

PARISH COUNCIL OF PLAYDEN, EAST SUSSEX

Clerk: Lesley Voice, 1 The Grove, Rye, TN31 7ND. Tel: 01797 225139

Minutes of the Council Meeting Held on 4th January 2018 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Councillors: Mr David Stone (DS) Chairman, Mr P. Osborne (PO) Vice Chairman, Mr A. Dickinson (AD), Mr David Jenkins (DJ).

Rother District Councillor: Cllr Sally-Ann Hart (S-A H)

East Sussex County Councillor: Cllr Keith Glazier (K G)

Members of the Public: 5

	Item	Action
1.	To accept apologies for absence: Mr T Lenihan	
2	Declarations of interest on items on the agenda: None	
3	To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 7th December 2017: The minutes were unanimously approved and signed by DS.	
4	Neighbourhood Watch Report: The Clerk gave a summary of the reports she had received since the last council meeting. As mentioned at the last council meeting there had been a considerable increase in burglaries in the Rother district, this is reflected in the neighbourhood watch reports received by the Clerk who reported incidents in Rye, Rye Harbour, Iden, Winchelsea involving both domestic and commercial premises.	
5	Visiting Councillors Reports. Rother District Cllr. Sally-Ann Hart said that there had not been a meeting to report on due to the Christmas/New Year holidays. She reported on the decision of Rother DC to refuse Bexhill their own council. This was due to the cost involved and that though an overriding majority of the respondents were in favour of this they were only a minority of the residents in the Bexhill area. East Sussex County Councillor Keith Glazier KG reported that his time had been taken up with continuing budget planning. The final allocation figure provided by the Government had been released to the County Council before Christmas. As KG had reported previously with a further £22 million saving to be made this has meant that there will be some very difficult decisions to be made. The County Council has been informed that they can increase the Council Tax by 3% without a referendum (This includes an additional 1%). The Council had been proposing an additional 1.99% general	

	<p>increase and an 3% increase towards the increasing cost of adult social care. The Council will now decide if they wish to also increase this by the additional 1% now possible. This will increase their budget by £2.6m and will reduce the savings/cuts to be made down to approx. £19m. Any cuts are likely to be made to the adult social care and children’s services. Officers will report to the cabinet in 2 weeks and the full Council will meet in February to discuss/approve the budget.</p> <p>KG commented that there is an increasing elderly population in the ESCC area and this has resulted in increasing adult social care costs. ESCC has made a total of £100m cost savings since 2010 and are continuing to lobby Government regarding funding.</p> <p>PO added that the Highways department had proposed road closures in the main roads around Rye including the A259 at the Skinners roundabout and remarked that similar road closures had caused chaos and bad traffic jams in the past. These are scheduled over 2018. The first being in January when the road to Ashford will be closed overnight for a week.</p>	
6	<p>Public Adjournment: To suspend the meeting for any public statements. Members of the public are encouraged to attend Council meetings and raise any pertinent issues at this point.</p> <p>A member of the public commented that she had noticed that there was a lot of Fox mess and wondered if this was being confused with the reported dog mess. S-A H reported that she in liaison with TL had sent a map detailing where the dog fouling notices should be mounted. It was also discussed if a Dog Bin should be provided as an encouragement to dog walkers to clear up. The cost of emptying this would be £140.40 per annum with an increase in this likely in April 2018. The Clerk was asked to Contact Mary Philo at Iden Parish Council as they have dog bins for the costs involved.</p> <p>The same public member also commented that she had contacted the Neighbourhood Watch regional coordinator via their website to volunteer as the local contact/co-ordinator for Playden. She was concerned that she had had no response to this. The Clerk to assist if she does not hear back.</p> <p>Three public members attended the meeting to comment on the Parish Council’s supportive comments regarding the Memorial Hospital Trusts planning application for a care home and to put their views of objection.</p> <p>Mr Slora who lives close to the proposed development area considered that the Parish Council had not fully taken into account the following when making their comments:</p> <p>That Rye town and its environment is unspoilt and this is what attracts visitors and residents to live there.</p> <p>Not enough is being done to protect the outstanding natural beauty of the area and consideration should be made regarding the area being an AONB. ‘Green Belt’ status being ignored.</p> <p>Pressure on the overstretched GP surgery who would deal with the residents of the Care Home.</p> <p>Government guidance said planning should be on areas already granted planning rather than on fresh areas.</p> <p>The Rye Neighbourhood plan states that any development should be limited and sensitive to the environment and quoted 4 points from the plan.</p> <p>He commented that he was not against the idea in principle but considered the site to be inappropriate.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

