Pyecombe Parish Council

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Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on at Wayfield Park Farm shop on Tuesday 14th September 2021 at 7:00pm.

Present – Cllr M Saich Acting Chairman, Cllr G. Bishop, Cllr T. Cullen and Cllr D. French.
Clerk and RFO – Mrs D. Langston.
West Sussex County Councillor J. Dennis
Mid Sussex District Councillor A. Bennett

Minutes

53.21 Apologies for absence were received from Mid Sussex District Councillor R. Jackson and Pyecombe Councillor D. Wilson.

54.21 No interests were declared.

55.21 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 29th June 2021. Minutes were approved by Council and signed by the Acting Chairman.

56.21 West Sussex County Councillor J. Dennis updated on the following items:

- Due to the increased building works surrounding Burgess Hill tip an online booking system will shortly be considered and consulted upon. It is envisaged slots will be booked either online or via the telephone. Further information on this item will be circulated by the Clerk once confirmation is received.
- A shortage of HGV drivers is impacting local contractor services. WSCC are concerned these shortages may have a further impact on any winter maintenance programme.
- Correspondence regarding Ash dieback has recently been sent to local landowners. Council highlighted the issues that would be experienced on Clayton Hill traffic should works commence without the implementation of a traffic management plan. Cllr Dennis will review this item and liaise with Clerk.
- Traffic survey equipment will now have to be registered with WSCC Highways and a charge will be levied for this service.
- Operation Warm Welcome is being supported by WSCC staff members. Response from members of the public has been positive however offers of help need to be structured.
- Council raised the issue of overgrown vegetation along the London Road pavement. Following the meeting Clerk has received confirmation from WSCC of a planned cut.
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57.21 Update on highways matters. Council highlighted the issues with trying to get the parked Winnebago removed from the London Road. This has been reported to Operation Crackdown, DVLA and the Chief Constable. Clerk has received correspondence from police confirming it is not causing enough of an obstruction to be moved on. WSCC have now confirmed they have also raised with Operation Crackdown.

TRO has reached the final stage being passed by the Area Highway Manager, Democratic Services, TRO Team and Finance Team. Comments from Michele Hulme (Head of Local highway Operations) and Matt Davy (Director of Highways, Transport & Planning) are awaited prior when this is received it will be passed onto Members Information Service (MIS). If all is good a date will be secured to pre-mark the scheme on the ground.

West Sussex County Councillor J. Dennis left the meeting at this point.

58.21 Mid Sussex District Council update by District Councillor as follows:

- Fly tipping at MSDC will see a change in policy with Officers undertaking training to enable the issuance of fixed penalty notices to offenders.
- MSDC finances will see an overspend of around £560k in the current financial year. This is partially due to unbudgeted items. Uncertainty over the funding for local government remains an issue for future financial years.
- Electoral ward review is currently being consulted upon. Proposed changes will see a reduction in MSDC Councillors from 54 to 48. The proposal for Pyecombe will see it become part of the Downland Villages Ward with Newtimber, Poynings, Albourne & Sayers Common and Fulking with one member responsible. Cllr Bennett confirmed the last review took place in 2001 and changes are based on population numbers.
- Council raised the question of litter picking within the parish. Cllr Bennett will review this item with MSDC Officers and respond to the Clerk.

Mid Sussex District Councillor A. Bennett left the meeting at this point.

59.21 Update on Community Works programme. Council is still waiting for confirmation from Highways England that they have no objections to the proposed works. Once this is received works on land adjacent to the M&S Store will be sent to SDNP for agreement. Cllr French recently met with WSCC representatives to discuss an upgrade to the cycle paths within the parish. This item has been accepted by WSCC and is progressing.

60.21 Financial & Administration Update:
Balance sheet passed to all Councillors and signed by the acting Chairman.
Letter raised to ensure a change of address by Clerk was signed by Cllr Saich and Cllr Cullen
Payments raised since last meeting:
£376.57 WSCC Invoice 8001544048
£ 23.39 D. Langston Administration Expenses
£ 64.96 EDF Energy Invoice 10037588
£376.57 WSCC Invoice 800154695
£ 72.00 Kitman Limited Invoice 11162

61.21 Date of next meeting confirmed as 9th November 2021