



BUXTED

PARISH COUNCIL

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14 September 2020

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held in Five Ash Down Village Hall on Tuesday 14 September 2020 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. Blandford (Chairman), Bolton, Cox, Coxon, Johnson, McQuarrie, Rose, and Wilson

Also present: ESCC Cllr. Galley and Clerks Beccy Macklen and Claudine Feltham.

Public:

3.

A local resident wished to address the council as a spokesperson on behalf of residents of Buxted Wood Lane and Howbourne Lane to discuss concerns regarding the junction onto the A272 and speeding traffic. There are approx. 216 movements a day from residents at this point on the A272 over and above deliveries. Concerning issues are the overgrown vegetation (clerk has reported this twice in this season), in addition to the speed of traffic along the road. Residents are therefore looking for support from the parish council to help to reduce the speed limit to a 40mph zone further than the pull-out zone around the bend towards Hadlow Down. It is equally as dangerous turning right out of Howbourne Lane if the verge is overgrown as well as it being very dangerous looking left out of the junction as the canopy is so overgrown it is very dark and you cannot always see cars travelling west. Concern has been raised by ESCC Highways with regards any further development in the lane due to the access onto the A272, therefore this should be a current concern of ESCC.

Clerk to ask the owners of Spindles to cut back overgrown hedge. ESCC have confirmed the verge is overgrown and will be cut back within 28 days.

In answer to a question from another member of the public, it was confirmed the new litter bin to be installed at Buxted Park should be in situ from 25th September 2021.

01/09/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs Humphrey, Illingworth, Marshall, Moss and Roberts

02/09/21 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

All councillors declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Ionides Trust by virtue of the parish council being managing agents of the site.

Cllr. Rose declared a prejudicial interest in any matters relating to the land west of Church Road (Beechbrook Park) due to having owned part of the application site

Cllrs. Cox declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the allotments by virtue of being an allotment holder's

Cllr Bolton declared a personal interest in matters relating to the cricket club grant due to being a member of the Buxted Cricket Club.

03/09/21 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 August 2021 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.

04/09/21 CO-OPTION OF VAL WILSON ONTO BUXTED PARISH COUNCIL

Proposed by Cllr. Cox and seconded by Cllr. Bolton, Val Wilson, was unanimously co-opted onto the parish council and welcomed to the meeting. The chair welcomed Val to the parish council and councillors introduced themselves to her.

05/09/21 ESCC/WDC REPORT

Cllr Galley wished to highlight the recently completed local housing needs assessment, which provides evidence for the local plan. Unfortunately, it suggests that Wealden should build a lot of dwellings, but the council does not wish to do this. It is interesting reading and has certainly given WDC a challenge.

A councillor asked if the local plan considers local infrastructure to support this development and if it provided at the same time as the properties? Yes, but it does not always fit together quite so well, as often the infrastructure has to follow as the money for this goes into a separate CIL fund then allocated to necessary infrastructure by WDC.

06/09/21 LIST OF GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2022/23

Full details of grant applications were circulated prior to the meeting and are available on the parish council meeting page:

A long discussion took place regarding the applications and the following grants were awarded.

Buxted Art Club - £100 requested – approved

Five Ash Down Chapel - £300 requested - approved

Parish of Buxted and Hadlow Down - £1250 requested - approved

Wealden CAB - £800 requested – approved

Buxted Park Cricket Club - £4140 requested – approved (5 votes in favour one against, but noted this does not set a precedent for ever year)

(a discussion took place with regards the recent changes as the club which has resulted in the Archery Club being asked to leave the site – Cllr Bolton assured the council that he would provide the council with further details)

Buxted Methodist Church - £500 requested – approved

Ashdown Place (Uckfield) Residents Company Limited - £2500 – approved

FAD Pop In - £350 requested – approved

Samaritans - £200 requested – approved

St Wilfreds Hospice - £700 requested – approved

Buxted Horticultural Society (BHS) - £1040 requested – £240 for storage now that the hall is no longer in use.

07/09/21 OUTSTANDING MATTERS

Public footpaths: See correspondence below.