	<p>Another member of the public who attended commented he considered that the Parish Council had not taken all factors into consideration and had not consulted the objectors to the plan. He said that the Parish should have taken these other factors into consideration, indicated that they had done so in their planning comments and should have been more nuanced in their comments. He had noticed that the Hospital Trust had spoken at the last council meeting in favour of the application.</p> <p>DS commented that the parish agenda was put both on the Parish noticeboard and website and that the public were welcome to come to these meetings and make brief comments on these items at the public adjournment and they had had an opportunity to come along to the earlier presentations given by the Hospital Trust.</p> <p>KG asked that he may make a few comments at this stage as he was not a Parish Councillor. He said that he had attended the Playden Parish Council meetings over a 20 year period and felt that the Councillors always looked at the planning applications fairly and in light of the merits of the scheme and other factors. He pointed out that the planning application was in the parish of Rye Foreign and Playden could only comment on behalf of their parishioners. Individual objectors should make representations to the planning officer and planning committee through the normal channels as these were the people who would accept or reject the application. It was not the role of the Parish Council to seek out the objectors for their views.</p> <p>The public attendee confirmed that he had sent a long letter detailing all his objections to the planning department. He further commented that the Council had not taken into account the views of the Doctors at the surgery. The Clerk pointed out that their letter of objection had been received after the last Parish Council meeting. The attendee mentioned that the Parish comments had been put on immediately after the meeting. The Clerk said that the deadline for comments had been given as the 8th January 18 on the weekly planning list sent out by Rother. The attendee had been told that there was a later date for comments. He further pointed out that he had supported the Parish Council by sending a comprehensive letter of objection to the planning department regarding the Shellfield proposed development.</p> <p>At this stage DS curtailed further comment from this attendee as the normal time allocated for the public adjournment had been exceeded.</p> <p>The attendee voiced his concern that he could not continue and felt this was a lack of a democratic right to speak. DS mentioned that he was not a resident of the Parish of Playden and should make representations to his own Parish Council and to the planning department.</p> <p>After the meeting closed this member of the public gave all councillors present a copy of his summary of objections to read and had a chance to speak to various councillors.</p>	
7	<p>Matters arising from the minutes of 7th December 2017:</p> <p>Planting specification. AD to investigate the new Parish mapping tool to map the planting scheme as an alternative to paying for the Ordnance Survey extract. The Clerk is to investigate the setting up of this and available training modules.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that she had sent a plan of the site of the potholed roads, damaged ditches and overgrown roads to the Highways department and the new Highways steward for the area. This has been logged and will be inspected.</p>	Clerk/AD

	The Clerk will receive a report after this has been carried out. Clerk to report back when this is received.	Clerk
8	<p>Clerks Wages and Expenses:</p> <p>The Clerk had been notified that hourly Clerks rates of pay had been increased from April 2017 and asked the Council if this should be reflected in an increase to her hourly rate. It was suggested that the Clerk should contact Mary Philo at Iden PC for advice.</p> <p>The Clerk also mentioned that she had not been charging expenses for printing costs so far this year as had not been passed over a viable printer and therefore had been using ADs business printer which has a cost per printed sheet depending on size and if in colour. It was agreed that the Clerk could recover these costs or buy a small printer as she considers best and more cost efficient.</p>	Clerk
9	<p>Approval of Quarterly Accounts for the period 1 October to 31 December 2017.</p> <p>These were unanimously approved by the Council.</p>	
10	<p>Setting of the Parish Precept for the period 2018 – 2019.</p> <p>Prior to the meeting the Clerk had sent a spreadsheet of projected costs to all the Parish Councillors. This showed expected costs at slightly more than the current precept level. The Clerk informed the Council, that due to budgetary constraints Rother District Council can no longer pay the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) grant for Parish and Town Councils. The Parish Council has a reserve from previous years and it was agreed that the precept should remain unchanged for the year 2018-2019. The Clerk to inform Rother District Council by means of the form they supplied by 31st January 2018.</p>	Clerk
11	<p>Correspondence:</p> <p>Correspondence received by the Clerk.</p> <p>The Clerk had been sent an email by Mr Slora. Mr Slora had attended the meeting to put his comments in person See public adjournment above</p> <p>The Clerk had been contacted further by M.Herve Morisset, (see last minutes) who had sent a photo of his book signing. The Clerk showed this to the councillors and public.</p> <p>There had been no other correspondence.</p>	
12	<p>Planning:</p> <p>Planning</p> <p>a) Applications</p> <p>RR/2017/2097/P Rye and Winchelsea District Memorial Hospital, Peasmarsch Road, Rye Foreign, TN31 7UD. New care home with specialist care. Revised plans.</p> <p>The Councillors had looked at the revised plans submitted and had no further comments to be made.</p> <p>b) Outcomes None</p> <p>Updates on current applications in progress. The other applications are unchanged and are awaiting further information before being considered by the planning committee.</p>	

13	Accounts: a) Expenditure – to approve the following expenditure: Clerks wages and expenses for December 2017 – £121. Approved. b) Income. None.	
14	Parish Councillors Reports. AD reported that as TL could not attend this meeting he had given him the property list for the Housing Survey to look at and comment on.	

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.32pm

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE W.I. HALL ON:
THURSDAY 1st February 2018**

Signed:

Chairman

Date: