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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on Tuesday 24th November at 7.30 pm. This meeting was held virtually on Zoom.

Present: G. Hussey (Chairman), G. Sallows (Vice Chairman) M. Cooke, M. Fillmore, R. Gatt, G. Fleming and G. Adams
L. Bannister (Clerk)
HDC & WSCC Cllr. Kitchen
HDC Cllr. Hogben

Cllr. Hussey advised that the meeting is being recorded, and the recording will be deleted once the Minutes are approved.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Bender, Forrest and Allen.

2 Declaration of Interests

None.

Cllr. Gatt joined the meeting

3 Approval of Minutes of the previous Meeting

These were agreed by Council and duly signed by Cllr. Hussey.

4 Open Forum

The meeting was adjourned to allow members of the public to speak.

No members of the public were present.

The meeting was resumed.

5 Draft budget for 2021/22

Two budgets were prepared by the Clerk – one showing everything Members would like and one showing the recommendation made by the Clerk. The Clerk did not recommend raising the Precept more than 3-5% in the current climate.

The budget was discussed in detail and will be re-examined in December once a decision has been made on various items on the Agenda. Members were broadly in agreement with the budgeted payments but will consider the increases to earmarked reserves at the next meeting.

Cllrs. Hogben and Kitchen joined the meeting

6 Reports from other Authorities

Cllr. Hogben updated as follows:-

- HDC Members have seen presentations for all sites that have been put forward for the Local Plan. Crawley Borough Council are still objecting to the site Land West of Ifield due to the lack of the link road. However, this is still one of the more favourable sites as

it is close to Crawley and most of the land is already owned by the developer. Ifield Society are still actively objecting this proposal.

- Many Conservative MPs are not supporting the Planning White Paper.
- HDC's budget has been heavily impacted by the pandemic.
- Staff are still working from home.

Cllr. Kitchen updated as follows:-

- The cycle lanes in Horsham have been removed.
- The Transport Plan is due out for consultation soon and Cllr. Kitchen requested that Rusper PC comments on this.
- Ifield Society are doing a brilliant job objecting to the site Land West of Ifield. Cllr. Kitchen requests that MP Mr Quin is contacted by Rusper PC about this.
- Cllr. Kitchen has asked Highways to repair the road at the junction of Capel Road and Friday Street.

Cllr. Hogben left the meeting

7 Weight restrictions on Rusper lanes

It was RESOLVED to apply for a Traffic Regulation Order to add weight restrictions to various lanes in the parish. The roads to be included in the application are still to be decided.

The application will involve:-

- Getting Cllr. Kitchen's support.
- Communicate with residents and local businesses to find out if they would support this. Perhaps consider writing to the residents and doing an online poll.
- Consider negative impacts.

Cllrs. Adams and Hussey will work with the Clerk on this application and report back to Council for any further decisions.

8 Amendment to Planning Committee Terms of Reference

It was RESOLVED to approve this.

9 Grass cutting contract for 2021-23

Seven quotes were received ranging from an annual cost of approximately £2500 to £6300. **It was RESOLVED** to defer the decision until the next meeting so that the Clerk can ask one of the contractors if they would be willing to reduce their quote.

Cllr. Kitchen left the meeting

10 Location of notice board

It was agreed to keep the notice board where it is. Cllr. Sallows will speak to the landowner and find out how the notice board can be fixed.

11 Community Infrastructure Levy – funding of projects

£4,256 is being held. **It was RESOLVED** to spend this towards the notice boards. The remainder will be spent towards the bollards in the High Street.

12 Response to West Sussex ALC survey

It was RESOLVED not to respond to this survey. A letter will be sent saying that Rusper PC is satisfied with the services provided by the Sussex and Surrey Association of Local Councils.

13 Update on Recreation Ground lease

The heads of terms have now been approved and the court hearing has been dismissed. Cllr. Sallows will update the Sports Club.

The Clerk advised that once the lease has been signed a meeting will need to be set up between Rusper PC and the Sports Club to discuss how to take things forward.

