

Piddinghoe Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held in Piddinghoe Village Hall

Tuesday 8 March 2022 at 7.30pm

59: Present

Councillors Paul Bevan, Debbie Mills and John Scaife. 11 members of the public were also in attendance.

60: Apologies for Absence

Councillor Nick Woolger, Parish Clerk Karen Crowhurst, District Councillor William Meyer, County Councillor Sarah Osbourne

61: Election of Chair for the meeting

In Cllr Woolger's absence, Cllr Mills nominated Cllr Bevan to chair the meeting, Cllr Scaife seconded. Cllr Bevan took the chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

62: Public Participation

Following the suspension of standing orders, no contributions or questions were forthcoming at this point in the meeting.

63: Reports from the County and District Councillors

A report received from Cllr Sarah Osbourne was circulated.

The meeting was then re-opened.

64: Disclosures of Interests or any changes to the Register of Interests

There were no disclosures of interests nor were there any changes to the Register of Interests.

65: Minutes of the Full Council Meeting. 7 December 2021.

The minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 7 December 2021 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

66: Co-option of a new councillor

The Chair reported that following the resignation of Angela Ridge, the vacancy for a replacement parish councillor had been advertised and one volunteer had come forward, namely Noel West. The Chair thanked Mr West and invited councillors to agree to his co-option as a parish councillor by a show of hands. Noel West was duly appointed and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

67: Clerk's Report

The Clerk had circulated a report on matters being progressed since the last meeting. The Chair indicated that several of these would be discussed under later items on the agenda. The report was noted.

68: Accounts

Councillors resolved;

- i. To approve the payments list to 7 March 2022;
- ii. To approve the accounts to date;
- iii. To add Cllrs Bevan and Scaife as signatories to the Parish Council's bank account;
- iv. To proceed with internet banking.

Councillors agreed to take no decisions as yet on purchasing a new laptop and subscribing to Microsoft Office, nor on purchasing Scribe software.

69: Planning Applications

Councillors decided that they had no comments to make on retrospective applications SDNP/22/1225 and SDNP/22/1227 concerning Blythe Cottage.

70: The Queen's Green Canopy

The Chair explained that local councils and communities are being invited to participate in this national initiative to celebrate the Queen's platinum jubilee by planting trees. Parishioners in attendance voiced support, and councillors agreed that an item should be published in The Villager and volunteers invited to plan new tree planting as part of this project.

71: The Bells of St Johns

Councillors ratified a statement of support provided by the Council for an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund to restore the church bells as part of a wider community heritage project.

72: Play area on The Hoe

Cllr Mills pointed out that the routine inspection and risk assessment report from Lewes DC was still identifying the bench as requiring repair even though it had been mended for a considerable time. It was agreed that other matters should be dealt with, including making good following the arson incident under the climbing frame, and remounting the woodland trail sign. It was agreed that the Clerk should commission Dave Hills to attend to these issues.

73: Consultations

- i. SDNPA Self Build and Custom Housebuilding Register

The Chair explained that the SDNPA had consulted on the 'local connection' criteria for those applying to build new housing in the National Park. Councillors agreed the following response:

The council considers that the proposed local connection test is too 'generous' in the following respects:

- 1) Criteria (a), (b) and (c) should require past residence only within the boundary of the National Park itself. Residence within a 'split parish' but outside the SDNP boundary should not apply.
- 2) Criterion (d) should require a record of formal employment.
- 3) Criterion (e) does not represent a local connection and should be deleted.

- ii. National Association of Local Council's consultation on DEFRA Landscapes Review

Councillors agreed to make no response.

74: C7 update

- i. The Chair referred to the Clerk's report that an application had been made to ESCC Highways to undertake a feasibility study to slow traffic and make safer both the southern junction with the C7 and in particular the northern junction where Harping Hill also joins the main road, and where crossing is felt to be particularly dangerous. It is hoped that this study can be informed by the Egret's Way plans for the stretch north from the village to Deans Farm. The Chair thanked Quincy Whittaker for her offer to participate in the site visit.
- ii. The Safer C7 project: Following the presentation before the meeting by Sue Carroll (Rodmell Parish) of the Safer C7 Steering Group, and Cllr Scaife's report from the recent Safer C7 project meeting at which he had represented the parish council, it was agreed:
 - a. To recognise the constitution of the Safer C7 project;
 - b. To sign the associated Memorandum of Understanding;
 - c. To participate in the Safer C7 Steering Group;
 - d. Not at this stage to commit any funding.

Cllr Scaife emphasised that the constitutional documents approved provided for parishes to participate without committing funds now or subsequently.

75: Pathways

- i. Deans Farm: The Clerk had reported as follows: There is an agreement with East Sussex County Council for the re-routing of the path; please see the extract of an email from ESCC Rights of Way: "I've contacted the landowners to remind them that they can provide the additional route around the pond as long as the legally mapped route remains available. The landowner has stated that the existing signage is directed at vehicles, but to avoid confusion they will amend it to become clearer to path users."
- ii. Overgrown pavements - there was nothing to report.

76: Rights of Way

There was nothing further to report.

77: Enforcement matters

- i. Burning of toxic rubbish: A parishioner had photographed a bonfire of agri-chemical containers, shotgun cartridges and other waste on farmland near the village that had smouldered for days. It was understood the Clerk had forwarded this evidence to LDC's environmental health team. Cllr West suggested that in future the fire service should be called to put out the fire and ensure the incident was recorded.
- ii. Hoddern Farm Shoot: It was understood that Lewes DC were still in the process of clarifying whether the geographical scope of the shoot had been extended without planning consent. Parishioners expressed concerns about the risks posed to footpath and bridleway users west of Chapel Barn as well as the amenity impact of increased simulated (clay pigeon) shoot days.

78: Annual Parish Meeting

A date remains to be set in consultation with the Chair of the Council.

79: Reports

- i. Village Hall: Angela Ridge reported that the pantomime had raised £400, and that plans are underway for a Jubilee picnic with music on the Hoe as well as other activities.

- ii. Parishes on the Lower Ouse (POLO): Besides the issues already covered regarding the Safer C7, Cllr Scaife reported there had been questions regarding the involvement of parishes on the east of the valley, and a progress report on the next stage of the Egret's Way at the Lewes end.
- iii. East Sussex Association of Local Councils' (ESALC): Cllr Scaife reported discussions about the infrastructure and service requirements for new housing developments and the availability of grants for public electric vehicle charging points.

80: Questions from Parish Councillors

Councillors welcomed Quincy Whittaker's offer to pursue grants for the planting of bee-friendly wildflower corridors.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.20 pm.