



Willingdon and Jevington Parish Council Meeting

The minutes of the Meeting of the **Parish Council** held on **Monday 7th October 2024**

At The Trinity Church, Coppice Avenue, Willingdon.

Present: Cllrs John Pritchett BEM (Chair), Ben Clennell (BC), Martin Cooper (MC), Helen Coote (HC), Howard Coote (HC), Christine Payne MBE (CP), Fran Pritchett (FP), Ruth Sheppard (RS), Daniel Shing (DS), Stephen Shing (SS), Ryan Weedon (RW).

In attendance: Nicola Williamson (NW) (Parish Clerk). There were thirteen members of public present.

Item	Subject	Action By
C24/53	<u>Apologies and Councillors Not Present</u> There were apologies from Cllr Jim Gleeson who was away. There were apologies from Cllr Sally Morris who was unwell. There were apologies from Cllr Ian Nisbet who was away. There were apologies from Cllr Andy Watkins who was unwell. These were NOTED and ACCEPTED.	
C24/54	<u>To accept and adopt the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on Monday 15th July 2024</u> RESOLVED: To accept and adopt the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Monday 15th July 2024. These were signed by Cllr John Pritchett BEM (Chair) as a true and correct record. Cllr Payne MBE asked Cllr S Shing regarding C24/44 what were his objections about Exceat bridge. Cllr S Shing reported that he had no further updates on the Exceat Bridge.	
C24/55	<u>Declaration of Interests</u> Cllr Christine Payne MBE declared an interest in C24/57. Cllr Fran Pritchett declared an interest in C24/57 and said she would be abstaining from any voting on the matter. Cllr S Shing declared an interest in C24/62 (vi).	
C24/56	<u>Public question time – to deal with any questions received from members of the public relating to items on this agenda</u> There were thirteen members of public present.	
C24/57	<u>To consider a Grant/CIL application from Wannock Village Hall (WVH)</u> Chair John Pritchett thanked the Members of public for attending and asked the Members if they had any queries before suspending standing orders. Cllr Payne MBE told Members the Wannock Hall Trustees had prepared a report and made every effort to address the previous concerns of the council. Wannock Village Hall trustees	

	were thanked for the very professional way they had addressed the concerns. <i>*The Chair suspended standing orders at 7.34pm*</i> A WVH ex-trustee and treasurer gave a verbal report to the Members of the history of the Hall and all the works that have been conducted since. The hall has over 70 regular bookings a month and is used for many community gatherings for residents. The treasurer reported that they have now raised over £10,300 in two months and with previous funds available this will act as a buffer for any extra works that might be needed. A Trustee gave a verbal report about the roofing and insulation implications, and overall a warm roof option would prove ecological and economical in the long run. Cllr Weedon asked how long the work guarantees are for – Chair John Pritchett BEM reported that it is 20 years for all the companies. Cllr Weedon asked if WVH had a preferred contractor that they want to use, which they responded they had not. Cllr Payne MBE proposed that the PC award funds for a warm roof option as a full and final payment. The PC unanimously AGREED to fund the warm roof option. WVH Trustees to AGREE which contractor to use. <i>*The Chair reinstated standing orders at 7.55pm*</i>	
C24/58	<u>Report of the Council Chair and questions from Members</u> The report was NOTED and there were no questions from the Members.	
C24/59	<u>Report of the Parish Clerk and questions from Members</u> The Clerk's report was NOTED which was previously circulated. NW gave a verbal report on a request from residents for a new larger Cemetery sign opposite the entrance. NW contacted ESCC and they assessed the sign and agreed to a larger one if the PC paid. NW agreed in principle pending a quote. NW reported that she had contacted ESCC for an update on the HPEMAC. NW reported that works are now complete in Green Lane. Cllr Clennell reported that a resident had been clearing out the end of the pipe that runs into the soakaway. In previous years ESCC had been responsible for clearing a square meter of land out where the pipe runs into the soakaway. NW reported that she had recently met with Highways and they deny they are responsible for the works. Members asked Cllr S Shing if he could investigate the matter. NW to send Cllr Shing a map and details so he could look into the matter.	<u>NW</u> <u>NW</u> <u>NW</u> <u>SS</u>
C24/60	<u>Reports from County and District Councillors and questions from Members</u> The report was NOTED which was previously circulated. Cllr Payne MBE reported she had watched the meeting of the last Standards Committee which Cllr S Shing attended. She noted that Cllr S Shing felt that the Civility and Respect Pledge that many Councils have signed up to was only a paper exercise. Cllr Payne MBE asked Cllr S Shing if he did not agree with it what were his views on the pledge. Cllr S Shing was not sure that it had made any difference to Member's attitudes. Cllr S Shing reported at the last meeting Cllr Clennell said that Cllr S Shing had not responded to any emails sent by him. Cllr S Shing responded that an email of acknowledgement was always returned to all emails. Cllr Clennell apologised to Cllr S Shing for saying this, but Cllr Clennell would like an actual reply to the question he had asked. Chair John Pritchett BEM asked if all the reports could be sent to the Clerk as she requests,	