Trees: The possible removal of a tree at St Margaret's Church was brought to the attention of the parish council. It has been confirmed that it has been suggested

that the tree should come down as the roots are raising the surface of the pathway and there is concern this could cause a trip hazard. The tree is also obstructing the view of the church from the pavilion and vice versa. Apparently, someone from the church said that the tree self-seeded about 50 years ago.

The tree is certainly not going to come down immediately as the following must be undertaken first:

- The PCC need to agree the felling of the tree
- An application must be made to the Diocese of Chichester to fell the tree
- A public 28-day consultation led by the church needs to take place

So, there is no imminent danger to the tree and a public consultation will take place.

Road Safety:

See correspondence list P1 - Howbourne Lane, Buxted

Parking Issues in Buxted - Response from Nus Ghani: at the last parish council meeting the clerk was asked to write to Nus Ghani MP with regards parking concerns in Buxted. The following response was received:

“Thank you for your recent email concerning these matters. Thank you for your patience in my reply during this most busy and challenging time.

I am very grateful to you for drawing the position and concerns of the Parish Council to my attention. However, my ability to influence such situations is limited, given that it is the responsibility of the local authority to set the policy regarding any changes to civil enforcement, but I will be happy to support you where I can.

I have made representations to Council Leader, Bob Standley, on behalf of the Parish Council and I will write to you again once I have received a response.”

Wealden Local Development Framework: Nothing new to report.

Property issues: Reading Room – Update

Following the previous meeting and on the advice of the Parish Council’s insurance provider the Reading Room has been closed following the receipt of the fire safety and full electrical wiring reports. The clerk is currently obtaining quotes for the works required to make the building safe for use. In the meantime, the parish council is thankful to those groups who use the RR for storage for arranging to empty the building.

It was also mentioned that St Mary’s Hall is approx. 70% underused so there are other options in the village.

Communications Matters: Nothing to report.

08/09/21

CORRESPONDENCE

P1 Local Resident – would like to the PC support to campaign for the 40mph zone to be extended beyond Howbourne Lane – Prior to the meeting the local resident addressed councillors raising concerns that exiting Howbourne Lane within a 60mph zone with limited visibility is dangerous (see above). Cllr Galley advised that changing any traffic regulation is a long process. ESCC has a budget that covers the whole of East Sussex, and each site is based on accident reports.

Standing Orders are suspended to allow the local resident to ask if it would be possible to have a speed survey at the site. Cllr Galley suggested that the parish

council would have to pay for this, and the clerk would establish the costs and if a speed survey can be carried out on 40mph roads. It was also suggested that a petition is submitted to ESCC.

P2 Local Resident - Ongoing concern with regards overhanging trees in Britts Farm Alleyway (footpath 60). The clerk continues correspondence with the Rights of Way Team at ESCC with regards the state of the path, whose responsibility it is to maintain and the concerns regarding the trees on the pathway. As members can see from the ongoing ESCC correspondence table this matter has been ongoing since December 2020, but very little response is received from ESCC. Clerk to forward most recent emails to Cllr. Galley.

09/09/21 **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**
None

10/09/21 **FINANCE**

- i. appointment of Mulberry & Co to carry out the audit for the year ending in 31/3/2022 this will include an interim audit in December 2021 where the procedures and policies are examined and the year end audit in summer 2022 whereby all finance figures will be examined - **approved**
- ii. to approve invoices for payment in September 2021- to be tabled and attached to the minutes. Cheque nos. 4722 to 4735 totalling £8055.74 proposed by Cllr Johnson and seconded by Cllr McQuarrie - **Approved**
- iii. to approve the bank reconciliations for June 2021, July 2021 & August 2021(available on the finance section of the parish council website) - **Approved**
- iv. to receive the RBS reports: EMR, Cash & Investment Reconciliation, Receipts, and payments to June 2021 (available on the finance section of the parish council website) - **Noted**
- v. to receive the RBS reports: EMR, Cash & Investment Reconciliation, Receipts, and payments to July 2021 (available on the finance section of the parish council website) - **Noted**
- vi. to receive the RBS reports: EMR, Cash & Investment Reconciliation, Receipts, and payments to August 2021 (available on the finance section of the parish council website) - **Noted**
- vii. Accounts summary – circulated separately to councillors, to be attached to minutes

The parish council thanked Claudine for all her work having received a clear external audit report.

