The Honey Run profit at over £3000 was noted. It was unanimously agreed to arrange payments to the Conservators £1000 and 1st Hartfield Scout Group £1500 with the remainder to be transferred to ear marked reserves.**

1. To approve expenditure as itemised on the schedule.
**The list had been circulated prior to the meeting and expenditure of £7688.29 was unanimously approved.**
2. To accept pension discretion policy.

**Unanimously approved.**

*Cllr Reed left the meeting 8:40pm*

1. To ratify Committee Minutes
2. Planning – duly ratified.
3. To consider D Day anniversary plans.

Cllr Burnett-Dick reported on the current plans and these would finalised for the next meeting.

1. To receive update on Holtye graveyard.

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

1. Items for Reporting or Inclusion in Future Agendas.

For reporting:

* The grant of £1200 from the Fete Committee was noted.
* Cllr Sanders reported on the Forest Liaison meeting and the new appointments including the CEO appointment of Mark Pearson. The Landscape recovery scheme was outlined and though the Conservators had been unsuccessful in their last grant application. They hoped to be successful in the future. Pine Martins would be returning to the Forest fringes in future years and finally the annual parking passes had been far more successful than expected.
* Newsletter – It was agreed that the next one would be a summer newsletter. The Clerk would arrange dates with the printers. Last submissions for 3rd June with final edition by 17th June and 24th June for posting.
* Annual meeting – The Clerk was asked to invite Mark Peason from the Forest, the PCSO and Rachel Millward / WDC to discuss the Local Plan.

For future agendas:

* Central Garage parking. The Clerk would investigate progress on the parking area.
* Pooh celebrations.

**Dates of Next Meetings: 4th March 2024**

The meeting closed at 9:05 pm