

## Hamsey Parish Council

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Mr K Kingston, Clerk to Hamsey Parish Council

Beechwood Hall & Rural Park, Beechwood Lane, Cooksbridge BN7 3QG, East Sussex

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### Minutes of the meeting of HAMSEY PARISH COUNCIL

held at Beechwood Hall & Rural Park on Thursday 11 November 2021 - 7.15pm

**Present:** Cllr T d'Arienzo, Chair  
Cllr D Pearson  
Cllr S Fleming  
Cllr J Redwood  
Cllr K McBrown

**Apologies:** Cllr C Croft  
Cllr C Henry  
Maria Caulfield MP

**In Attendance:** Mr K Kingston - Clerk/RFO to the Council.  
2 members of the public were in attendance - Sammi Venn & Joa Saunders  
Cllr Mike Milligan (ESCC)  
Cllr Isabelle Linington (Lewes District Council)

*The meeting started at 7.15pm*

		Action
11.21.1	<p><i>Chair welcomes everyone to this meeting of the Parish Council .</i></p> <p><b>Apologies for absence</b> were received and accepted from Cllrs Caroline Croft and Carolyn Henry.</p>	
11.21.2	<p><b>Questions from the Public</b></p> <p>Cllr d'Arienzo welcomed residents Sammie Venn &amp; Joa Saunders to the meeting and invited them to explain their issues/concerns.</p> <p>Sammie &amp; Joa informed the meeting that they are campaigning for a 20mph zone to be installed in Cooksbridge citing that the village has a primary school, the speed of the traffic going through the village is excessive, there is minimal speed/warning signage, and there have been a number of accidents including a car being written off, damage to homes, walls and forecourts. The group will take a multi-pronged approach, to include local residents, and engaging local authorities including the Highways Safety Team to review and advise on the most effective measures.</p> <p>They are in the process of putting together a petition which to date has been signed by everyone they have approached which they hope to present to ESCC in the near future.</p> <p>They are keen to see the installation of an average speed check camera as they feel the illuminated sign does not do enough to discourage speeding traffic.</p>	

	<p>They informed the meeting that a residents speedwatch exercise would be carried out shortly and that PCSO Rose Stainer would be involved.</p> <p>Other suggestions to encourage drivers to slow down included dummy children figures and further signs but these would have to be agreed with ESCC road safety team.</p> <p>ESCC Milligan said that he would raise the issue with the Road Safety Team, Rupert Clubb (the Director of Transport &amp; Environment at ESCC) and Cllr Clare Dowling (Lead member for Transport &amp; Environment at ESCC) and would report back on progress. <b>Action: ESCC County Councillor Milligan</b></p> <p>Council agreed to support the objectives of the group's campaign in principle. An article by the group will soon be published in Hamsey News.</p>	
<b>11.21.3</b>	<p><b>Declarations of interest from any Councillor regarding items on the agenda.</b></p> <p>Cllr McBrown declared an interest in the confidential report and Cllr Redwood declared an interest in agenda item 8 as a member of the Monday Group - this item was taken at the end of the meeting and Cllr Redwood left the meeting at this stage</p>	
<b>11.21.4</b>	<p><b>Minutes of the council meeting</b> held on Thursday 9 September 2021 were agreed &amp; signed as a true record.</p>	
<b>11.21.5</b>	<p><b>Update on any matters arising from last meeting</b> None</p>	

#### 11.21.6 Financial matters

*Please note salaries are not privy to the public*

##### a) To approve the following payments (including VAT).

<b>Cheque No. or transaction number</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount £</b>
<b>300506</b>	PKF littlejohn LLP – annual external audit	240.00
<b>300507</b>	Offham Church – grant/maintenance	50.00
<b>300508</b>	Cooksbridge Station partnership	55.00
<b>300509</b>	Kevin Kingston – laptop repair, stamps and printer cable	43.91
<b>300510</b>	Kevin Kingston – salary from 9 September – 31 October 2021	-

