



THE PARISH COUNCIL OF HELLINGLY

The Village Hall, North Street, Hellingly, East Sussex, BN27 4DS

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall at 7.30 p m. on
Wednesday 11th November 2009

PCH1306/2009/092.09 to PCH1306/2009/103.09

Present: Councillors: David White, (Chairman), Mrs A P N Blake, Alan Booth, Rev R Chatwin, Mrs Y Chatwin, Barby Dashwood-Hall, Steve Davis, Bryan Hesselgrave, Frankie Lulham, Brian Payne, Mrs E M M West and Ms. Frances Woolston.

Apologies for absence: Cllrs. Mrs G F D Hesselgrave and Halma Hughes.

In attendance: Philip Moon, Clerk, County Cllr Nick Bennett and District Cllr John Blake.

[The Council **noted** the absence of Cllr Mrs Hesselgrave because of a hospital operation, wished her a full and speedy recovery and **agreed** that a card and flowers should be sent from the Council].

092.09 The **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 14th October** were **approved** and signed.

093.09 Matters arising

082.09: The Clerk had sought costings of **road signage to the cemetery** on the junction of North Street and Church Road, but had not yet received a substantive response.

The Chairman has conveyed to the owners of the nearby property the offer of a new **bus shelter on the verge of the A22** if they paid for both purchase and erection. Subsequently a second-hand bus shelter of the right design had been offered to the Council by Agrifactors, which needed some repairs and permission from Highways before erection. The Council **agreed** that digital photographs of the shelter should be submitted to County Highways asking whether such a structure might be acceptable on the verge of the road. If that seemed acceptable the parishioners affected should be asked whether, in return for the return of the former bus shelter site, they would be prepared to pay for the repair and erection of the shelter, an estimate for the costs of which would be submitted by Agrifactors.

088.09: The Chairman of the Cemetery Committee and the Clerk were seeking clarification from Hailsham Town Council on equivalent fees before agreeing the **fees to be charged for the various sizes of grave in the new Memorial Garden.**

089.09: Estimates were still being obtained for the **slide at the Lower Horsebridge Recreation Ground.**

094.09 **County Councillor's Report.** County Councillor Bennett reported on the East Sussex County Council **Waste & Mineral Core Strategy Consultation**, responses to which were required by 2nd December. He explained that the search areas which had been identified in the local area were intended to fill a capacity gap needing an estimated 25 hectares. One of the areas was at Broad Farm in the parish, others were in neighbouring parishes. The Council was concerned that there had been insufficient notice of the consultation which seemed to be

rushed. It was **agreed** that a joint meeting should be arranged with other nearby Parish Councils to which all Councillors and Clerks would be invited together with the County Councillor and MP, and that the Planning and Environment Committee should consider an individual response on behalf of the Council at its next meeting.

- 095.09** **District Councillor's Report.** District Cllr Blake reported that he had sought a legal opinion on the established use alleged in the current planning application to develop **Danecroft Nurseries** for which a full application had now been submitted, but had not received a satisfactory response. It had been claimed that previous use had been for retail distribution, but many Cllrs were sure that the use had been horticultural. The Planning and Environment Committee was invited to take note of these views when a response was made on behalf of the Council. District Cllr Blake would continue to press for an independent legal opinion on the application.
- 096.09** **Financial matters.** The Council
- **Approved** the payments for October. Cllr Booth, as a recipient of a payment, declared a personal interest.
 - **Approved** the draft budget and precept request for 2010-11
 - **Endorsed** the Finance Committee's proposals concerning staff salaries and Christmas bonuses with the exception that the Christmas gift to Mr Hollebhone should be amended to £25.
 - **Endorsed** the payment of grants, with Cllr Dashwood Hall declaring a personal interest and voting against in respect of the decision not to award a grant to Mediation +.
- 097.09** The Chairman reported on a recent meeting with the developers of the **former Hellingly Hospital**. Work had already started on preliminary works and on the construction of 64 houses which would be put on sale in early 2010. The road improvements and traffic calming would also be undertaken at that time. In order for the developer to identify the need for a management fee when marketing the houses the Council had been asked to decide whether to accept ownership of the estate parklands and in what time frame. The Chairman suggested that accepting ownership before building was complete might involve the Council in expense and possible risk. The Council **agreed in principle** to accept ownership of the parklands when the building of the estate and Community facilities was complete. The Village Hall Committee was asked to consider and recommend what facilities might be included in the design of the new Community Hall. It was thought unlikely that Wealden District Council would agree to a commuted sum and the Council **agreed** that there would be a need for a Community Hall on the new estate.
- 098.09** The Council **noted** the draft **Minutes of the Village Hall Committee** of 20th October. It was noted that a new water heater had been installed, that new hire charges had been agreed and that it was likely that the central heating and boiler would need replacing in due course. It was suggested that the minutes, when approved by the Committee, should include reference to possible replacement of Village Hall furniture which had been discussed but deferred in view of the planned new Community Hall.
- 099.09** The Council **noted** the draft **Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee** of 27th October. The Clerk would circulate the names of the roads on the Hellingly Hospital site to which the Committee had agreed.
- 100.09** The Council **noted** the draft **Minutes of the Finance Committee** of 2nd November.

- 101.09** The Council **agreed** the dates for **meetings in 2010** with the date of the Annual Parish Meeting being corrected to read Thursday 20th May.
- 102.09** **Clerk's report.** The Clerk reported that he had received an invitation from AiRS to attend a **Fuel Poverty Awareness Workshop for Rural East Sussex** at Uckfield Civic Centre on Friday 20th November. Cllrs wishing to attend should inform him. The Rural Services network had invited the Council to complete an online survey to assist the network in preparing its **report on the *State of Rural Services in England***. Any Cllr wishing to complete the survey should contact the Clerk. **Anchor Staying Put** was looking for accommodation for use as assessment sites but the Council doubted that there was sufficient availability at the Village Hall. The Clerk had obtained the CiLCA qualification on the **power of well-being** so there remained no significant barrier to using the power if the Council decided to do so in the future.
- 103.09** **Chairman's report.** The Chairman reported that there was to be a '**Walk Wealden**' event in 2010. Cllrs Liz West and Yvonne Chatwin agreed to organise **festive refreshments** before the December Council meeting. The Chairman reported that the **Mineral and waste consultation** also included waste water and that there might be a need for joint consultations on the subject with Hailsham Town Council.

[The Meeting was closed at 9.30pm].

Philip Moon
Clerk to the Council

12th November 2009