Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on
Wednesday 14 June 2017

PCH 19.05.17 to PCH 27.05.17

Present: Councillors: D White (in the Chair), J Blake, R Chatwin, S Davis, M Harrington-James, G Hesselgrave, W Hesselgrave, C Jackets, F Lulham, P Milne.

Apologies for absence: Councillors B Dashwood-Morris, S Davis, P Strudwick and E West.

In attendance: Jenny Hoodless, Clerk, Tracy Harper, Deputy Clerk, 1 member of the public.

19.05.17 No questions from the member of the public.

20.05.17 The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10 May 2017 were approved and signed.
- Cllr Jackets advised that at the last meeting, that he seconded a proposed request that Council resign in relation to Cllr Dashwood-Morris’ resignation, but this was not heard at the meeting and therefore, was not noted on the minutes. The Chairman advised that he had checked the procedure with the Monitoring Officer at Wealden District Council and this was not permitted. The correct process is for the Councillors to voluntarily resign if that is their decision.

21.05.17 Matters Arising:
- Clerk reported that the Ash Trees have now all been removed down to the stumps at Lower Dicker Recreation Ground. Clerk to chase Cycling Club for the lease agreement.

22.05.17 County Councillor’s Report. Councillor Bennett was at the meeting. He reported on:
- Councillor Bennett reported that the Countryside Access Strategy would be released shortly and that it would cover issues around maintenance of paths under Rights of Way arrangements, including the Cuckoo trail, and the future a management of countryside parks.’ He undertook to circulate a copy to parish councils once the document was complete4d to take account of consultees views and those of the various organisations that might take up country park management.
- The bid for the new school was rejected due to other areas having greater needs than Hellingly for a new school but to re-enter bid in the future.
- Cllr Blake congratulated Cllr. Bennett on his re-election. Cllr. Blake advised it would be useful if the NDP topic papers were sent to Cllr Bennett to be passed on to other Officers if he feels it would be beneficial.
- The Chairman asked if the proposed site for the Transfer Station on A22 North of Hackhurst Lane, could be moved to be the same side as existing business premises. Cllr Bennett suggested that the parish Council might wish to write to ESCC and WDC accordingly.
23.05.17 District Councillor’s Report.

- Councillor White advised there had been one meeting since the last Council meeting and the discussion was regarding the information from the Planning Dept in the case of Cllr Dashwood-Morris. The Planning dept advised they are investigating and would report back. Cllr White will monitor and feedback.
- Cllr White advised that Cllr Newton was surprised that the Councils bid for new school was rejected and that Wealden would investigate. Cllr Stanley would have a meeting with Hellingly Parish Council (HPC) to discuss the Education Authority’s decision and a way forward.
- Cllr White advised that the financial contribution from the developer for the school, must be used soon otherwise it will go back to the developer. In September there will be further studies by the County Council, HPC to nominate a councillor to attend.

24.05.17 Financial Matters: The Council approved the Financial Statement for the month of May. Clerk advised still no access to online bank account, will issue a reconciliation once access obtained.