300511	Offham Church – remembrance day wreath	19.99
300512	Tamsyn d'Arienzo – printer cartridge and newsletter deliveries	23.00
300513	Mr Greg Cockram – 4 x mows Malthouse Way play park in August 2021	80.00
300514	Kevin Kingston – Printer cartridges	19.75
300515	Barcombe Landscapes	432.00
-	Bank service charge 30 September 2021	18.00
<b>Direct debit</b>	Emptying bins at Beechwood park for period 1/4/20 to 30/6/21	89.10

**All payments were approved.**

**b) To note the Councils current financial position**

Balance per bank statement as at July 2021	£
Unity Trust Account	40,308.78
Less any unrepresented cheques	£0.00
Net balances as at 23 July 2021 of unity account	38,680.58

The Parish Clerk explained that as yet he did not have access to on-line banking and as the bank statements are not received until 10/11 of the month he couldn't say how many cheques have been presented. An update would be sent to all Parish Councillors once the bank statement was received. **Action: Parish Clerk**

**c) To discuss and agree the draft budget and precept requirements for 2022 (as detailed in appendix 4 of the agenda)**

The draft budget (as detailed at appendix 4) was agreed but would be subject to a review once the precept and the tax base information was received from Lewes District Council in late November/early December. At this point the Parish Clerk would meet with the Chair of the Parish Council and options for the precept would be presented to the Council meeting on 6 January 2022.

**d) To discuss the purchase of Scribe accounting package for the Parish Council (as detailed in appendix 5 of the agenda)**

The purchase of the Scribe accounting package was approved. The cost of the package in 2021/22 is £120 plus a one-time set up cost of £197. The full year annual cost is £288 (£24 per month).

**11.21.7 Planning matters**

Cllr Redwood pointed out that planning application LW/21/0361 & 0362 -Bouverie Cottage was refused not approved. The Parish Council made no objection to this application. There were no further comments on the applications listed on the agenda.

The meeting went on to discuss the recent 'call for sites' request from the District Council and expressed some real concerns with any potential large scale developments in a rural Parish. The meeting also expressed concern in respect of the nearby possible Eton development in East Chilington and further potential developments in nearby Ringmer and Newick.

#### **11.21.8 Grant applications**

The Parish Council welcomed the grant application from the Monday Group and agreed that the work the Monday club do in the parish and in surrounding parishes is extremely valued and appreciated by residents. A full grant of £250 was unanimously agreed. **Action: Parish Clerk to make payment.**

#### **11.21.9 Beechwood Hall working group - update.**

- Cllrs McBrown & d'Arienzo updated meeting on the planned Children's Christmas party which would be held at Beechwood Hall (covid permitting) on 11 December 2021. Flyers/posters have been produced and will be distributed over the next 2 weeks and displayed in the Parish notice boards.
- It was noted that an anonymous donation of £250 had been made towards the Christmas Party
- It was **agreed** that any shortfall of funding, which wasn't expected to be large, would be funded in principle by the Parish Council. **Action: Cllr d'Arienzo/Parish Clerk**
- Cllr d'Arienzo reported that construction of the new pathway in Beechwood Park would commence next week.
- Cllr Henry was thanked for her helpful and comprehensive report on Beechwood Hall & Park which was noted.

#### **11.21.10 Correspondence**

The monthly correspondence logs for September & October were noted.

#### **11.21.11 Reports from meetings attended by Councillors or Clerk**

All reports were noted.

#### **11.21.12 Highway and traffic issues**

- Appendix 1 to the agenda detailed the three options for ESCC highway grass verge cutting in 2022. It was agreed that the Parish Council would opt for option 2 – ie 2 standard free cuts and four additional cuts at a cost of £338 per year. **Action: Parish Clerk to inform ESCC**
- Cllr d'Arienzo reported that she has contacted Plumpton College to see if students were interested in designing a wild flower planting/seating area at the entrance to Chandlers Mead. Once a response has been received she would inform Parish Councillors. **Action: Cllr d'Arienzo.**

### **11.21.13 Rail and bus issues**

Robert Baughan was thanked for his, as usual, very helpful report on rail issues that was noted.