14 Report from representatives

- Cllr. Fillmore reported that there are only around 10 flights each day from Gatwick.
- Cllr. Fleming is attending the Gatwick Noise Management Board meeting in December.
- There will be a testing site available at Gatwick Airport soon.
- Cllr. Cooke is attending the WSALC AGM in December as it was postponed.
- There has only been one request for help through the Covid volunteer hub. The shop does have some capacity to deliver in certain circumstances.
- Cllr. Gatt attended the North Horsham Liaison meeting. They discussed the road closure. Cala Homes presented on their planning application. Some aspects of this were not well received such as the lack of affordable housing and the small amount of electric vehicle charging points.
- Cllr. Sallows is completing a survey relating to stone quarrying on behalf of the Council but will circulate this before submission.

15 Clerk's report

Correspondence

The following has been received:-

- WSCC has started a review of the West Sussex Transport Plan and there is a survey to complete. The Clerk will complete this.
- WSCC has set out their budget savings proposals.
- Transport for the South East are looking for parish councillors to become a member of their group.
- Information about the West Sussex Climate Conversation.
- Thank you from Age UK for the donation to the Bags of Support initiative.
- Proposed modifications to the Soft Sand Review of the West Sussex Joint Minerals Local Plan.
- Information from Southern Water following the Surfers Against Sewage report.
- Emails from the West Sussex Association of Local Councils regarding the value for money review.
- An email from Highways acknowledging that there is a subsidence issue on Capel Road. This has been put on the waiting list for major works. In the meantime signage has been put up to warn drivers of the problem.
- English Regional Transport Association newsletter.
- Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign newsletter.
- Land North of Horsham clarification statement regarding Rusper Road.
- Update from No Incinerator for Horsham.
- Details on the new system for reporting potholes.

Other

- James Smith has agreed to check the trees and report back if they need any work at no cost to Rusper PC.
- The Operation Watershed works on Wimland Road will take place on 14-18 December. The Clerk will write to residents to let them know that there may be some disruption as the road will be closed.
- The Operation Watershed works at The Mount have uncovered many issues in the drain network that need attention. The quotes for this are coming out between approximately £13,000 and £35,000. The Operation Watershed team will advise on what they think the next steps should be.
- Legal and General do not yet know what bus companies they will be speaking to as it is some years off yet.
- No Members were available to attend the Communities Against Gatwick Noise and Emissions PC Forum. The Clerk recommended that Members consider their membership of this if they are not able to attend meetings.
- The additional quote for the ground sockets has not yet been received.
- Members should note that the next Council meeting will be held on 15th December. This will incorporate any planning applications that are received.

- There is still an issue with one of the street lights at Cooks Meadow. This has been passed to UK Power Networks as there is not any power supply to the light. The column is also in a bad state of repair so will need further work.
- Homes England were asked for a meeting, but they have not yet set anything up.
- The next meeting with Legal and General is due in December. Members do not want to arrange this yet.
- The final version of the Neighbourhood Plan is now available. Cllr. Sallows will send a thank you to the Steering Group. The Clerk reminded Members to read the Plan to ensure planning application comments are consistent with the policies.
- The Clerk advised that Community Speedwatch can take place at the moment and encouraged the co-ordinators to set up the first session.

16 Finances

Reconciled accounts & bank statements

These were verified by Cllr. Fillmore, who produced a report on the accounts.

Opening of current account & appointing signatories

Metro Bank has confirmed to Cllr. Fillmore that they will open an account for Rusper PC. **It was RESOLVED** to:-

- Open a current and deposit account with Metro Bank.
- Open a Nationwide Instant Saver account and transfer £20,000 into this.
- Appoint Cllrs. Sallows, Fillmore, Gatt and Hussey as signatories. They will also be authorised to approve online payments.
- Appoint the Clerk as an authorised user of the accounts to be able to communicate with them, set up payments, view the accounts and make fund transfers.
- Online payments can be set up by the Clerk and approved by one of the signatories.
- Each signatory will be allowed to view the accounts and authorise payments.

Invoices to pay

It was RESOLVED to pay the following:

Salaries – £721.53

Sussex Land Services - £457.34

Surrey Hills Solicitors - £720.00

Drainline - £2,808.00

All of these payments will be sent via bank transfer.

17 Clerk's pay review

It was RESOLVED to close the meeting to the press and public due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

It was RESOLVED to increase the Clerk's salary point as recommended in the report from Cllrs. Sallows and Fillmore. This will take effect from 1st January 2021.

18 Date of Next Meeting

The next Council meeting will be held on 15th December 2020 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 10.35 pm

LEANNE BANNISTER
CLERK