



Sedlescombe Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
on Tuesday 20th December 2022 at 19:00 Sedlescombe Village Hall, CR2

Council Meeting Minutes

Cllrs Present:

Pauline Glew (PG), Roy Chapman (RC), D Caney (DC), Lindy Latrielle (LL), J Saull-Hunt (JSH) **part time left at 20:26**, N Moore (NM) **part time left at 20:38**, Parish and District Cllr. Jonathan Vine-Hall (Chairman of the Parish Council) (JVH).

Mrs Jackie Scarff (JS) (Clerk/RFO)

District and County Cllr C Maynard **arrived at 19:14 and left the meeting at 20:28**

5 members of the public **3 left at 19:49 2 members of the public left at 20:12**

RDC Environmental Strategy Officer Lucy Bolton (LB) **left at 19:22**

JVH opened the meeting with a thank you to all members of the Parish Council for the hard work that had been done during the year.

Item	Agenda Item (C22.)	
46	<p>To receive and accept Apologies (LGA 1972 s85 (3)) Apologies were received and accepted from B Coupar (BC) for personal reasons.</p>	
47	<p>Interests in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and the Parish Council Code of Conduct.</p> <p>i To receive councillors' declarations of interest regarding matters on the agenda and consider any written requests for dispensation as a result. JVH declared personal interests in item 50 and 54i on the agenda. He left the room during the discussions on item 50 and for the discussion and vote for 54i.</p> <p>ii To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate. There were no requests. Reminder any changes to register of interests should be notified to the clerk immediately.</p>	
48	<p>To Welcome Rother District Councils Environment Strategy Officer.</p> <p>i To discuss matters in relation to the climate emergency, Biodiversity and other areas covered under the environment strategy. JVH welcomed Lucy Bolton from RDC LB explained the latest having joined the council almost 3 months ago. RDC declared a climate emergency in 2019 and published their Environmental Strategy in 2020. LB will be reviewing the strategy, bringing it up to date and creating an action plan to enable to council to deliver it. LB explained that she has a conservation background and has joined RDC from The Kent Wildlife Trust. LB explained that RDC have started recording their own emissions to give a start point. There are funding opportunities. RDC are working with approx. 39 Village Halls across the district to reduce their carbon footprint. New EV charging points are being fitted across the district. The new draft strategy will improve the biodiversity plans within the district.</p> <p>ii To consider whether Sedlescombe Parish Council will declare a climate emergency and agree any actions required. Resolved that the Parish Council agreed to declare a climate and ecological emergency.</p>	
49	<p>To receive questions from members on reports from the District and County Councillors JVH ask CM to chase up the road repairs on The Green identified at the walk around previously done. CM agreed to chase up what was happening.</p>	CM
50	<p>19:27 JVH left the meeting room. PG took the chair.</p> <p>Public participation session re matters on the Agenda at the Chairman's discretion. Two questions have been submitted to the clerk with a request that they go on to the agenda</p> <p>i. 'Are the members of Sedlescombe Parish Council aware of what Jackie Scarff said at the Rother Planning Committee meeting on 21.7.22. in relation to Planning Application</p>	

	<p>RR/2022/840/P (land at Beech Farm) when they had agreed at their Parish Council meeting on the 11th May 2022 not to comment?’</p> <p>ii. ‘Where are the written minutes of any discussion/s that occurred between Jackie Scarff and other Parish Council members firstly with regard to awarding the delegated powers that she had in order to speak and secondly agreeing to what was said- on behalf of the Parish Council?’</p> <p>PG explained that the parish council were aware, that the council can ask the clerk to attend the planning meeting if there are no cllrs available. The cllrs agreed that they felt the speech was consistent with what the council had said at the meeting, that there would be no comment on the application but in general there was support that type of dwelling. Cllrs could understand that members of the public thought that there would be no comment at all.</p> <p>A member of the public asked ‘why is Sedlescombe Parish Council out of sync with all other parish councils on this issue?’ And ‘Can you explain to me why your assessment is so very different to thousands of people, conservation groups and at least 14 parish councils who have written to Rother?’ Answer: There were letters from 14 of the 33 Councils in Rother. Some of what was written was incorrect.</p> <p>There was further discussion about the application. PG thanked the residents for coming to the meeting and for their input.</p> <p>3 Members of the public left the meeting 19:49 JVH returned to the meeting at 1950 and took the chair.</p>	
51	<p>To consider the minutes of the full council meeting 18th October 2022 for confirmation and signing as a true record. Resolved that the minutes of the full council meeting 18th October 2022 should be signed as a true record.</p>	
52	<p>If the committee wishes to exclude the public for a particular agenda item, the following resolution must be passed: ‘That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 S1(2), the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.’</p> <p>There was no requirement to pass this resolution.</p>	
53	<p>To hear a request from Sedlescombe Restholme Trust for funding and agree any actions required. The Parish Council had received an email in advance outlining the request. A member of the Restholme Trust summarised the information in the email and answered questions raised by cllrs. Resolved that the request be considered at the next Finance Committee Meeting.</p> <p>The 2 members of the Restholme Trust left the meeting 20:12</p>	
54	<p>Planning To consider the following planning applications received and resolve to submit comments where appropriate.</p> <p>With the consent of the cllrs items ii & iii were discussed first.</p> <p>i RR/2022/2690/P Land at Beech Farm, Hawkhurst Road, Sedlescombe TN33 0QS Demolition of storage building and roadway and construction of a carbon negative live work unit, parking and restricted curtilage. Landscape and biodiversity enhancements to the wider site and new access to the B2244. Stopping up of access to the northern boundary of the site.</p>	