	at least three days before Full Council meetings to ensure all Members have time to read the reports before each Full Council meeting and she has time to run any copies off that are needed.	
C24/61	<u>Questions to Committee Chairs and minutes for adoption by Full Council</u> <u>RESOLVED: Members AGREED the ADOPTION of the following minutes:</u> i) Amenities – Cllr Payne, Minutes of 2nd September 2024. ii) Events – Cllr F Pritchett (Vice), Minutes of 19th August 2024. iii) Finance & General Purposes – Cllr Gleeson, Minutes of 16th September 2024. iv) Planning – Cllr F Pritchett, Minutes of 19th July, 19th August and 9th September 2024. Cllr F Pritchett thanked the Members on Planning for all their work especially as the planning meetings are every three weeks. This is a big commitment for everyone. v) Recreation – Cllr Weedon (Vice-Chair), Minutes of 29th July 2024.	<u>JP</u>
C24/62	Reports of Parish Council Representatives <i>*20.43pm Cllrs Daniel and Stephen left the meeting*</i> i) WDALC – Draft minutes of the last meeting were circulated by NW. Cllr Cooper reported he had asked about Willingdon (and Polegate) Medical centre. The reply from Chris Bending (Wealden District Council) was that this is primarily the responsibility of the NHS, but that Wealden are actively involved in business discussions, (by implication with the NHS, and with commercial developers) but that these are ongoing, so that there is nothing public to report on at present. ii) Willingdon/Polegate Windmill Trust - Cllr Weedon had provided a report which had previously been circulated to the Members. There have been concerns about the land on the opposite side of the path where the Mill stands which in 2021 WDC leased it to the owners of the home on that side of the path, who then fenced it off to integrate it into their garden. NW reported that she had been in email correspondence with WDC to investigate this land grab but WDC reported there is nothing they can do at the moment as it under a lease. Following the detective work done by the Eastbourne & District Preservation Trust as Trustees to locate documents about its current ownership status, they had an excerpt from the title for the Windmill during its last sale noting that patch of land had a covenant on it granting the Trustees turning rights. Having spoken with their solicitors, the Trustees are of the understanding that these rights are in place regardless of the ownership status of that piece of land, and furthermore that this land will indeed be necessary for large vehicles and cranes to support any future renovations planned for the mill. I await further instruction as to the success of their interaction with Mr Stephens (WDC Housing Services Manager), whom they have asked to investigate the matter with a view to considering a long-term lease or land buying option. iii) Willingdon Memorial Hall – There was nothing to report at this time. iv) Wannock Hall – Cllr Payne MBE had provided a report for the Members which had previously been circulated , which included the questions the PC had raised at the previous FC meeting regarding the grant/CIL application and some of the answers they had provided.	<u>NW</u> <u>NW</u>