Cllr d'Arienzo reported that the bus timetable in the bus stop at Chandlers Mead was out of date and would be shortly replaced.

### **11.21.14 Police/Neighbourhood watch issues**

Cllr d'Arienzo updated the meeting on discussions with PCSO Rose Stainer who asked that we keep reporting any crimes to 101 that we are aware of or seen. A recent incident included poaching and the use of a catapult.

Cllr d'Arienzo also informed the meeting that both Barcombe and Newick Parish Councils are unhappy with the village policing and feel there needs to be a greater presence and faster response times rather than an increase of officers only in urban and coastal trouble spots whilst villagers contribute the same increased tax towards the police service. Cllr d'Arienzo has made a complaint to the PCC and has received a response . PCSO Rose Stainer is arranging for a community engagement vehicle to visit Cooksbridge train station on a regular basis so that residents can engage directly with any crime issues and concerns.

### **11.21.15 Environment**

Cllr Fleming reported on positive progress being made locally including community heating project in Barcombe, solar farm in Ringmer and highlighted some great work and art work by Hamsey Parish Council students which is now on display at the depot in Lewes.

Cllr Fleming stated that rural transport is still an ongoing concern for many and the Lewes District Food partnership are keen to know the nature of need, any key issues re food poverty and who is seeking help. Cllr Fleming also recorded that many people felt that new housing developments should consider allotment supply to encourage food growing.

### **11.21.16 To discuss general improvements to the Parish**

The Parish Clerk's report on noticeboards was agreed and subject to available finance a new noticeboard would be purchased for Beechwood Hall in the next financial year. Decision on where the noticeboard would be placed in 2022.

### **11.21.17 Footpaths and rights of way**

**Footpaths & Rights of Way** - there was a long discussion and various concerns (including farmers ploughing over footpaths) re the state/condition of a number of footpaths & rights of way in the Parish. As a result of the discussion the following was agreed:

#### **Actions:**

- Parish Clerk to obtain from ESCC a map of definitive footpaths **Action: Parish Clerk**
- Need to walk and identify issues/concerns of appropriate footpaths and report the issues to ESCC. **Action: All to note issues and reported to Parish Clerk who would report to ESCC**

Cllr Redwood informed the meeting that removing rights of way and definitive footpaths is extremely difficult with complex legal requirements so we shouldn't be too concerned.

**Field opposite Offham Barns** – Cllr d'Arienzo reported that there have been issues with containers and other structures being placed the field opposite Offham Barns and near to Offham Garage which may contravene planning. Cllr d'Arienzo has been in touch with officers at SDNPA and LDC but as yet has received no satisfactory reply. Cllr Redwood suggested that we inform Lewes District Planning enforcement service and Tim Slaney at SDNPA re the issue for them to investigate, potentially with the help of an LDC link officer to the national park, as appropriate as planning enforcement beyond the remit of the Parish Council.

Lewes District Councillor Isabelle Linington said that she would raise the issue with the Planning Service. **Action: Cllr d'Arienzo to provide details to Cllr Linington and contact Tim Slaney or Link Officer re the issues/concerns.**

#### **11.21.18 Council policies**

The Parish Clerk stated that he had produced an outline draft GDPR and Privacy notice and has sent it to Cllr Henry for discussion. The draft policy will be presented to the January 2022 Council meeting for discussion and agreement. **Action: Parish Clerk/Cllr Henry**

#### **11.21.19 Future agenda items**

No future agenda items were discussed.

#### **11.21.20 Date for future Council meetings in 2022**

It was agreed that the next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 5 January 2022 and future 2022 meeting dates would be discussed and confirmed at this meeting.

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The Chair thanked all for attending and the meeting ended at 9.25pm

Signed .....Chair

Date.....

Minutes taken by Kevin Kingston, Clerk and RFO to Hamsey Parish Council