	<p>JVH left the meeting at 20:18 PG took the chair.</p> <p>After a discussion about the site at Beech Farm the cllrs agreed that they had questions they would like answers to before making any recommendations. Resolved that no decision would be made until they cllrs questions had been answered.</p> <p>CM left the meeting at 20:26 JSH left the meeting at 20:26 JVH returned to the meeting and took the chair.</p> <p>ii</p> <p>RR/2022/2677/L The Post Office, The Green, Sedlescombe TN33 0QA Proposed replacement of existing timber sash windows (single glazed) with new timber sash windows (conservation slimline double glazed) to a Grade II listed building.</p> <p>The cllrs have no planning objections. Resolved to support the application.</p> <p>iii</p> <p>To discuss the Church Hill Farm planning application in regard to traffic Calming Measures. JVH explained that the applications are approved and the S106 negotiations are taking place. Resolved that the PC enters into a legal agreement regarding the donation from the applicant towards the traffic calming plans in the village.</p>	
56	<p>To hear an update from the Sports Executive Committee and agree any actions required.</p> <p>DC updated cllrs on the projects that the sports pavilion committee There is additional work required on the trees that sit between the ditch and the fence alongside the carpark. The cllrs believe that the land the other side of the ditch belongs to PGL. The clerk was asked to write to PGL. DC explained that RC had established that the 2 shipping containers at the carpark site belong to the Parish Council. RC has agreed to give an estimate for stripping out the inside and refurbishing it. NM left the meeting at 20:38 DC explained that a cricket club is interested in using the sports facilities for next season. DC explained that the grant application to the Woodland Trust for 420 saplings has been successful and the tree sapling will be delivered in March. RC commented that the saplings will need to be behind a small fence.</p>	
56	<p>Highway Matters To receive an update and agree any actions required. The feasibility study had been received from ESCC Highways confirming that the scheme was feasible. The questionnaire sent to residents showed that almost 90% of respondents support the project. To receive the Feasibility Study from East Sussex County Council The study had been pre circulated to cllrs. To receive feedback from STAG, including recommendations and agree any actions required. There needs to be a more detailed design in order to put the scheme out to tender. Once the detailed design is finalised the scheme will be sent back to ESCC Highways for a safety audit. To recommend that the clerk strive to obtain estimates before the tender process. Clerk to ask the Sedlescombe resident to write a brief for the design once this is done then to get quotes for creating a detailed design for the scheme. To agree that the Tender document be written by an appropriate professional and agree any actions required. Resolved that the tender document be written by an appropriate professional.</p>	
57	<p>To discuss the councils project priority list, particularly in regard to CIL spend and agree any actions required. Resolved that the infrastructure priority list is as follows: Top three Traffic calming</p>	

	<p>Sports Pavilion decarbonising project Running track around the Sportsfield Other projects for consideration Activity hall at the sports pavilion. Electrical Power to The Pumphouse on the Green. Outdoor Gymnasium. Outdoor table tennis table.</p>	
56	<p>To receive for review with a recommendation for adoption the following policies Sedlescombe Parish Councils Complaints Procedure due to an updated Legal Topic Note from NALC Nov 2022. Financial Regulations – an update to regularise delegated spend amounts. Council’s Publication Scheme Council’s Data Protection Policy. Councils Equality Policy. Dispensation Procedure</p> <p>The policies had been pre circulated Resolved that the policies be adopted but the next review date on the Equality Policy to be changed.</p>	
57	<p>To discuss and agree any priorities to be given to the PCSO’s Nothing new.</p>	
58	<p>To present the current outstanding resolutions and agree any actions required. S E Water pipe laying across Riverside Recreation Ground. The clerk explained issues with the way SE Water have left the land. The councils land agent is taking the points up with the agent for SE Water. SE Water have agreed to come back in the spring and fix the issues. The Pole on the Village Green. No news.</p>	
63	<p>Finance and Audit To receive the monthly statement of accounts to 30th November 2022 Received and noted. To receive the bank reconciliation to 30th November 2022 Received and noted. To consider for approval invoices received. Resolved that the payments be made. To receive a report from the finance committee regarding the budget to date and proposed budget for the forthcoming year. Received and noted. To receive the recommended precept for the forthcoming year and agree any actions required. The clerk explained that the tax base has changed the impact of the precept to residents. The cllrs discussed the impact. Resolved that the cllrs would review the precept proposals in the January meeting. To receive a report from the external auditor and agree any actions required. The report was received and noted.</p>	
59	<p>Reports, Correspondence, Questions and Future agenda items not requiring decisions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Red Barn Field – no further news. b) Monthly Meeting with the PCSOs – No news c) Sedlescombe Jobs Network – No news. <p>The clerk explained that she had received a letter from a resident who claimed that a couple of bins in the village have been removed. The clerk will work with PG to investigate.</p>	
63	<p>Date of next meeting. To note the date of the next Finance Committee meeting is Tuesday 17th January 2023 at 6.30pm CR2 To note the date of the next Full Council meeting is Tuesday 17th January 2023 at 7pm CR2.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 21: 20</p>	