	v) Jevington Village Hall & Sports Club - Cllr Clennell reported that the Village Hall is still being used well for classes. Work needs to be done to the cricket square at the Recreation ground which residents are keen to help with, now the cricket season has ended. vi) Library Charity Group Report – Cllr Nisbet had nothing to report at this time. Chair John Pritchett BEM reported that the library held a highly successful Macmillan Coffee morning on the 28th September. He also reported that on the 28th September James MacCleary MP held a surgery at the Parish Office, and he then took him over to the library to have a look around and meet some residents. He was very impressed with what he saw and how well supported our Community Hub Library was. vii) Tree Warden - Cllr Cooper did not have anything to report. NW reported that she had checked with WDC, and they reported there are no TPO's on the MMF site nor is it a conservation area. NW to investigate applying for TPO's on the oak trees on MMF. viii) Cuckmere Community Bus – Cllr Weedon had provided a report for the Members which had previously been circulated ix) Cllr Weedon also reported that they have just purchased a new bus. Private hire is also very popular but they do not always have enough volunteer drivers.	<u>NW</u>
C24/63	Recommendations from Finance and General Purposes Committee 16th September 2024 Members NOTED the Clerk's Report i) Review of Council Policies <u>Financial Regulations 2024 - 2025</u> RESOLVED: Members AGREED to ADOPT the updated Financial Regulations. <u>Communication and Social Media Policy</u> RESOLVED: Members AGREED to ADOPT the Communication and Social Media Policy. ii) <u>Reconciliation for May, June and July 2024</u> RESOLVED: Members AGREED to APPROVE the reconciliation for May, June and July 2024. NW reported that Cllrs Cooper and Nisbet have completed the Councillor reconciliation checks satisfactorily. iii) <u>June Payment List totalling £16,054.29 for agreement</u> RESOLVED: Members AGREED to APPROVE the April Payment List totalling £16,054.29. iv) <u>July Payment List totalling £35,114.65 for agreement</u> RESOLVED: Members AGREED to APPROVE the April Payment List totalling £35,114.65. v) <u>CIL Allocations and Earmarked Reserves</u> RESOLVED: Members AGREED to APPROVE the CIL Allocations and Earmarked Reserves. vi) <u>Bleed Control Kit Cabinet</u> RESOLVED: Members AGREED to APPROVE to fund the kit through Project Stem. NW	

	reported that Willingdon and Jevington Parish Council's name will be printed on the cabinet.	
C24/64	Finance Update <i>*21.08pm Cllr Sheppard left the meeting as she had an early work start the following day*</i> The Clerk's report was NOTED. i) Income and Expenditure to date This was NOTED . ii) Town and Parish Councillor Remuneration and allowances for consideration. NW had previously circulated the Report from the Wealden Parish Independent Remuneration Panel for 2024/2025 to Members which was NOTED . WDC are asking for any comments about the report to be received back to them no later than 17 th October. It was AGREED to continue to operate the remuneration allowance scheme.	<u>NW</u>
C24/65	Councillors home addresses and sensitive interests A letter from Simon Hoare MP (Minister for Local Government) had been circulated to the Members regarding withholding details of councillors' sensitive interest and home addresses. If any Members want to redact their home addresses from the public domain, they will need to apply to the WDC Monitoring Officer and to let NW know. Cllrs Payne MBE and Sheppard would like to redact their addresses from the public domain.	<u>NW</u>
C24/66	<u>Risk management – to consider the effects (if any) arising from items on the agenda</u> Potential threats being made to Councillors.	
C24/67	<u>Urgent items – for noting or referral to next agenda for Full Council or appropriate committee/sub-Committee</u> None.	
C24/68	The next meeting would be on Monday 13th January 2025.	<u>NW</u>

Meeting ended at 9.20 pm.

Signed..... (Committee Chair)

Date.....