11/09/21 **OTHER MEETINGS**
No other meetings

12/09/21 **MEMBERS QUESTIONS**
None

13/09/21 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
If it can be arranged with the PCC, the parish council would alternate parish council meetings between Five Ash Down Village Hall and St Mary's Village Hall, Buxted.

The meeting closed at 8.40p.m.

DATE RAISED	CASE NO	DESCRIPTION	OPEN/CLOSED RESOLUTION
21/12/2020 ONGOING	00529461	Britts Farm Alleyway – access through difficult due to blocking by vegetation and fallen fence	21/12 – passed to officers 31/3 – map received by clerk showing part of alleyway in ownership of Highways and part Rights of Way Team. Clerk written to Rights of Way Team to

			<p>ask that trees on their part (footpath 67) be assessed.</p> <p>31/3 Rights of Way Team confirm the trees are on ESCC land however could be the responsibility of the landowner which ESCC are not. I wait to be advised.</p> <p>19/7 – drainage works taken place in footpath – clerk chased an update on overgrown vegetation issues</p> <p>6/9 – clerk emailed Rights of Way Team with photographs of trees of concern asking for an update</p>
21/12/2020 ONGOING	00527587	Switching off streetlamps in Britts Farm alleyway, or at least switching off one on 24 hours	<p>21/12 – passed to officers</p> <p>26/1 – still being discussed by officers</p> <p>22/2 – resident advised that the orange light has now changed to a bright white light and is still on 24 hours (so worse situation)</p> <p>10/3 – apologies from ESCC for slow response. Explanation of why lamp was changed to white light. Still looking at putting timers on lights</p> <p>11/3 – Response by clerk. Crossed wires, we want the lights turned off not on timers.</p> <p>23/3 – ESCC confirm they are still looking into being able to switch off lights</p> <p>15/4 – ESCC confirmation that lights cannot be switched off for safety reasons but will be replaced with different bulbs and will not be on all night. Works will take place late summer</p> <p>19/7 – clerk chased an email sent asking for further clarification as to why lights cannot be switched off</p>
21/01/2021 ONGOING	00539076	Blocked drain outside St Mary's Church, Church Road, Buxted	25/1 – passed to officer to investigate
27/01/2021 ONGOING (HEDGE ISSUE)	00541323	Width of pavement between St Raphaels and Toll Farm Triangle, Buxted	<p>27/1 – passed to officers.</p> <p>9/2 – officers could not identify location they need a better description! Email response sent.</p> <p>31/3 – after more correspondence between Cllr Galley, ESCC Officer Johnson and Local Resident, Cllr Galley has confirmed this matter cannot be pursued any further. Pavement is a fair width, and the hedge has been recently cut back. Engineering works and cameras will not be installed by ESCC on this section of road.</p> <p>20/4 – Cllr Galley confirmed hedge and width of pavement will be investigated by Highway Steward</p> <p>30/4 – Highway report that one owner of the hedge is disputing that it is their responsibility to cut the hedge. Passed to Enforcement. Until hedge cut back Highway Steward cannot ascertain if siding works are required.</p> <p>May 2021 – edged of overgrown pathway cut back along with some of</p>

			the hedges alongside the road. Other hedges remain overgrown. July 2021 – ESCC Enforcement writing to all owners of overgrown hedges
09/06/2021 ISSUED CLOSED	00585063	Junction of Howbourne Lane/A272, Buxted	Overgrown verge making visibility dangerous. Reported to Highways ESCC agreed to cut verge
10/06/21 ISSUE CLOSED		Verge west of Station along pathway	Overgrown verge partially blocking pavement and causing visibility issues when leaving station car park. ESCC agreed to cut verge

Ionides Trust Update

1. Memorial Update

Unfortunately, our groundsman is unavailable to plant the new cherry trees. The clerk would try and source another contractor.

Meeting ended 8.42pm