25.05.17 Hellingly Country Park and Roebuck Park:

- 8 Active Play Sessions for School Summer Holidays have been arranged with Freedom Leisure and the flyer will be displayed on the Notice Board and website next week, with details.
- Cllr G Hesselgrave gave update on meeting with AiRS regarding funding assistance for the Active Play Sessions at Lower Horsebridge Recreation Ground and a further meeting in conjunction with Freedom Leisure will take place on 27 June to discuss future plans for Roebuck Park and Lower Horsebridge.
- Cllr G Hesselgrave advised a visit to EcoHub had been arranged to see what facilities they also have to offer. Cllr Jackets advised the hedges along Park Road are so overgrown it is dangerous for people to walk along the footpath, Cllr White will report this at the next SLR meeting.
- Cllr Harrington-James reported that another fire had been lit near the Bat House, fire engines attended.
- Cllr Harrington-James reported that another fire had been lit near the Bat House, fire engines attended.
- Cllr G Hesselgrave reported that improvements had been made with the services from Barcombe with the Grounds Maintenance at the Country Park. There are 3 areas that Barcombe will do soon: Area under Silver Birch Trees. The worst of the overgrown grounds surrounding the pond including the Alder, and then the remainder in the winter. The pathways which have growth, to be treated with double strength Glyphosate.
- There have been parking issues recently at Country Park from Cricket Club attendees. Possible solution is to put signs up advising people ‘no vehicle access’ etc. An email had been received from a Roebuck Park resident complaining about the parking issue at last week’s match. Council authorise the Grounds committee to purchase and erect signs. Also, Cllr white is finalising the lease agreement with the Cricket Club which incorporate parking and access policies. Cllr G Hesselgrave requested that another litter and dog bin is installed at the entrance to the park beside the PCP parking spaces. This may also act as a barrier to prevent people using it as driving access to the cricket pitch.
- Community Hall: Council meeting with Planning Consultants to finalise exterior plans, to then be sent for planning permission. The new area for the allotments has now been agreed and the land soon to be transferred from Persimmon to HPC. Cllr White advised the final figure has been given for contribution from Persimmon to HPC for the Children’s play area that the developer was going to build.
- Cllr White would request letters of discharge of responsibility for the NEAP and the allotment, but not for the contribution amount from Persimmon for building the Community Hall, until the next meeting 30 June with the developer to agree final amount.
- Signs are needed for Lower Dicker and Roebuck Park regarding parking and access. Deputy Clerk to purchase and organise installation.
- Cllr G Hesselgrave requested Cllr Lulham remain on the Grounds Committee and just send email reports as she is not able to attend the meetings. Cllr Lulham and the Council members voted unanimously.
- Council asked when the lease with Cricket Club was being renewed as some of the terms needed to be tighter. Council agreed Cricket Club member should attend next Grounds meeting and give update, to include how they are encourage Roebuck Park young residents to join.
- Cllr Harrington-James advise the Pavilion is being used for social events without approval. Council agreed to remind Cricket Club to seek approval for social events.
26.05.17 Clerk’s Report:
- Clerk requested all details regarding car parking issues in the Parish should be emailed to the Clerk before 19 June. A project is being undertaken by some of the Clerks in other areas in conjunction with Wealden and the Highways to improve parking. Cllr Harrington-James reported that there is an old English Law stating pavements are for pedestrians only.
- Lower Dicker Cycling Club requested signs to be installed due to recent car accident at the turning off the A22. Council agreed to advise Cycle Club to write to Nick Bennett.

27.05.17 Chairman’s Report:
- Cllr Chatwin requested the car park surface at the Village Hall is cracking and needs to be redone. Council agreed for Deputy Clerk to obtain quotes and pass to Village Hall committee for authorisation.
- Village Hall – lack of chairs, Council advised the Village Hall can take up to 100 people seated so to make up the numbers for the chairs to 110 so there are spares. Deputy Clerk to obtain prices and pass to Village Hall Committee for authorisation.
- Play Group have requested to have extended opening hours from September, 0745 – 1630hrs and then every Tuesday in the holidays. A lease and prices needs to be discussed. Council agreed for the Village Hall committee to authorise.
- Village Hall meeting to be arranged sooner, Deputy Clerk to organise.
- SLR – Cllr White asked if there are any issues to put to County Council regarding, design of road layouts for Parish, this should be holistic study of number of houses vs road layout.
- Hedge cutting - needs regular maintenance work, who is responsible?
- Foot path going through from swing gates along to the railway bridge and beyond, through the village and to address the issues of child safety on Station Road.
- Grove Hill speed restrictions, insufficient accident reporting, increase of houses being built they should now relook at it.
- Chairman asked Council to think of any other issues and email clerk.
- Chairman has received request from Rugby Club (Lower Horsebridge Recreation Grounds) for drainage. They have a loan of £37,000 including VAT, for drains to be installed which will give them better use of pitches during the winter. The Rugby Club do not have sufficient funds for the total amount, so have asked Council to undertake the work and they will reimburse Council. The RFU are happy to loan to HPC. Chairman advised Council, if we undertake the work, we can claim the VAT. Cllr White advised there is an amount of money from Field Close Social Housing in North Street, (they were obliged to make contribution £13,000 under s106 agreement) which has still not been spent. Council advised there is a time limit for the money to be spent or it has to be returned. If this money was used for the drains, the amount would reduce to a loan of £24,000.
- Once the loan has been repaid, the £13,000 will be returned to the Council. The installation of the drains would improve the facilities at the Recreation Ground in the winter. Cllr White agreed to contact the Rugby Club with the Council’s decision that all agreed in principal and to agree details.