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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Goods Yard House on 3rd February 2020 at 7:30pm.

Present: Cllr G Horner, Cllr R Nathan, Cllr A Higgins, Cllr R Eastwood (Chair), Cllr M Colenutt, Cllr Maude, Cllr P Norman, Cllr C Beare, Cllr Smith, Cllr A Emery, Cllr C Burnett-Dick and Cllr J Sanders.

Absent: None.

89. To accept apologies and reason for absence.

None.

90. To receive Declarations of pecuniary and declarable Interests from members in respect of any matter on the agenda.

The Chair reminded Cllrs to declare when necessary.

91. To Approve Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on 2nd December 2019.
Unanimously approved as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Nathan seconded by Cllr Horner.

92. Matters Arising.

Cllr Horner confirmed he had replied to Lady De La Warr, but no further correspondence had been received to date.

Cllr Maude reported on savings made on the playground proposal. The final cost would be circa £19k. The Clerk reported the work was due to commence in April. The MUGA grant information had not been forthcoming from the contractors that would have enabled a specialised MUGA grant application. However, an application for a grant had been made to the Gatwick Trust to facilitate the next step of funding for the youth facilities.

Cllr Smith outlined the arrangements for the fun run on 3rd April, including a new 20k run. It was agreed to proceed as the insurers had confirmed the cover and this year's proceeds would be split between the school, the Parish Council and the Cricket Club. Cllr Emery was liaising with the Cricket Club and School.

Cllr Smith encouraged as many people to volunteer as marshals as possible.

93. Correspondence.

The list had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The following items were highlighted:

- Speeding – Holtye / Verges – Hartfield. These would be put on an SLR agenda.
- Holtye residents' access to WSCC tip. This had been referred to Cllr Whetstone who reported a change to allow ESCC residents access was unlikely.
- Church Café sign – The Clerk was asked to write to the Church to confirm the positioning of the flag in Church Street, noting that it should be by the noticeboard to avoid visibility issues.
- Sussex Lund – The Council agreed the Clerk should apply for a grant for the Upper Hartfield verge.
- Health Walks use of Goods Yard House – All agreed by the Council subject to clean up arrangements and funding.
- Conservators – funding. It was agreed to ask them to fill in a grant form.

94. To approve revised code of conduct.

Unanimously approved and adopted by the Council.

95. Finance

- (i) To accept the account summary 2019/20.

The account had been circulated prior to the meeting.

All normal budgeted items were tracking to budget. Goods Yard House works detail had been accounted for in a separate report.

The Council duly accepted the report.

- (ii) To approve expenditure as itemised on the schedule.

The report has been circulated prior to the meeting and expenditure of £126942.87 was duly approved unanimously.

- (iii) To accept the Goods Yard House finance report.

The report has been circulated prior to the meeting and was approved unanimously.

96. To consider declaring a climate emergency review check list and to publish a position statement.

The Clerk had circulated a checklist and draft declaration.

The Council agreed that the need to work on a declaration, though the example wording went beyond the Council's current control. It was agreed to simplify this statement and the Emergency Plan working party would provide an initial draft alongside the current sustainability statement. This would be brought back to the Council for consideration in April.

97. To consider expenditure on VE day and commemorative bench. TBC.

The Council agreed unanimously to pay up to £1050 plus VAT for the commemorative bench and £200 plus VAT for fitting.

The exact position would be finalised in due course, but it was anticipated that it would be located near the beacon and tennis court. The Clerk would write to the tennis club to advise them.

The Clerk would liaise with local parishes to see if a group order of commemorative benches would lower delivery costs and Cllr Burnett-Dick would confirm wording to the Clerk for the plaque.

The cost was offset by £700 in general reserves from the Fete donation leaving a net cost from general reserves of £550.

The Council unanimously agreed to pay up to £1000 plus VAT as per budget for the celebrations. Details would be outlined at the next meeting, but this would allow Cllr Burnett-Dick to confirm reservations as duly delegated by the Council in this matter.

Cllr Burnett-Dick reported on the draft schedule and possible costs and arrangements. The Clerk reported the street closure notice application was underway.

Cllr Nathan agreed to supply the working party risk assessment ASAP to the Clerk for the insurer's approval.

98. To consider expenditure on the upgraded website up to £1000.

Three quotes had been received the Council and were outlined by the Clerk. The Council agreed to spend up to £1000 plus VAT, as per the budget, awarding the contract to Vision ICT due to the continued reliability and support of the current website. The focus on the new website would be accessibility and functionality. The Clerk would liaise with Vision ICT to move the project forward and would send Cllrs some examples for feedback.

99. To consider bridge policy and associated expenditure up to £200.

The policy was unanimously agreed.

The Clerk would arrange expenditure as outlined by the policy for storage in Goods Yard House and would liaise with James Castle re flags and Rev Julie.

100. To consider any action and expenditure required for the emergency plan.

The working party confirmed it should be finalised in March and they would report back in April.

The Council agreed to print 12 copies under the office expenditure budget.

The Clerk would follow up with the surgery for feedback into the plan.

(Cllr Beare left the meeting 9:35pm)

101. To consider any action following a rural crime report from Cllr Maude.

Cllr Maude reported on recent issues in Blackham and with heightened vigilance in other local areas there was a possibility that crime may be displaced to other parishes such as Hartfield.

The Clerk was in regular contact with Wealden Police for updates and would request PCSO attendance at the annual parish meeting.

Reporting of all crimes was highlighted as essential to build a crime pattern for police to be regularly deployed.

102. Items for Reporting or Inclusion in future meetings.

For reporting:

- Finance Meeting would be moved to 10th February.
- Fete Committee report would be forthcoming.
- British Spring Clean 20/3-30/4 – HPC date to be confirmed.
- Chronicle editor required.

For Inclusion:

- Clerk salary review.
- Health walks update
- Emergency Plan
- Climate Emergency

Next Meeting 2nd March 2020

The meeting closed at 9:45pm